**Rowena Abdul Razak**

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# Education

**DPhil in Oriental Studies, University of Oxford | January 2012 – November 2021**

* Title: ‘British policy in Iran: the role of the Tudeh Party, 1941–1946.’
* Conducted extensive research in the UK, the Netherlands, and India in English, French and Persian.
* Awarded the Hadid Scholarship in 2015 for academic excellence.

**MA in Middle East and Mediterranean Studies, King’s College London | September 2010 – September 2011 | Distinction.**

* Dissertation title: ‘British response to nationalism in Bahrain: 1958–63.’

**BA in History, School of Oriental & African Studies | September 2007–June 2010 | 2:1 with Honors**

* Specialized in Middle Eastern History with a year of Arabic.
* Participated in Model United Nations and received a Special Mention.

**Accredited courses**

* Islamic Art and Architecture, Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford | 2021
* Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy | 2019
* Dataset competency (Microsoft Access), Institute of Historical Research | 2017
* Barista training, Allpress Espresso | 2015

# Employment

**London School of Economics & Political Science, Department of International History**

Guest Teacher | November 2021 – Present

* Teaching a Master’s course on modern Iranian history.
* Awarded a Commendation for teaching and nominated for inspirational and innovative teaching.

**London School of Economics & Political Science, Department of International History**

### Guest Teacher | September 2018 – June 2019 & September 2014 – June 2015

* Taught a course on the history and politics of the Persian Gulf.
* Recipient of the LSE Student Union Teacher Award in 2019.

**University of Oxford, St Antony’s College**

Welfare Officer | September 2018 – February 2019

* Organized welfare events for the students and published important information regarding mental health.

**Global Risk Insights**

Junior Analyst | March – August 2018

* Wrote political risk pieces on contemporary British – Iranian relations.
* Conducted research in English, French and Persian.

**University of Oxford, Faculty of Oriental Studies**

Graduate Teaching Assistant | March – July 2016

* First ever graduate teacher of the faculty.
* Designed an undergraduate unit on modern Iranian history.

**Oxford University Press**

Digital coordinator | September 2015 – July 2016

* Updated the online resource center to Louise Fawcett’s International Relations of the Middle East.
* Worked closely with the editor to produce a clean and convenient user experience.

# Publications

“Resource imperialism and resistance: Labour, security and social reproduction after Iranian oil nationalization.” Co-written with Mattin Biglari. Journal of Energy History Special Issue, “Hydrocarbons and societies: histories of labour, social relations, and industrial culture in the oil and gas industry.” *Article accepted and currently in production.*

“Oil heritage in Iran and Malaysia: The Future Energy Legacy in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.” Co-written with Asma Mehan. *New Metropolitan Perspectives. May 2022.*

““Activism in Isolation: The Tudeh Party in British Left Discourse during the Long 1980s.” *International Labour & Working-Class History*. *Article accepted and currently in production.*

“Iran and ASEAN: A Historical Perspective.” *In production.*

“Oil, Labour and Empire: Abadan in WWII Occupied Iran.” Co-written with Rasmus Elling. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. *July 2021.*

“Malaysian–Iranian relations in the twentieth century.” *Imagined Malaysia Review. March 2020.*

“Escape from Isolation: Iranian–Malaysian Relations during the Mahathir Years, 1981–2003.” *Association of Iranian Studies Newsletter. Spring 2019.*

“The British, the Tudeh party and the 1947 World Federation of Trade Unions’ Visit: battle for labor reform in Iran.” *Labor History. April 2019.*

“Iran: where World War turned Cold War.” *History Today. March 2018.*

“Convenient Comrades: Reassessing the Early Relationship between the *Hizb-i Tudeh* and the Soviet Union during the British-Soviet Occupation of Iran, 1941–1945.” *‘Russians in Iran: Diplomacy and Power in the Qajar Era and Beyond’. Edited book. January 2018.*

“When Guns are not Enough: Britain’s Response to Nationalism in Bahrain, 1958–1963.” *Journal of Arabian Studies. July 2017.*

““But what would they think of us?” Propaganda and the Manipulation of the Anglo–Soviet Occupation, 1941–1946”. *Iranian Studies. September 2016.*

# Other Professional Experience

**Oxford Strategy Group**

### Consultant | March 2021 – June 2021

* OSG is Oxford University’s largest student-led consultancy.
* Conducted market research and competitor analysis regarding the Asian skincare industry.
* Named Best Consultant in my team.

**Association for Iranian Studies | Student representative on the council (elected) | January 2021 – Present**

* Set up online sessions with senior academics dealing with the professionalization of the field of Iranian studies, from publication to employment.
* Endorsed and promoted the Association’s stand on academic freedom.
* First Malaysian to be on the council.

**MERCY Malaysia UK | Project coordinator (volunteer-basis) | January 2020 – Present**

* Set up and launched a helpline offering confidential emotional and mental support for Malaysian students in the UK. Strategize on how to improve the helpline’s service and outreach.
* Organize virtual live events, promoting open conversation around mental health.
* MERCY Malaysia UK is a part of MERCY Malaysia, Malaysia’s largest medical charity.

**Iranian Studies Collective | Founder | September 2020**

* Founded an online platform (YouTube, Twitter and Instagram) to promote upcoming and fresh research in Iranian studies.
* Release weekly videos featuring researchers and new publications. Moderate discussions among academics on current political events.
* Advocates for an open space for discussion, promotes academic freedom and encourages diversity.

**Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford | Graduate student representative to the Faculty Board (elected) | September 2014 – June 2015**

* First ever graduate student representative.
* Brought up student issues and concerns to the faculty board.
* Oversaw the start of changing the name of the faculty.

**Middle East Centre, University of Oxford |Student helper | January 2012 – November 2017**

* Organized and promoted international conferences, book launches and seminars.
* Worked on budget and expenses of participants.
* Attended to technical issues, sought solutions for scheduling conflicts, and responded to concerns.

# Language Skills

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| Native | Malay (Bahasa Malaysia) | Reading, speaking & writing |
| Near-native | English | Reading, speaking & writing |
| Fluent | French | Reading, speaking & writing |
| Fluent | Persian | Reading & writing |
| Basic | Arabic (Modern Standard) | Reading, speaking & writing |
| Basic | German | Reading, speaking & writing |

# Media Appearances

Interviewed about British–Iranian relations after the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. *BBC Scotland; BBC*

*Wales; BBC Radio 5 Live; BBC World Business Report. March 2022.*

Interviewed on Afghanistan. *BBC Radio Jersey. August 20021.*

Interviewed on Iranian Presidential elections. *BBC Radio Wales. August 2021.*

Interviewed on current political events in Iran. *BBC Radio London. January*–*March 2020 / BBC Radio Scotland. Good Morning Scotland. January 2020.*

Panelist on a program on contemporary Middle Eastern politics. *University of Limerick FM. May 2018.*

Appeared in an internal company video to promote life with an electric car, with a script written by me highlighting the environmental benefits of the i3. *BMW i3 video. February 2017.*

# References

(Please inform me before contacting them)

**Dr Stephanie Cronin**

Middle East Centre, University of Oxford | Research fellow

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**Professor N Piers Ludlow**

Department of International History, London School of Economics & Political Science | Head of Department

Email: [n.p.ludlow@lse.ac.uk](mailto:n.p.ludlow@lse.ac.uk)

**Haliza Hashim**

MERCY Malaysia UK | Chairperson

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