



Ferdowsi University
of Mashhad

Iranian Political Studies
Vol. 1, No. 1, 1-2, May 2019



Editorial

Iranian politics has emerged, in recent years, as one of the most central subjects in the social sciences and the international media, partially because of Iran domestic politics, and partially because of its emergence as a regional power. Domestically, Iranians are trying various ways of reconciling the requirements of a modern life with their own political and cultural legacy. They are also deeply concerned with the question of how to keep their unity, while cherishing the existing cultural diversity of the population. Iran is also immensely involved in regional affairs, as never before. This involvement has not been overlooked by external actors. In such circumstances, many research centres that study Iranian politics have been established, not only within the country itself, but also worldwide. Politics is taught and researched in most universities in Iran, and there exist dozens of research centers that focus on Iranian politics, in one way or another. Many of these institutions publish specialist journals in Persian containing articles that are the result of scholarly research within Iran. Furthermore, there are many institutions outside of Iran, for instance in Europe and North America, that are doing research on Iranian affairs, sometimes alongside related subjects such as Middle Eastern politics. Within this growing body of scholarship on Iranian politics, there is, however, a lacuna: an academic journal specifically dedicated to publishing research on Iranian politics in English. This is the mission statement that our editorial board agreed upon as the task of the Iranian Political Studies journal .

Thus, Iranian Political Studies intends to function as a bridge between scholarship of Iranian politics inside and outside of the country. We are interested in viewing ourselves in the eyes of others, and to portray ourselves

E-mail: smataghavi@um.ac.ir

ISSN 2676-5535 (Online), DOI: 10.22067/ips.v1i1.80305

as we think we are. Such an exchange of perceptions would facilitate our self-assessment and also the correction of outside images of us, with the purpose of making the world a better place to live in. We think a better understanding of Iran, its culture and politics is of much interest and significance to all parties, in particular in the present, rather turbulent period, when misunderstandings are common.

Writing in the field of Iranian political studies is not an easy task, as there is nothing as political as political studies itself, being susceptible to distortion and prejudice. However, we are committed to observe academic standards of scholarship and research in our publications. We think the interests of our own country, as well as those of the world, at large, would be well-served by a clear comprehension of our commonalities and differences with other nations. We appeal to all scholars residing in Iran and abroad who are working on issues relating to Iranian politics to help us enrich this field of study. Our aim, then, is to introduce Iranian scholarship on political science and international relations, produced within and without Iran, to a wider audience of concerned academics and professionals throughout the world.

We would like to thank Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and the Iranian Political Science Association for providing the institutional setting to establish this journal. We would also like to express our gratitude to our Editorial Board members, and in particular Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, Dr Josef Kraus and Professor Nader Entessar for their assistance in preparing our first issue.

We look forward to hearing from you and engaging with your research in due course.

Editor-in-Chief
Seyed Mohammad Ali Taghavi