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# POUYA SEPEHR

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Profile:** Highly motivated candidate experienced in academic research and teaching with expert proficiency in science and technology studies, urban sociology and innovation studies. Comprehensive understanding of the skills needed for local, national and regional strategic planning and development. Possesses unique analytical skills and facilitation skills to success in science, technology and development studies. Skilled in the ability to work in high-volume international and multicultural environment. Regarded for the ability to deliver outstanding results with the highest degree of service and professionalism. Pouya is currently a Circle U. Fellow at the Department of European Ethnology at Humboldt University of Berlin. As an STS scholar in the intersecting fields of urban sociology, infrastructure studies and innovation studies. He primarily conducts empirical studies to capture the sociotechnical and spatial constitution of urban practices and the ways in which cities embody technologies. His research focuses on smart cities, urban programming, critical AI studies, spatialized technologies, public participation, and urban imaginaries.

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## EDUCATION

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UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
**PhD Candidates at the Department of Social Studies of Science, 2018-2023** (public defense in October 2023)

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
**Master Degree of Arts in Science-Technology-Society (STS)**  
Department of Social Studies of Science, 2016-2018

OXFORD BROOKS UNIVERSITY  
**Master Degree of Arts in Development and Emergency Practice, CENDEP,**  
School of Built Environment, 2008-2010

TEHRAN UNIVERSITY  
**Bachelor Degree of Arts in Restorations and Conservation of Historical Buildings,**  
Cultural Inheritance Educational Centre, 2001-2005

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## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND AWARDS

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**Elected 6S Student Representative of the Society for Social Studies of Sciences (4S) Council,** December 2022 – December 2025

**Fit for Funding,** FFG Academy training on EU Funding, 17April to 22May 2023, Vienna

**Grant Writing and Project Management,** October 2022, Doctoral Centre of University of Vienna

**Quanti-Qualitative Research Methods by Tommaso Venturini,** November 2022, Doctoral Centre of University of Vienna

**Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication,** February 2012, Arusha, Tanzania  
Training Workshop by IFAD and CTA

**Development Strategies, Replication and Expansion of Best Practices,** August 2015 UN-Habitat in partnership with Urban Development and Revitalization Organization; Ministry of Road and Urban Development, Iran

**Participatory Video (PV) in Action; PV as a Tool for Research and Advocacy,** July 2009  
InsightShare, London, UK

**Study and Research Skills,** June-August 2008  
Department of Continuing Education, Oxford University

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**UNIVERSITY OF TURIN, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, SOCIAL STUDIES, APPLIED MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS (ESOMAS)** (June 2023- March 2024) Post-Doc university assistant

Fulfilled a post-doc university position. During my one-year contract I conducted a literature research and all the coordination for submitting a COST Action proposal focusing on Digital Social Innovation in European Urban Context.

**HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN, DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN ETHNOLOGY** (April 2023-July 2023) *Circle U. Researcher Fellowship*

Spent a total of three months as a research fellow to engage with Prof. Ignacio Farias research team working on techno-democracy in the city and participate in the department's activities. During this time, I managed to successfully submit my PhD.

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**UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES** (September 2018-February 2023) *University Assistant and Lecturer*

Fulfilled a university position at a PhD level. During my contract I designed and conducted a research project focusing on Smart City Vienna program and its sociotechnical reconfigurations examined through the lens of science and technology studies (STS). During my PhD research I analyzed a series of urban policy document applying digital methods, textual and visual analysis, and social media platform positional mapping. I further piloted a series of ethnographical studies, including participants observation, expert interviewing, and rhythm analysis to advance my empirical observations within the research. The title of my thesis is "*Seeing the Smart City Vienna: Ordering Time-Space, Configuring Future Citizens*" where I studied the Smart City Vienna in three interconnected angles: (1) sociotechnical imaginaries and the smart future-making; (2) citizen participation as end and means of becoming smart; (3) AI in the city and the co-constitution of (in)visibility. The proposed date for my defense is for March 2023. Furthermore, I fulfilled the task of teaching and mentoring the first year MA students of the department for approximately six hours per week.

**UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES** (February 2018- July 2018) *Research Assistant and Conference Coordinator*

Fulfilled an assistant role within the academic staff of the department through the guidance of the dean of the department of social sciences. Furthermore, overseeing responsibilities regarding the organization of the 30th anniversary of STS at Vienna University took place on 15-16 March 2018.

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES**

▪ **Experimenting with Digital Methods in Qualitative Research with Tommaso Venturini, 10-11 November 2022**

Pouya Sepehr (Organiser) & Virdzhiniia Vargolskaia (Organiser)

Digital Methods or For the Liberation of Methods in Social Research. This workshop addresses a question that has grown particularly thorny in the last few years: how can social research profit from new digital data and new computational techniques? The various sections of the workshop tackle this question from different angles.

▪ **Doing Research in STS – Winter Semester 2022-23**

Familiarizing the first year MA students with research methods in STS and mentoring with their case-based learning exercises.

▪ **Engage with Diverse Forms of Publics in STS – Summer Semester 2022**

This seminar primarily focused on publics engagement with science and technology. Advanced MA students had the chance to study participation from theoretical and practical aspects.

▪ **It's not rocket Science: How to start your MA thesis – Summer Semester 2021**

In this course MA students get to choose a topic and design an STS project for their thesis.

▪ **Scientific Practices and Knowledge Management – Winter Semester 2021-22**

▪ **Scientific Practices and Knowledge Management – Winter Semester 2019-20**

▪ **Scientific Practices and Knowledge Management – Winter Semester 2020-21**

Familiarizing the first year MA students with research methods in STS and mentoring them with their case-based learning exercises.

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## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

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- Sepehr, P., & Felt, U. (2023). Urban Imaginaries as Tacit Governing Devices: The Case of Smart City Vienna. *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 48(9) 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01622439231178597>
- Sepehr, P (2023), Post-Automobility Futures: Technology, Power, and Imaginaries." *Mobility Humanities*, vol. 2, no. 1, Jan. 2023, pp. 164-67, DOI: 10.23090/MH.2023.01.2.1.164
- Sepehr, P & Aarden, E (2023), Between Straight Lines and Winding Alleys: Streets as Boundary Objects in the Transnational Modernisation of Urban Planning in Iran. in B De Munck & J Lachmund (eds), *Politics of Urban Knowledge: Towards an Epistemic History of the City*. Ch. 8, pp. 179-200. Routledge.

