

# Bahman Khodadadi

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## Academic Appointments

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2025- Research Fellow, *Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study*, Harvard University  
2024-2025 Research Fellow, *Program of Islamic Law*, Harvard University  
2023-2024 Research Associate, *Islamic Law and Civilization*, Yale University  
2015-2023 Research Assistant, *Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics,"* University of Münster  
2023 Visiting Lecturer, University of Timisoara

## Education

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2023 Ph.D., Law and Iranian Studies, *Westfälische Wilhelms University of Münster*,  
(*summa cum laude*)  
2013 M.A., Islamic Criminal Jurisprudence, *Allameh Tabataba'i University*, (*summa cum laude*)  
2010 B.A., Islamic Jurisprudence, *Ferdowsi University*

## Academic Service and Projects

### Editorial and Peer Review Activities:

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**Editor** - *Harvard Journal of Islamic Law*

**Reviewer** - *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*; *The Journal of Politics* (University of Chicago); *Journal of Research and Development in Comparative Law*; *Criminal Law Research Journal*; *Millah: Journal of Religious Studies*; *Cogent Social Sciences* (Taylor & Francis Group); *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory* (Wiley); *International Journal of Law in Context* (Cambridge University Press)

## Projects

2025- *Crisis and Opportunity Through Politico-Juridical Dynamics of Shi'ism*, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University  
2021-2023 B3-28: *Dynamics of Modernization in the Relations between Politics, Law, and Religion*, Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics," University of Münster

2015-2022    B3-25: *Religious political pluralism. A Realistic Normative Theory of Religious Political Order under Conditions of Religious Plurality*, Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics,” University of Münster

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## Awards

2025            MESA Global Academy  
2023            German Academic Exchange Service Award (DAAD)  
2023            Doctorate Degree with Highest Distinction (*summa cum laude*)  
2022            Harry-Westermann Award for Best Doctoral Dissertation  
2016            German Academic Exchange Service Award (DAAD)

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## Professional Affiliations

2025-2026    MESA Global Academy  
2023-2024    Research Editor, Program in Islamic Law, Harvard Law School  
2023-2024    Member, American Association of Law Schools  
2016-2017    Member, European Society of Criminology  
2007-2009    Chairman, Non-Governmental Organizations for Religio-Legal Research

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## Research Interests

Modern Iranian History | Legal History | Gender Studies | Modern Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies | Islamic Jurisprudence | Islamic Political Theology | Human Rights | Religion and Modernity

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## Languages

Arabic | English | German | Persian

# Publications

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## BOOK

### Published

2024            *On Theocratic Criminal Law: The Rule of Religion and Punishment in Iran*. Oxford University Press.

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## EDITED VOLUMES

### Published

- 2025 *Harvard Journal of Islamic Law* (Special Issue): “Moratoriums on Islamic Criminal Punishments: Legal Debates and Current Practices,” Vol. 6 (1).

### In Progress

*Historical Perspectives on Islamic Law and State Formation in the Modern Middle East*, (Ed. Bahman Khodadadi). Contributors include Anver Emon, Mohammad Fadel, Asifa Quraishi, Robert Gleave, Oliver Leaman, and others.

## ARTICLES

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### Published

- 2025 Between Divine Mandate and Modern State Islamic: Criminal Law and the Contested Legacy of *Hudūd*, *Journal of Islamic Law* 6 (1), 3–14.
- 2025 Public Interest (*Maslahat*) in Shi‘i Theocracy: Implications for Legal and Political Decision-Making, *Iranian Studies*, 58 (3), 490–525.
- 2025 The Theocratic Agency of the Iranian Legal System at the Legislative and Judicial Levels, *Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities* 36 (2), 251–274.
- 2024 The Principle of Legality and the Complexities of Judicial Discretion in Iran, *The Iranian Studies* 57 (4), 651–70.
- 2022 Iranian Religious-political Development in Light of Three Epochal Transformations. *Political Studies Forum* 3, 27–45.
- 2021 In Defence of Forfeiting Right against Being Punished [dar defa az nazarie-e az dast dadan.e hagh-e mojazat nashodan]. *Journal of Criminal Law Research* 9 (36), 9–41.
- 2021 Religious Beliefs and Punitive Ideology: With a Focus on Satanism in the United States of America [Bavardasht-e dini va ideolozhi-e sezagara: Ba mehvariat-e eblis bavari dar iyalat-e motahed-e amrika]. In Gholami, H. (Ed.), [Oloum-e jenai-e tatbighi dar partow-e hamkariha-e beynolmelal]. *Comparative Criminal Sciences in the Light of International Cooperations*, Mizan Press, Tehran, 383–416.
- 2020 Classic Persian Literature and Criminology (by the Case Study of Sadi Shirazi). In Scerbo, A. and Chiarella, P. (Eds.), *Le radicle dell’ VIII convengo di diritto e letteratura*, Wolters Kluvers, 255–264.
- 2019 A Query on the Evolution of the Idea of Rule of Law in Europe: From Ancient Greece to the Mediaeval [Tahlili var takvin va tatavor-e andishe-e hakemiat-e ghanoun dar oroupa: Gozar az younan-e bastan be ghoroun-e vosta]. In Bashirie, T. (Ed.), *Majmoue maghalat dar bozorgdaste ostad*

Golduzian]. *Collection of Articles in Commemoration of Prof. Goldouzian*, Majd Press, Tehran, 294–314.

