Center for Social Complexity

Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study

4400 University Drive, MS 6B2, Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 703-993-1402; Fax: 703-993-9290
complex@gmu.edu • http://socialcomplexity.gmu.edu

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DSPG Fellows Program
Social & Decision Analytics Laboratory
Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech
900 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Dr. Gizem Korkmaz:

I am writing to recommend Ms. Niloofar Jebelli for the 2017 Data Science for the Public Good (DSPG) Fellow Program. I have known her for one year having met her as a student in my graduate class. She has been a member of our computational social science program here at George Mason University for two years where she is currently enrolled in our master's program and expecting to finish soon.

After successful careers with the U.S. Navy and the federal civil service, I joined Mason (GMU) as research faculty eight years ago with the Center for Social Complexity and Department of Computational Social Science (CSS) within the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study. The Department moved to the College of Science and merged with the Department of Computational and Data Sciences in 2015. My primary responsibilities are leading and working on grants and supervising student graduate research assistants. I am also an adjunct professor with the CSS program and with the Department of Psychology. During my time I have taught classes on the cognitive foundations of computational social science and on computational cognitive modeling for both our Department and the Department of Psychology.

Ms. Jebelli is doing very well in our program having nearly completed her master's degree in computational social science (and most of the core courses for a PhD). She certainly has intense curiosity toward computational social science, which has included modeling social phenomena, as she did in my class, and in applying computational analysis to social problems as she has done in our other classes. She is highly motivated, has excellent communication skills, and has a very strong work ethic.

Ms. Jebelli is a very motivated and focused individual as well as being pleasure to work with. She is very enthusiastic and eager to learn. Her potential is great. Participation in the DSPG would build on her prior experience and help make her a well-rounded advocate for science and technology-based decision-making and policy where ever she works in the

future. I am confident she meets the requirements for the DSPG Fellow and I have great hopes for her based on her enthusiasm for, and interest in, citizen science. I am very confident she will be a very successful representative of your program and I very highly recommend her for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William G. Kennedy,
Ph.D., Captain, USN (Ret.)
Research Assistant Professor and
Senior Advisor, Center for Social Complexity