

September 26, 201

DEUTSCHER AKADEMISCHER AUSTAUSCHDIENST

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to recommend whole heartedly Mr. Patrick Casiano's application for a scholarship to help him pursue and complete his PhD dissertation on the Turkic Press in Iran: Historical Development, Social, Religious and National Discourse under my supervision at our university. The history of the press in Middle Eastern countries has acquired great interest and importance among historians in recent years thanks to the growing realization of its importance in shaping and disseminating modern ideas and culture in Middle Eastern societies. In many ways, the press played a crucial role in mobilizing people to political action.

These general notions are particularly important for Iran, where the beginning of the press goes back to the Nineteenth Century, and where the press played a crucial role during the 1906-1911 Constitutional Revolution and later. Moreover, whereas the Persian language press in Iran has been the subject of several studies, the Turkic press has remained under-researched to the present day, despite the leading and pioneering role of the Turkic speaking regions in Iran.

Mr. Casiano is especially suited for this task as he combines a mastery of the languages necessary for such a topic: Turkish, Persian and Arabic as well as European languages together with thorough background in the study of history and religion.

More importantly, ever since I have known Mr. Casiano, I have been impressed by his commitment to serious scholarship, as well as by his analytical skills, astuteness and nuanced understanding of complex historical problems.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Casiano will produce a superb PhD dissertation that will contribute to our understanding of Iranian cultural and political history.

I therefore, reiterate my whole hearted support that he be given the scholarship.

Yours Truly,
Professor Meir Litvak
Director

Meir Litvak