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- Sepehr, P (2023), What AI Does and Does not See: De-scribing Intelligent Pedestrian Traffic Lights in Vienna. *Journal of Urban Technology*. In press. Taylor & Francis.
- Sepehr, P (2018), Urbanising Poverty: Mapping Assemblages and the 'Unplanned' in Jiroft Iran. *MA Thesis*: University of Vienna.
- Azizi, S., Sepehr, P., Rashidzadeh, K. & Tehran, A. (2017), *Hashti Tehran: Four Narratives of Urban Margins in Tehran*. Bongah Publication with the support of German Ministry of Culture: Tehran, Berlin.
- Sepehr, P (2017). Revisiting a Success Story in Upgrading Informal Settlements Programmes in Varamin, Iran. ISCE Publication: Tehran.
- Sepehr, P (2016), *The Role of PV in Amplifying the Voice of Marginalized Communities: Lessons from Iran*. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing. Dusseldorf: Germany. ISBN: 978-3-659-87543-4
- Networking for Sustainable Urban Development. (October 2015). *Animated Conceptual Research Programme Ordered by Urban Development and Revitalization Organization (UDRO)*. Ministry of Road and Urban Development Iran.
- Documentation of Best Practices in Urban Revitalization and Informal Settlements' Community Empowerment in Iran in 2014. Multimedia Documented Programme Ordered by Urban Development and Revitalization Organization (UDRO). Ministry of Road and Urban Development Iran, August 2015.
- Camera and Dialogue; Reviewing a Documentary Film Called 'Iranian' by Mehran Tamadon Insisting the Role of Camera as a Tool for Dialogue Between a Non-Believer and Four Religious Clerics in Iran. Lecture Presented at Institut Für Audiovisuelle Dokumentation und Forschung | Phonogrammarchiv, ÖAW, University Of Vienna, April 2015.
- Article on "Assessment of Urban Upgrading Programmes in Iran since 2008" Presented in the First Meeting of the Regional Slum Upgrading Working Group (APMCHUD), Tehran, Iran, 2-4 July 2012.
- Report on the High-Level Policy Dialogue Between the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and Small Scale Farmers on the Priorities and Governance of Agricultural Research for Development in West Africa. Available at: <http://pubs.iied.org/G03349.html>
- Producer and facilitator of a participatory video project "The Voice of the Nomads", September 2009. Available at: <http://vimeo.com/8667165>
- Director of academic film lectures on Globalization and Violence with Dr. Rod Burgess in co-operation with Buenos Aires University, May 2009. Available at: <https://vimeo.com/173246694>

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## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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### Reviewer for Scientific Journals

- The new STS Encyclopedia (to be published in 2024)
- The Journal for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation (fteval.at), issue no. 54 (2022)
- The Journal of Mobilities, issue no. 6 (2022)

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### 8SU, ART AND CULTURE INSTITUTE

(March 2012-June 2016)

*Member of the Board and Senior Consultant*

Spearheading the effective management and consultancy in the field of urban planning and renovation. Forged strong relationships with local authorities during professional workshops intended to bring awareness of the city infrastructure development. Involved in providing consultancy services on Urban Development and Revitalization issues.

#### Projects

- Conducted a training workshop for city management authorities of Jiroft city, Kerman province (April 2015).
- In coordination with Urban Development and Revitalization Organization (UDRO), ran a facilitated learning workshop on best practices of Informal Settlement Regeneration projects in Iran (Nov 2013 -July 2014).
- Developed a series of animated urban regeneration key concepts for the Urban Development and Revitalization Organization (UDRO) of Iran (Sep 2014).

### SHARESTAN COSULTING COMPANY (ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING)

(Jul 2011-Feb 2016)

*Project Coordinator/ Operation Manager and Research Facilitator*

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Gained invaluable exposure to a broad spectrum of project management work and consulting responsibilities for this organization dedicated to providing services on restoration and renovation. Engaged in performance assessment, progress coordination, and strategy planning. Worked on numerous projects funded by the Iranian Ministry of Road and Urban Development.

## *Projects*

- **Establishing Local Development and Renovation Office in District 17 of Tehran Municipality** (Jul 2014-Jul 2015)

*Project Director*

Involved in renovation offices set ups prescribed by the Restoration and Renovation law of Iranian constitution. Served a crucial role of the team leader involved in directing and supervising every phase of the office set up and designing schedule and work-plan for different aspects of issues facing the selected district.

- **Urban Upgrading and Community Empowerment Programmes of Informal Settlements in Jiroft City, Kerman Province** funded by the World Bank and the Iranian Ministry of Road and Urban Development (Jan 2014-Aug 2015)

*Project Director and Head Facilitator*

Engaged in planning every phase of the project, monitoring the progress and evaluating operational outcomes per Terms of Reference in the contract. Worked hard on the empowerment of both communities and regional government in accordance to Urban Upgrading Planning and Community Empowerment Programmes for Informal Settlements in Varamin City, Tehran province.

