



### **Rahim Yousefi Aghdam**

---

**Degree:** PhD

---

**Research Title:** The Socio-Cultural Consequences of Photography Technology in Iran: From the Qajar Era to the End of the First Pahlavi Reign

---

**Research Type:** Doctoral Dissertation

---

**Rank:** Commendation, Adult Section

---

**Group:** Social Sciences and Communication Sciences

---

### **About the Researcher**

Rahim Yousefi Aghdam was born in Tabriz in 1982. He began his university education in 2004 in the field of Sociology at the University of Tabriz. He completed his Master's and Doctorate degrees in Sociology at Shahid Beheshti University and Allameh Tabataba'i University, respectively. His research has focused on contemporary Iranian history, science and technology studies, and higher education studies with an interdisciplinary approach. To date, he has published over 10 scientific articles. His achievements include obtaining top ranks in the national Master's and Doctorate entrance exams for Sociology, being selected as an honoree at the International Cultural Research , and authoring a nationally recognized outstanding book selected by the Supreme Council of the Provinces.



## ABSTRACT

Historical writings of the Qajar period generally harbor instrumentalist assumptions regarding new technologies, attributing the transformations of this era merely to the conflict between new and old ideas or tradition/modernity. In contrast to this neutral approach towards technology, the present dissertation, by selecting a specific technology and utilizing Don Ihde's post-phenomenological approach, examines the emergence of the 'subject' and the 'world' within the human-technology-world continuum. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the dissertation, this research, in an exploratory manner and using multi-faceted techniques such as microhistory and multi-sited ethnography, describes and explains the 'revealing' characteristics of the relationship between human-photography technology-world with primary historical documents and data. The exploratory findings, through a broad review of archival documents from the Qajar period, are analyzed in five areas: 1) Photography Technology and Metaphysics: Naming photography technology and the revealing of a specific mode of metaphysical thinking, 2) Photography Technology, 'Science,' and 'Industry': Classifying photography technology and the disruption of the order of objects, 3) Photography Technology and History: Natural history, the objective image, and the similarity of progressive stages, 4) Photography Technology and Epistemology, and 5) Genealogy of the Photographic Subject: The emergence of the child subject. Finally, the descriptive-analytical findings of the research are theoretically framed in the final chapter using the concept of the "technologization of society" to provide a theoretical explanation for the changes of this period.