Recipients of Best Ph.D. Dissertations Award and Honorable Mention
on a Topic of Iranian Studies, 2020
Foundation for Iranian Studies
November 9, 2020

The Foundation for Iranian Studies is pleased to announce that the Committee on Selection of the Best Ph.D. Dissertation of the Year on a Topic of Iranian Studies of the Foundation for Iranian Studies has chosen Dr. Khalil Andani's dissertation "Revelation in Islam: Qur'ānic, Sunni, and Shiʿi Ismaili Perspectives " submitted to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, as the recipient of the Foundation's annual Ph.D. dissertation award for the academic year 2019-2020.

In making its decision, the Committee, following the criteria established by the Foundation's Board of Directors, noted that Khalil Andani has made an exceptional contribution to the field of Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies by, among other achievements, "stating clearly the study's problematic… constructing an adequate and efficient theoretical framework…developing and using successfully a rigorous methodology to bring together a significant array of primary and secondary sources… securing critical information by judiciously examining different but relevant opinions about his subject matter, i.e., meanings, implications, and the nature of the Qur'ān revealed to Prophet Muhammad as divine speech, divine writing, divine inspiration, revelatory recitation, or scripture… adopting an innovative multidisciplinary approach to derive intellectually reasonable and historically modifiable understanding of different Qur'ānic Revelation models… incorporating various theological and hermeneutical arguments to define the meaning, nature and effect of Revelatory Principle, Revelatory Process, and Revelatory Product … demonstrating originality in approach, balance in reaching conclusions, adeptness in conjoining thought, literature, and history to support the dissertation's findings.… excellent organization of the work."

The Committee also cited Zahra Nasiri Moghaddam's dissertation "Les pionniers de l'enseignement du français à l'École Polytechnique (Dâr ol-Fonun) de Téhéran au XIXe siècl: Jules Richard, Mozayyen od-Dowle et Yusof Richard" submitted to École doctoral des Humanités, Université de Strasbourg, with honorable mention for superior scholarship, originality, clarity, and significant contribution to the field of Iranian Studies.

Notice of the awards will appear in the Foundation's interactive web, in MESA and AIS journals, and in various Persian and English language academic publications.

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