- **Reorganization and Urban Design Planning of Streetscape for the main street of Damghan city, Semnan Province** funded by the Iranian Ministry of Road and Urban Development (Jun 2012-Sep 2014)

*Project Manager and Coordinator*

Oversaw and led the design team, while facilitating the visioning sessions, developing strategies in collaboration with various stakeholders and reaching consensus over the design proposals.

- **Reorganization and Renovation Process Planning for Marand City Deteriorated Areas, Azerbaijan Province** funded by the Iranian Ministry of Road and Urban Development (Mar 2012-Dec 2014)

*Project Manager and Facilitator*

Fulfilled a critical role in leading the team of experts and consulting them on different aspects of the project such as social-economic and physical construction conditions. Negotiated with multi-governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations on enhancement of development proposal plans.

- **Detailed Planning Applying Restoration and Renovation Approaches for Ahar City Deteriorated Areas, Azerbaijan Province** funded by the Iranian Ministry of Road and Urban Development (Mar 2012-Dec 2014)

*Project Manager and Facilitator*

Engaged in supervising and consulting team of experts carrying studies on different aspects of socio-economic and physical conditions to enhance plans for city development. Overcome challenges caused by destructive earthquake, which changed the whole programme. Involved in designing detailed planning for the decayed areas.

- **Reorganization and Renovation Process Planning for Mehriz City Deteriorated Areas and Historical Zones, Yazd Province** (Mar 2012-Dec 2014)

*Project Manager and Facilitator*

Served an instrumental role in leading the team of experts and negotiating with different stakeholders to enhance the outcomes of the research and projects proposals related to changing the face of the city and its historical fabrics but yet leaving traditional urban structure.

- **Urban Upgrading and Community Empowerment Programmes of Informal Settlements in Varamin city, Tehran Province** funded by the World Bank and the Iranian Ministry of Road and Urban Development (Mar 2012-Jun 2014)

*Project Manager and Head Facilitator*

Involved in planning every phase of the project, monitoring the progress and evaluating operational outcomes. Worked hard on the empowerment of both communities and regional government in accordance to Urban Upgrading Planning and Community Empowerment Programmes for Informal Settlements in Varamin City, Tehran province.

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- **Reorganization and Urban Design Planning of Streetscape for two streets of Gonbad Kavoos city, Golestan Province** funded by the Iranian Ministry of Road and Urban Development (Oct 2011-Sep 2012)

*Project Manager and Coordinator*

Oversaw and led the design team, while facilitating the visioning sessions, developing strategies in collaboration with various stakeholders and reaching consensus over the design proposals.

- **Reorganization and Renovation Process Planning for Jiroft City Deteriorated Areas, Kerman province** (Jul 2011-Sep 2012)

*Project Manager and Facilitator*

Fulfilled a critical role in leading the team of experts and consulting them on different aspects of the project such as social-economic and physical construction conditions. Negotiated with multi-governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations on enhancement of development proposal plans.

**CENESTA (CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT)** (Jan 2011-May 2014)

*Project Development and Operation Manager*

Exercised sound professional knowledge and organizational skills to lead a few projects related to agriculture, safe environment and indigenous tribe livelihoods. Engaged in a full spectrum of event organization tasks, including negotiations and deal-making.

## Projects

- **Empowering Iran's indigenous nomadic tribes: Towards poverty eradication and nature conservation through diversification of income and wealth generation activities and the promotion of ICCAs (Indigenous Community Conserved Areas)** funded by the European Commission (Jan 2013-May 2014)

*Planner and Operations Manager*

Organized the event directed at bringing cooperation and assistance to nomadic tribal communities in Iran to the new level. Managed operations during the entire project where a new planning approach to develop natural reserves and conserved areas was proposed. Assisted representatives of various institutions in their work regarding network indigenous communities and development of new sustainable livelihoods.

