
Education

2024-Ongoing	University of Vienna, Austria PhD in Communication Thesis Title: Reshaping the Women's Movement: Feminist Content Creators and Affective Labour in Contemporary Iran Supervisors: Dr. Claudia Wilhelm & Dr. Sara Tafakori
2024 (Apr to Sep)	Centre for Advanced Internet Studies, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany Six months in-residence fellowship
2022-2023	Central European University, Vienna, Austria Master of Arts in Gender Studies Dissertation Title: Digital Feminist Activism and Imagining the Future: Case Study of the “Woman, Life, Freedom” Movement in Iran Supervisors: Dr. Nadia Jones-Gailani & Dr. Erzsébet Barát
2016-2018	City University of London, UK Master of Arts in International Communication and Development Dissertation Title: How Iranian NGOs Use Social Media for Social Change? Supervisor: Dr. Gerbrand Tholen
2007-2011	University of Tehran, Iran Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communication

Work Experiences

Nov. 2025 – Now	Workshop Coordinator Gender and Politics Research Group, Department of Political Science, University of Vienna
Nov. 2020 – Sep. 2022	Internal Communication and PR Manager Snapp Group
Nov. 2018 – Oct. 2020	Corporate Social Responsibility Supervisor Digikala Group
Oct. 2009 – Sep. 2016	Senior Journalist Iranian Student News Agency (ISNA)

Awards and Grants

Open Society University Network, Fellowship Grant, Vienna, Austria (2025) €9,000

Centre for Advanced Internet Studies, Fellowship Grant, Bochum, Germany (2024) €12,000

Central European University, Fieldwork Research Grant, Vienna, Austria (2023) €2,000

Central European University, Scholarship for master's degree, Vienna, Austria (2022) €14,000

Chevening Scholarship, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, to study MA at City, University of London, UK (2018) £25,000

Publications

Manuscripts Under Review

Shamsi, A., & Barát, E. (2025). *Online Maidans: Feminist Activism and the Imagination of Collective Futures on Social Media*. In L. Rahbari & B. Rezaee Daryakenari (Eds.), *A new awakening? Political Resistance and Activism in Iran During and After the 'Women, Life, Freedom' Uprising*. Amsterdam University Press.

Shamsi, A. (2025). *Why Do I Feel Guilty? Navigating Ethnographic Research on Digital Feminist Activism*. *Medien Journal*, Special section on *Non (Binaries) in Binary Structures – The role of digital communication for the negotiation, participation, and representation of diversity*.

Published Paper

Shamsi, A., & Broojerdi, M. (2014). Satellite TV Channels and the Youth's Perception of Marriage and Sex. *Journal of Strategic Studies in Public Policy*, 19, Tehran, Iran (in Farsi).

Shamsi, A. (2009). *Globalization and Youth Culture*. *Global Media Journal (Persian Edition)*, (No.8), Tehran, Iran (in Farsi)

Recent Conference Presentations

Shamsi, A. (2025, September 4–5) *Ephemeral Archive of Iranian Women Political Prisoners' Digital Narratives*, ECREA Political Communication Section Interim Conference, University of Innsbruck, Austria.

- Shamsi, A. (2025, July 9–12). *Affective Reading of Feminist Political Prisoners' Representation on Instagram*. European Feminist Research Conference, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain.
- Shamsi, A. (2024, November 14–15). *Toward global inclusivity in communication studies in times of uncertainty*. Annual Conference of the International and Intercultural Division, German Communication Association (DGPK), University of Salzburg, Austria.
- Shamsi, A. (2024, September 27–29). *Feminist Influencers and Affective Labor in Contemporary Iran*. Presented at the AtGender Conference: Gender Studies and the Precarious Labour of Making a Difference, Utrecht University, Netherlands.
- Shamsi, A. (2024, September 18). *I Don't Sell My Privacy: Feminist Influencers, Digital Intimacy, and Affective Labour*. Online Presentation at the Cyberfeminism in the Middle East and North Africa Region Symposium, Cardiff University, UK.
- Shamsi, A. (2024, June 17–19). *Hopes and Futurity: Feminist Influencers and Affective Labour*. Presented at the Imagining Possible Futures Conference, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.
- Shamsi, A. (2024, June 5–7). *In the Presence of Death: Digital Feminist Performances*. Presented at the ASCA Workshop: Resistance, Refusal, Fugitivity, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Shamsi, A. (2024, May 15). *Digital feminist Activism and Imagining the Future: The Case Study of WLF in Iran*. Presented at the Centre for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS), Bochum, Germany.
- Shamsi, A. (2023, September 6). *Digital mourning: Case study of the WLF protest in Iran*. Presented at the AtGender Conference, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Shamsi, A. (2023, June 19–20). *The Collective Memory of Hijab and the Transformation of Meaning*. Poster Presentation at the TRANSforming Research: Feminist, Experimental, and Arts-Based Practices Conference, Central European University, Vienna, Austria.

Invited Panel Discussions

- Shamsi, A. (2024, May 7). *How to do Research in a Digital World* [Online panel discussion]. SAGE Research Methods Community, SAGE Publications.
- Shamsi, A. (2022, December 8). *Visual Analysis of "Woman, Life, Freedom" Movement's Social Media Content*. Central European University, Vienna, Austria.

Workshops and Training

Digital Narrative PhD Summer School (June 10–14, 2025), Scholarship Recipient, Centre for Digital Narrative, University of Bergen, Norway

The European Forum Alpbach (August 27–30, 2025), Scholarship Recipient, Alpbach, Austria

Media Campaign for Advocacy (March 7–25, 2022), Scholarship Recipient, Radio Netherlands Training Centre (RNTC), Haarlem, Netherlands

Documentary Photo Reporting (August 16–20, 2016), Scholarship Recipient, M'CT Institution, Berlin, Germany

Volunteer Experiences

Jun. 2025 – Ongoing **PhD Student Representative** | Vienna Doctoral School of Social Science

Aug. 202 – Ongoing **English-Farsi Interpreter** | *Deserteurs- und Flüchtlingsberatung* NGO
Translating legal consultancy sessions for asylum seekers

Nov. 2018 – Sep. 2022 **Program Officer** | *Shargh-e-Abad* NGO
Library development and educational support for rural schools

Nov. 2014 – Sep. 2016 **English Teacher** | *Nasser Khosrow Child House*
Teaching English to Afghan refugees

Methodological Skills

Qualitative Research Methods

Interview, Digital Ethnography, Focus Group, Discourse Analysis, Content Analysis Using NVivo

Quantitative Research Methods

Survey Design and Data Analysis Using IBM SPSS Statistics

Language Skills

Farsi & Kurdish (Native), English (C2)