

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Calvin K. Ching received his bachelor of arts in history from Simon Fraser University in the summer of 2009 with a concentration in Middle East and Islamic studies. The topic of his paper, “Ethnic Tensions between the Han and the Hui,” arises from his interest in Neo-Confucianism and its dialogue with what the Imperial Chinese governments decreed as “subversive” behaviour by ethnic and religious minorities in the late Qing Dynasty. Currently, Calvin is pursuing a career in the hospitality field and divides his time between Vancouver, Hong Kong, and Seoul.

Balraj Dhillon recently finished his bachelor’s degree at Simon Fraser University with a major in history and philosophy. Dhillon’s degree specialized in Modern Middle East history—he is currently completing his B.Ed. with a minor in international education. In 2007, he taught art in an elementary school in India and has recently returned from teaching English in India at a school for adult Tibetan refugees.

Matthew J. Gordner holds two master’s degrees in Middle Eastern history (Tel Aviv University) and political science (University of Alberta). As a graduate student at the University of Alberta, Matthew received a number of awards for academic achievement and community engagement, including the Queen Elizabeth II Award, the Graduate Student Alberta Heritage Scholarship, and the Government of Alberta Citizenship Award. At present, Matthew serves as the director of Peace by Piece, a Canada-based organization dedicated to dialogue on pressing political issues of local and global scope.

Catherine Musekamp is a B.A. student at Simon Fraser University, majoring in political science and Middle East and Islamic history. Her key areas of interest include studies in civil society and Islamist politics. In 2007, Catherine participated in SFU International’s student exchange program and studied at the American University in Cairo. She also completed a paid internship at the Ibn Khaldun Centre for Development Studies in Cairo. She hopes to pursue graduate studies either in Middle East studies or international law.

Ardalan Rezamand was born in Tehran in 1975 and raised in Los Angeles. Ardalan completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1998 with double majors in philosophy (ethics and public policy) and Islamic and Near Eastern studies (modern Iran). Ardalan worked as a healthcare analyst and a personal banker before returning to academia in 2009. Working under the supervision of Dr. Derryl MacLean, Ardalan is currently an M.A. candidate at Simon Fraser University with a focus on philosophical interpretations of Shi'a doctrine of state by members of the faculty of philosophy at Tehran University. He resides in North Vancouver with his wife and two sons.

Setareh Shohadaei is an M.A. student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Victoria, specializing in cultural, social, and political thought as well as international relations. Her current project is a theoretical meditation on the Iranian post-elections confessions read through discourses on biopolitics, sovereignty, and history.