

Vahid Mahdavi Mazdeh

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Education

Master of Science in International History

2019 - 2021

London School of Economics & Political Science with **Distinction**

- Dissertation: "History and Politics: Readings of the Constitutional Revolution in Post-1979 Iran" (Distinction award)
- Selected Seminars
 - Human Rights and Postcolonial Theory (*Prof. Cubukcu, LSE*)
 - Islam, Revolution and Empire (*Prof. Sadeghi-Boroujerdi, Goldsmiths*)

Master of Arts in International & World History

2019 - 2021

Columbia University GPA: 4.13 / 4

- Selected Seminars
 - European Social Thought (*Prof. Robcis, Columbia University*)
 - Iranian Intellectual History (*Prof. Mirsepassi, NYU*)
 - Political Philosophy (*Prof. Honneth, Columbia University*)
 - History of the Modern Middle East (*Prof. Khalidi, Columbia University*)
 - World History since WWII (*Prof. Connelly, Columbia University*)

Non-degree Graduate Seminars

2015 - 2018

University of Colorado at Boulder

- International Relations - Dept. of Political Science
Paper: "Economic Sanctions and Societal Unrest: The Case of Iran"
- Power, Place and Culture - Dept. of Geography
Paper: "The Signature of the Drone: Understanding Biopolitics and Sovereignty"

Master of Science in Computer Science

2014 - 2015

University of Colorado at Boulder GPA: 4 / 4

- Selected Courses: Big Data Analysis; Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing; Data Structures; Computer Systems; Algorithms; Human Computer Interaction.

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture & Planning

2010 - 2014

Minor in Technology, Arts, and Media

University of Colorado at Boulder **Valedictorian**

Conferences

Iranian Studies Conference (Peer-reviewed)

Aug 2022

University of Salamanca, Spain

- Presentation Title: "History and Politics: Readings of the Constitutional Revolution in Post-1979 Iran"

Internet Infrastructure in Afghanistan

Fall 2021

Georgia Tech, School of History and Sociology & Urban Media Institute

- Moderated discussion on the past, present, and future of the Internet in Afghanistan in light of recent events. Panelists included experts from Kabul University, Stanford University as well as independent scholars and activists from Afghanistan and the region focusing on global internet governance.

Afghan Voices

Fall 2021

Georgia Tech, School of History and Sociology & Urban Media Institute

- Moderated discussions with directors and producers of the award-winning Afghan documentaries and films, *Midnight Traveler*, *A Few Cubic Meters of Love*, and *Sonita*.

International & World History Conference

May 2020

Columbia University

- Title: "Contested Constitutionalism: The Politics of the Historiography of the Constitutional Revolution in Post-1979 Iran"

Professional Experience

Research Assistant, Prof. Naghmeh Sohrabi

2021 - Present

Brandeis University, Dept. of History

- Conducting oral history interviews and ethnographic work for a project on the Iranian Revolution; doing archival research on the SAVAK and the Iranian Revolution; summary reports and analyses of primary and secondary sources.

Research Assistant, Prof. Roham Alvandi

2020 - 2021

London School of Economics, Dept. of International History

- Doing research at the National Archives in Tehran on international human rights politics under the Pahlavis.

Assistant Director

2019 - Present

Urban Media Institute

- Conducting interdisciplinary research in Middle Eastern cities and societies centered on urbanism in the region.
- Co-organizing Urban Media Fest each semester focusing on contemporary issues of socio-political and economic significance in the MENA region.

- Helped curate the Spring 2021 UMF focused on *Gender and Sustainability* in the MENA region, with a particular track dedicated to *Iranian Women Change-makers*.

Communications Coordinator

2021 - Present

Association for Iranian Studies

- Planning, organizing, and archiving AIS Presidential Panels.
- Coordinating the 13th Biennial Conference of Iranian Studies at the University of Salamanca, Spain.
- Keeping an updated database of Iranian scholars and curating and promoting events related to the field of Iranian Studies.

Senior Software Engineer (Team Lead)

2016 - 2019

Sovrn Holdings Inc., Boulder CO

- Led a team of five engineers in building high-end big data applications.
- Built end-to-end products that collected, transferred, stored, analyzed and visualized advertising data at low latency.
- Researched, documented and promoted micro-services strategies.
- Organized and directed cross-team collaboration.
- Researched and promoted new technologies and best practices for the company.

Founder, CEO

2015 - 2018

Outloud LLC, Boulder, CO

- Founded the LLC and led a team of three engineers from idea to two applications.
- Recipient of the prestigious New Venture Challenge award, Boulder, CO.
- Outloud made textual content on the web more accessible by enabling users to listen to articles read out loud by others.

Research Assistant, Prof. Tom Yeh

2015 - 2016

University of Colorado at Boulder, Dept. of Computer Science

- Developed software, conducted interviews and helped to build technologies to create tactile pictures for children to help make the world a tangible and accessible place for every child.

Languages

- Native in **English** and **Persian**.
- Advanced **Arabic** - four years of training in Classical Arabic in highschool; two years of intensive training in Modern Standard Arabic at Columbia University and LSE.
- Various programming languages (Java, C++, Javascript, R, Python, MySQL, and more)

Honors & Awards

- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) AY 2020-21, Middle East Institute, Columbia University.
- Alliance Fellowship for Summer Dissertation Research 2020, Dept. of History, Columbia University.
- Recipient of merit-based Tuition Reduction Fund of 50% for the 2019-20 Academic Year from the dual-degree program in International and World History, Columbia University & LSE.
- Valedictorian of the program in Environmental Design, University of Colorado at Boulder.
- Department of Computer Science Fellowship 2015, University of Colorado at Boulder.
- University of Colorado at Boulder Fellowship 2014.
- Program in Environmental Design Achievement Scholarship 2013-2014, University of Colorado at Boulder.
- New Venture Challenge Champions (Outloud!) 2016, Boulder, CO.

Teaching Experience

Web Engineering Workshop

2018

Sovrn Holdings Inc.

- Designed and taught a workshop on how to build scalable, reliable, and fast web applications that handle terabytes of data in the Cloud.

Engineering Mentorship Programs

2017

Sovrn Holdings Inc.

- Designed and organized mentorship and training programs for aspiring software engineers; taught classes on software and data engineering in the Cloud.

IT Workshops

2012 - 2015

University of Colorado at Boulder, Student Academic Success Center

- Technical orientations and workshops for faculty and underrepresented students.

References available upon request.