

Mehrshad Golkarian, M.F.A.

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CURRENT POSITION

Guest Researcher

Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), University of Amsterdam (2025 – present).

- Conducting independent research in film and cultural studies with a focus on philosophy of cinema, nihilism, and contemporary visual culture
- Developing a peer-review journal article and a videographic research project as the main research outputs of the one-year research period
- Participating in research seminars and academic activities at ASCA

EDUCATION

- **M.F.A., Cinema**, Tehran University of Arts, Faculty of Cinema and Theater, Tehran, Iran (2016–2020)

MFA Thesis (theoretical and practice-based):

- **Part A (Theoretical):** Nihilism and its Reflection in Post-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema with Emphasis on Three Films: *Hamoun*, *Deep Breath*, and *Pig*.
- **Part B (Practical):** Directing, screenwriting, and producing the short film *Circle Law*.

GPA: **18.47/20** (Ranked 1st in the department).

- **B.Sc., Mechanical Engineering**, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Faculty of Engineering, Mashhad, Iran (2007–2013)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Cultural Studies and Cinema
- Philosophy of Film (nihilism, existentialism, ethics)
- Feminist film theory and representation
- Formal film analysis (mise-en-scène, editing, sound, rhythm)
- Practice-based and videographic research methodologies
- Contemporary European and Middle Eastern cinema

LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE

- English – Fluent (Primary language of academic research and professional communication at the University of Amsterdam)
- Persian – Native

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Guest Researcher**, Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), University of Amsterdam (Sep 2025 – Present).
- **Guest Lecturer**, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium (Feb 2026).
- **Script Doctor**, Emarat Hotel Project (Streaming series), Tehran, Iran (Jul–Aug 2023).
- **Director, Screenwriter & Producer**, Short Film Birthmarked, Tehran, Iran (Mar 2023).
- **Costume & Set Designer**, Short Film Visit, Tehran, Iran (Sep 2020).
- **Director, Screenwriter & Producer**, Short Film Circle Law, Tehran, Iran (Aug 2019).
- **Director & Dramaturge**, Play Faith Healer, 18th International University Theater Festival of Iran, Tehran (Mar 2015).
- **Director & Dramaturge**, Play The Home is Cluttered, Hall of Master Entezami, House of Artists, Tehran (Nov 2013).

HONORS

- Selected, **19th Orlando Film Festival**, Florida, USA (2024).
- Nominated, **Best Film, 29th Portobello Film Festival**, London, UK (2024).
- Nominated, **Best Drama, 29th Portobello Film Festival**, London, UK (2024).
- Nominated, **Best World Film, 29th Portobello Film Festival**, London, UK (2024).
- Selected, **19th Bahamas International Film Festival**, Nassau, Bahamas (2024).
- Selected, **8th Aaretaler Kurzfilm Festival**, Münsingen, Switzerland (2024).
- Selected, **14th Pune Short Film Festival**, Pune, India (2024).
- Selected, **13th Capital City Film Festival**, Lansing, Michigan, USA (2024).
- Shortlisted (final round), **Locarno Film Festival Academy Talent Selection**, Switzerland (2023).
- Special Jury Prize, **19th Reality Bytes Independent Film Festival**, DeKalb, USA (2020).
- Special Jury Prize, **64th Regional Youth Cinema Festival – Asoric**, Zahedan, Iran (2020).
- Nominated, **Best Screenplay, Best Film, and Best Editing, 64th Regional Youth Cinema Festival – Asoric**, Zahedan, Iran (2020).
- Selected, **21st Bunter Hund International Short Film Festival**, Munich, Germany (2020).
- Selected, **12th International Inter-University Short Film Festival**, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2020).
- Selected, **16th Kinoproba International Film Festival**, Yekaterinburg, Russia (2019).

ACADEMIC LECTURES

- **University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium**

Guest Lecturer — “From Short Story to Screenplay: Structure, Transformation, and Cinematic Thinking” (Feb 2026)

Course: Seminar Film Criticism — Master of Film Studies and Visual Culture
Invited by Prof. Matthias C.J. De Groof.

- **Iran University of Science & Technology, Tehran, Iran**

Guest Lecturer

New Time Structures in Postmodern Cinema (Sep 2017 – Jan 2018)

Scriptwriting (Sep 2019 – Jan 2020)

MANUSCRIPT IN PREPARATION

Golkarian, M. *The Representation of Nihilism in Contemporary Dutch and Iranian Cinema: A Comparative Study*.

- **JOURNAL ARTICLE MANUSCRIPT (IN PREPARATION)**

- Comparative analysis of post-2010 Dutch and Iranian cinema.
- Draws on Nietzsche, Deleuze, van Tongeren, and Župančič.
- Employs close formal analysis (mise-en-scène, editing, sound, rhythm) alongside hermeneutic and philosophical interpretation.
- Examines how different cinematic cultures transform nihilism into an aesthetic and philosophical resource

- **VIDEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH (IN PROGRESS)**

- Videographic Analysis of Nihilism in Contemporary Cinema. Practice-based videographic research developed in parallel with the above article
- Uses audiovisual montage, rhythm, sound, and analytical voice to explore nihilism as a cinematic and affective form
- Conceived as an autonomous research output that complements and extends the written analysis

PUBLICATIONS

Published

- Golkarian, M. (2019). *Commemorating May 22, the Birthday of Arthur Conan Doyle, the Creator of Sherlock Holmes: Elementary, My Dear Watson, Elementary*. Etemaad Daily Newspaper, No. 4373.
- Golkarian, M. (2019). *About the Movie “Bohemian Rhapsody”: Not Quite Like the Bohemian Rhapsody*. Etemaad Daily Newspaper, No. 4311.

CONFERENCES

- **EASLCE 2026 Biennial Conference, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands**

Invited Guest Contributor / Co-presenter — “Filming Multispecies Justice: Challenges in Adapting The Animals Lawsuit Against Humanity” (with Matthias C.J. de Groof) (Apr 2026).

Contributed part of the invited presentation in the panel Artistic Practices I.

COURSES

- Playwriting — Prof. Mohammad Charmshir, Karnameh Institute of Arts and Culture, Tehran (Sep 2014)
- Cinematography — Prof. Mahmoud Kalari, Bamdadhouse, Tehran (Nov 2016)
- Scriptwriting — Prof. Farhad Tohidi, Faculty of Cinema and Theater, Tehran University of Arts (Feb 2017)

COMPUTER AND PROGRAMMING SKILLS

- Qualitative film and cultural analysis
- Academic research and writing
- Practice-based and videographic research
- Audiovisual editing and post-production (Adobe Premiere Pro, After Effects, DaVinci Resolve)

REFERENCES

- **Dr. Ali Rohani**—MFA Thesis Supervisor

Faculty of Cinema and Theater, Tehran University of Arts

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- **Dr. Jan Teurlings**—Host of Guest Research Appointment

Department of Media Studies, University of Amsterdam

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- **Dr. Matthias De Groof** — Guest Lecture Host / Research Collaborator / Screenwriting Collaborator

Department of Communication Studies, University of Antwerp

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Email: matthias.degroof@uantwerpen.be
- **Prof. Dr. M.P.J. van de Port** — Research Collaborator

Department of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam

Email: M.P.J.vandePort@uva.nl
- **Masoud Soflaei**—MFA Practical Thesis Supervisor

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