- **High level policy dialogue between the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Accra, Ghana** funded by CENESTA and the IIED (28th Jan 2012-3rd Feb 2012)

*Interpreter and Facilitator Assistant*

Assisted in the high-level policy dialogue between the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and small scale farmers concerning the priorities and governance of agricultural research for development in West Africa. Responsible for facilitation and interpretation of a small team of Iranian farmers and nomadic pastoralist participated in the conference. See more at: <http://agroecologygroup.org.uk/index.php/events/previousmeetings/2012-02-01/>

- **Several Short Term Projects** (Jan 2011-Jun 2012).

*Project Assistant and Community Facilitator*

Involved in several projects listed below:

- The EC Funded Project: The promotion of sustainable development and livelihood with the aim of developing infrastructures for health, safety and environment in the South Pars zone.
- SGP Grant Project: Sustainable management of natural resources and livelihood improvement of Chodari nomadic pastoralists of Khartouran region in the face of climate change.
- SGP Grant Project: Abolhassani Nomadic tribe territory management (ICCA) - Dealing with climate change effects and defining a life cycle for agriculture and pasture management.
- CENESTA project: Community Bio-cultural diversity Registers and Protocols in Iran in 12 Territories of Indigenous Mobile Pastoralist Tribes.
- The EC Funded Project: Integrated management of natural resources in Pars Special Energy and Economic Zone, Assalouyeh, Bushehr Province.

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## VOLUNTARY AND SHORT-TERM EXPERIENCE

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**The World Bank Group – The Global Indicators Group**

(2016 – 2021)

*Focal contributor to the global indicators group's annual report on doing business in Iran  
My focus was on regulatory measures in construction and building industry in Iran.*

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<b>Opperson Project Management</b> <i>Researcher and Data Analyst (Contract base)</i> <i>Project: Real estate market prospect in Iran: Opportunities and Risks</i>	(June 2017 – December 2018)
<b>Career Development of PostDocs in Austria</b> , University of Vienna <i>Research Assistant</i>	(Oct 2016-Feb 2017)
<b>Participatory Video for Refugees and Youth Capacity Building</b> , InsightShare, London <i>Project Assistant in the Project focusing on refugees and youth development projects</i>	(May 2010-Jan 2011)
<b>1st UK Iranian Film Festival</b> , London <i>Director Assistant</i>	(Jun 2010-Nov 2010)
<b>1st London Permaculture Festival</b> , London <i>Technical Assistant supporting conference room during the event</i>	(August 2010)
<b>Refugee Youth Centre</b> , London <i>Co-Facilitator of Participatory Filmmaking project</i>	(Jul 2010-Sep 2010)
<b>Rapid Latin Americano</b> , Peru <i>Research Assistant Intern preparing and debriefing daily work, collecting materials</i>	(Jan 2010-Apr 2010)
<b>Foro Ciudades para la Vida</b> , Peru <i>Research Assistant Intern specializing in urban agriculture, urban planning and water supply</i>	(Jan 2010- Apr 2010)
<b>CENESTA and WAMIP Community Visual Exhibition Organization</b> , Tehran <i>Facilitator and Trainer of Participatory Video techniques, visual focus group meetings and photo-voice interviews</i>	(Jun 2009-Sep 2009)
<b>8th Human Rights Film Festival</b> , Oxford Brookes University <i>Member of Organizing Team</i>	(February 2009)
<b>InsightShare</b> , London <i>Volunteer working with local initiatives promoting PV</i>	(Feb 2009-May 2009)
<b>Bonyad Museum</b> , Tehran <i>Restoration Assistant</i>	(Jun 2003- Sep 2005)

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## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

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Persian (Native), English (Fluent), German (Basic)

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## TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

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Advanced in Microsoft Office Suite, Microsoft Projects (MSP), InDesign, and Adobe Photoshop

Familiar with geo-spatial software: ArcGIS, QGIS and AutoCAD;

Experienced in analytical software and digital methods: R, SPSS, Nvivo, Atlas.ti and Network Visualisation in Gephi.

Familiar with HTML coding for Web Design and other platforms.