- 2016 A Query on the Soft Functionalism of Religion: The Case Study of the Judicial System of the United States of America [Jostari dar karkardbavari-e narm-e din: Motale-e moredi-e dastgah-e ghazai-e amrika]. *Journal of Criminal Law Research* 4 (15), 75–97.
- 2016 Criminal Policy as a Product of Political and Economic Conditions: Analyzing the Developments in Iran since 1979, *Zeitschrift für die Gesamte Strafrechtswissenschaft (ZStW)* 128 (2), 606–627.
- 2015 Genealogy of European Criminal Justice Evolution in the Field of Sexual Behaviors (Centuries 15–17) [Tabarshenasi-e tahavolat-e edalat-e keyfari-e oroupa dar ghalamro-e raftarha-e jensi (ghoroun-e 15–17)]. *Journal of Criminal Law Research* (Allame Tabataba'i University), 3 (9), 9–32.
- 2013 Offender Surveillance During the Imprisonment [Nezarat bar mojreman dar farayand-e mojazat-e salbe azadi]. *Journal of Criminal Law Research* (Gilan University), 4 (2), 201–226.
- 2012 Supervision of Offenders and Involved Institutions [Nezarat bar mojreman va nahadhae- dakhil]. *Karagah Journal* 2 (18), 22–43.

#### **In Press**

- 2026 Between Orthodoxy and Reform: Theorizing the Suspension of Islamic Corporal Punishments in Shi'i Theocracy, *Law and Religion* (volume 41).

#### **In Progress**

The Shi'i Constitutional Theocracy: Repugnancy Clause, Unequal Rights, and Maslahat? Chapter for *The Cambridge Handbook of Islamic Law*, edited by Khaled Abou El Fadl and Rami Koujah.

#### **ESSAYS**

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- 2025 God's Will or Mortal Error? The State's Blessing of Vigilantism in the Name of Faith." *Harvard Islamic Law Blog*, May 29.
- 2025 "Navigating Legal Impasses: Maṣlaḥa, State Decrees, and Shī'ī Jurisprudence in Post-Revolutionary Iran," *Harvard Islamic Law Blog*, May 27, 2025, <https://islamiclaw.blog/2025/05/27/>
- 2025 "The Ascendancy of Fixed Islamic Corporal Punishments in Shī'ī Theocracy." *Harvard Islamic Law Blog*, May 16.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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- 2019      Totality, Charisma, Authority: The Origins and Transformations of Totalist Movements, *Europality Journal*, 13 (2), 241–244.

## TRANSLATIONS

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### Published

- 2021      Walklate, S. and McGarry, R. Competing for the ‘trace’: The Legacies of War’s Violence(s) [Dar jostoju-e rage haye jang: Miras(hae) khoshounat-e jang], Mizan Press, Tehran, 261–284.
- 2019      McLaughlin, E. Critical Criminology: The Renewal of Theory, Politics and Practices [Jormshenasi-e enteghadi: Bazandishi-e teori, siyasat va koneshha], (Khodadadi, B. Transl.). In: Nikoular, H. (Ed.), *What is Criminology?* [Jormshenasi chist?], Mizan Press, Tehran, 62–87.
- 2019      Brown, D. The Global Financial Crisis: Neo-Liberalism, Social Democracy, and Criminology [Bohran-e mali: Neo-libralism: Demokrasi-e ejtemai va jormshenasi], (Khodadadi, B. Transl.). In: Nikoular, H. (Ed.), *What is Criminology?* [Jormshenasi chist?], Mizan Press, Tehran, 112–142.
- 2019      Carlen, P. Against Evangelism in Academic Criminology: For Criminology as a Scientific Art [Zediat ba evanjelism dar jormshenasi-e akademik: Dar defa az jormshenasi be onvan-e yek fan-ne elmi], (Khodadadi, B. Transl.). In: Nikoular, H. (Ed.), *What is Criminology?* [Jormshenasi chist?], Mizan Press, Tehran, 142–166.
- 2019      Demetis, D. The Role of Information Systems in the Prevention and Detection of Transitional and International Crimes [Naghsh-e samane ha-e etela’at dar pishgiri va kashf-e jarayem-e farameli va benalmelali], (Khodadadi, B. and Gholampour, M). In: Nikoular, H. (Ed.), [Rouykadha-e jormshenakhti be hoghough-e beynalmelali-e keyfari ] *Criminological Approaches to International Criminal Law*, Mizan Press, Tehran, 251–291.
- 2018      Hanslmaier, M., Baier, D. Re-examining the Relationship between Religion and Punitiveness: Evidence from Germany [Baz azmai-e rabet-e din va sezadahi: Ba motale-e moredi-e alman], (Khodadadi, B. Transl.), *Journal of Crime Prevention Studies* 41, 173–207.
- 2017      Farmer, L. Codification [Ghanoun gozari-e keyfari], (Khodadadi, B., Mirbazei. S. and Javanjafari, A. Transl.), *Journal of Legal Research* 17 (33), 91–114.
- 2016      Messner, S., Zimmerman, G. Community-Level Influences on Crime and

