

**Ruzbeh Vistasp Hodiwala**

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## EDUCATION:

### **PhD Candidate (2019-present)**

Department of History, Religions & Philosophies, SOAS,  
University of London

**Working title:** An Ethnographic study of Neo-Zoroastrian Settlements in Europe and North America

### **M.A in Iranian Studies (2016-2017)**

SOAS, University of London

**Result:** Distinction

### **B.A. in Economics (2012-2015)**

St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, India

**Result:** Merit

### **High School Abroad (Sep. 2010-Jun. 2011)**

Liceo Scienze Sociale, Italy

**Subjects Studied:** Catholicism, Italian language, Arts,  
Social Science

## LANGUAGES:

- English
- Gujarati
- Hindi
- Italian: Conversational

## DIGITAL LITERACY:

- MS Office
- NVivo
- Eventbrite
- Mailchimp
- ZOOM/Teams/SLACK

## EXPERIENCE:

### **Editor-in-Chief & Finance Coordinator at the SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research (SJPR)**

(Nov. '21 - Oct. '23)

**Responsibilities:** Administration | Review |  
Organising Events | Communication & Outreach |  
Recruitment

**Report to:** SOAS Doctoral School

### **Assistant Editor (Review) at the SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research (SJPR) (Apr. '21-Nov. '21)**

**Responsibilities:** Assist with Review Process

**Report to:** Co-editor (Review) & Editor-in-Chief

### **Ancient India and Iran Trust (2023)**

**Responsibilities:** Creating Inventory & Cataloguing John  
Hinnells Collection

**Report to:** The Librarian & Trustees of AIT

### **Visa Officer for 8th World Zoroastrian Youth Congress at the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (Jan-July '23)**

**Responsibilities:** Issue Visa letters and Provide Application  
advice

**Report to:** The President & Managing Committee of ZTFE

### **Personal Assistant to the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Gujarat, India (Jan. '18-Apr. '19)**

**Responsibilities:** Point of Contact | Social Media  
Coordination | Public Relations & Outreach | Liaising | Diary  
Maintaining

**Report to:** The MLA

### **Co-president & Treasurer at the SOAS India Society (2016-2017; 2019 & 2022)**

**Responsibilities:** Invite guests | Organise Events | Room  
Bookings | Collaborations

**Report to:** The Committee Members

### **Trainer for Intercultural Learning, Organisation & Volunteer Development at AFS Intercultural Programs -India (2010-2016)**

**Responsibilities:** Conduct Trainings & Workshop | POC for  
Italian Exchange Students | Hosting Support

**Report to:** AFS India Head Office

### **Research & Personal Assistant at World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation, Mumbai, India (2010-2016)**

**Report to:** Founder-President of WZCF

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS:

- Association of Iranian Studies Graduate Student  
Research Grant (2023)
- Ancient India and Iran Trust Bursary (2023)
- British Institute of Persian Studies Travel Grant  
(2020-2021)



- SOAS Kamran Djam & Shapoorji Pallonji Tuition Fee Scholarship for Doctoral Studies (2019-2022)
- Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe's Zartoshty Brothers Scholarship for Doctoral Studies in Zoroastrian Studies (2019-2023)
- SOAS Kamran Djam Tuition Fee Scholarship for MA in Iranian Studies at the SOAS, University of London (2016-2017)
- Scholarships from the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, Pirojshah Godrej Foundation & Vakhshoori Trust.
- AFS Intercultural Programs Annual Cultural Exchange Programme scholarship to Italy (2010-2011)
- Principal's Prize for special performance and contribution to St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad (2013-2014 & 2014-2015)

### TRAININGS UNDERTAKEN:

#### **Filmmaking for Fieldwork (2023)**

**Organisation:** f4f (UK-Netherlands)

**Content Trained for:** Online course on Ethnographic Filmmaking

#### **NVivo (2019)**

**Organisation:** SOAS

**Content Trained for:** Qualitative Research Analysis

#### **Intercultural Link L.1 for Interculturalists (2015)**

**Organisation:** AFS Intercultural Programs India

**Content Trained for:** Intercultural Learning Models

#### **Human Rights Facilitator (Basics) (2015)**

**Organisation:** IARF - Human Rights Resource Centre

**Content Trained for:** Building a culture of HR Education in South Asia, HR & History, Freedom of Religion & Belief, Evolution in HR Education, Universal Declaration of HR, applying a HR based approach, HR Instruments and Mechanism, Security of HR Activists

#### **Training for Trainers (2014)**

**Organisation:** AFS Intercultural Programs India

**Content Trained for:** Modules on Organisation and Volunteer Development

### GUEST LECTURES:

- In-person lecture on 'Fieldwork Process & Autoethnography' for Common Core I: Research Project Management MPhil Cohort at SOAS, University of London, *scheduled* in November 2023.
- Online lecture on 'Introduction to Zoroastrianism'

UniCEUB - Brasillia, Brazil in June 2022.

Numerous in-person lectures on 'Introduction to Zoroastrianism' at G.B. Vico Liceo Scienze Sociale, Corsico, Italy in 2010-2011.

### CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS:

- Convenor & Moderator of SJPR - Centre for Iranian Studies session on 'Iran and Pre-Revolutionary Era to Present': A Conversation with Professor Houchang E. Chehabi in October 2023 at SOAS, University of London.
- Convenor & Chair of a round table discussion titled 'Conversion Caucus' at the Online Symposium of Association of Iranian Studies to be held in October 2023.
- Panelist at a forum on 'Facing the reality of Climate Change' at the Community of Sant'Egidio's International Peace Meeting in Berlin in September 2023.
- Presented paper titled 'On the Interactions between New Zoroastrian & Ethnic Zoroastrian Communities', at the 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Iranian Studies at Leiden University, Netherlands in August 2023.
- Presentation titled, Becoming Zoroastrian: Beyond the binary of Parsi & Zartoshti-zadeh at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in London in July 2023.
- Presentation titled Becoming Zoroastrian: The Neo-Zoroastrian Movement in Europe during a panel on Religious Conversions in Multicultural Societies at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of European Academy of Religion at University of St. Andrews in June 2023.
- Neo-Zoroastrian Movement in the Iranian Diaspora in Europe at the Iranian Diaspora in Global Perspective conference AT University of California, Los Angeles in January 2023.
- Presentation 'Becoming Zoroastrian: A Study on Zoroastrians-by-Choice' at the European Centre for Zoroastrian Studies Congress in Brussels in 2022.
- Presentation 'Becoming Zoroastrian: A Study on Zoroastrians-by-Choice' at the European Centre for Zoroastrian Studies Congress in Brussels in 2022.



- Presentation on ‘Contemporary Research on Modern Narratives to a Zoroastrian Identity’ & the film screening of ‘Becoming Zoroastrian’ at the 12<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Congress in New York in July 2022.
- IARF’S 9<sup>th</sup> Motivational Dialogue - Coexistence in Zoroastrianism in 2021.
- Presentation on IARF India’s Interfaith Activities & Liberation Technology at 34<sup>th</sup> IARF World Congress in Birmingham, UK in 2014.
- Participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of Leaders of World & Traditional Religions in Kazakhstan in 2012.
- Speaker on Zoroastrianism at the event ‘Pluralism among Religions’ to mark 150 years of Italy’s unification in Milan, Italy in 2011.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

Hodiwala, Ruzbeh. Who Speaks for Zoroastrianism Today? In the Zoroastrian World (forthcoming 2024) edited by Jenny Rose, Albert de Jong & Sarah Stewart.

Co-produced a short film titled ‘Becoming Zoroastrian’ based on the qualitative findings of the PhD Project in 2022.

- ‘Exploring the Origins of the Iranian Zoroastrian Resurgence & Degree of Religions Freedom for its Adherents’, FEZANA Journal - Spring 2021.
- ‘Protest on foreign soil is not a conspiracy against India’, National Herald, 09 August 2017.
- ‘Are we now looking at a fully evolved ‘Fascist’ India?’, National Herald, 05 August 2017.
- ‘Nepal Rebuilt Project’, AFS Inida’s Newsletter, June 2015.

‘Report : The Heritage Film Festival’, Aadhar Foundation., 2012. Compiled report on The Heritage Film Festival organised by Aadhar Foundation in 2012.

## **AFFILIATIONS:**

- British Institute of Persian Studies
- Royal Asiatic Society
- Societas Iranologica Europaea
- The Iran Society
- British Society for Middle Eastern Studies
- AFS Intercultural Programs
- International Association for Religious Freedom: Commit- tee Member UK