- Offending [Tasirat-e jame-e mahali bar jorm va ertekab-e jorm], (Khodadadi, B. and Shafizadeh, T. Trans). In Nikoukar, H. (Ed.), [Daneshnamey-e pishgiri az jorm-e axford.] In: *The Oxford Handbook of Crime Prevention*, Mizan Press, Tehran, 206–231.
- 2014 Fletcher, G. Political Theory and Criminal Law [Nazari-e ha-e siasi va hoghough-e keyfari], (Khodadadi, B. and Navabi, Z. Trans.). In Gholami, H. (Ed.), [Asl-e hade aghal budan-e hoghough-e jaza ] *The Principle of Criminal Law as Last and Least Resort*, Mizan Press, Tehran, 139–201.
- 2013 Durkheim, E. Two Laws of Penal Evolution [Do ghanoun-e takamol-e keyfari], (Khodadadi, B. and Gholami, H. Transl.). In: Abrandabadi, A. (Ed.), [Dayeratol ma'aref-e oloum-e janayi] *Encyclopaedia of Criminal Sciences*, Mizan Press, Tehran, 1104–1128.
- 2012 Sherman, L. The Use and Usefulness of Criminology, 1751-2005: Enlightened Justice and Its Failures [Karbord va tasirat-e jormshenasi dar salha-e 1751-2005: Edalate- rowshangarane va kastiha-e an], (Khodadadi, B. and Nikoukar, H. Transl.), *Journal of Crime Prevention Studies* 24, 185–212.

### In Progress

- Gouda, M. Stealing More Is Better? Marginal Deterrence in Islamic Criminal Law of Theft [Aya dozdidan behtar ast? Er'abe janbi-e nazer bar serghat dar hoghough-e keyfari-e eslami].
- Fichera, M. Law, Community and Ultima Ratio in Transnational Law [Hoghough, Ejtema va rahe hal-e nahai dar hoghough-e farameliati].

### Selected Conference and Presentations

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- 2025 Crisis and Opportunity Through Politico-Juridical Dynamics of Shi'ism, Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advance Study, Cambridge, The United States.
- 2025 Law and Literature, Northeastern University, Boston, The United States/
- 2025 On Theocratic Criminal Law: The Rule of Religion and Punishment in Iran, Toronto University, Online.
- 2024 On Theocratic Criminal Law: The Rule of Religion and Punishment in Iran, Harvard University, Cambridge, The United States.
- 2024 Navigating the Rule of Law: Socio-Political Challenges and Opportunities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Fall 2024 Conference Theorizing the Judicial Process, Yale University, New Haven, the United States.

- 2024 Suspension of Islamic Corporal Punishments in the Modern Age, Yale University, New Haven, the United States.
- 2024 *Nulla poena sine lege* in the Islamic Republic, Annual Conference of the Association of American Law Schools, Washington, the United States.
- 2023 Judge vs. Legislator in Islamic Constitutionalism (case study of Iran), Yale University, New Haven, the United States.
- 2023 Non-execution of Divinely Ordained Penalties: Crisis and Opportunities Through Politico-Juridical Dynamics of Shiism, Münster, Germany.
- 2023 Penal Populism: Contributing Factors to the State Punitiveness in Muslim Countries, Faculty of Political Science, Timisoara, Romania.
- 2023 Theocratic Agency at the Legislative and Judicial Levels, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2020 The Islamic Criminalization Theories Applied by Shiite Theocracy, Workshop on the Basics of Criminal Law, Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany.
- 2019 Honour Killing from Sociological and Legal Perspectives: With a Case Study of Iran and Shiite Jurisprudence, Working Group on Sociology of Religion, Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”, Münster, Germany.
- 2018 Classic Persian Literature and Criminology (by the Case Study of Sadi Shirazi). Italian Society for Law and Literature. Conference, Catanzaro, Italy.
- 2017 Shiism and Criminal Law from Socio-political Perspective, University of Basel, Switzerland.
- 2017 A Transitional Period in the History of Law: From Sasanian Jurisprudence to Islamic Theocracy, 9th Annual Trinity College Dublin Law Student Colloquium, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2016 The Influence of the Constitutional Theocratic State on Criminal Law, 8th Annual Trinity College Dublin Law Student Colloquium, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2016 Social Control under the Influence of the Legal Moralism, 16th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology, Münster, Germany.
- 2015 The Relationship between Criminal Law and Religion in Iran, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.
- 2015 Shiite Conception of Shariatization of the State, Faculty of Law, Westfälische Wilhelms University of Münster, Germany.
- 2015 A Query on the Impact of Shiism on Persian Literature, Seasonal Congress of Ferdowsi Cultural House, Mashhad, Iran.

