

The Islamic Republic of Iran: Is this the End?

Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, Middle East Studies Forum (MESF), Deakin University

Tuesday 8 November: 6pm-7pm AEDT **WEBINAR**

While the world watches in disbelief, the Iranian government has turned its guns on its own citizens. Despite more than 200 people having been killed by the hands of security agencies, public protests and strikes continue to challenge the legitimacy of the ruling regime.

The protests were ignited by the killing of a young Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, for not covering her hair fully with hijab, but have grown to seek the end of 'dictatorship'. The Islamic Republic of Iran is facing a threat to its very existence from within, which makes it extremely hard to counter.



In the absence of an organised opposition leadership, it is not clear what could replace the current model of government. At the same time, pressure from below has opened up fissures at the top. While the top echelon is keen to preserve the image of unity, cracks have appeared within Islamic seminaries - the very ideological base of the regime. What does the future hold?

Co-hosting with the [Middle East Studies Forum](#) (MESF) at Deakin University, AIIA Victoria invites you to join Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh as he discusses the ongoing protests in Iran and their implications for the future of the country.



Shahram Akbarzadeh is Convenor of the MESF and Research Professor in Middle East and Central Asian Politics at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University. He held a prestigious ARC Future Fellowship (2013-2016) on the Role of Islam in Iran's Foreign Policy-making and recently completed a Qatar Foundation grant on Sectarianism in the Middle East. Prof. Akbarzadeh has an extensive publication record and has contributed to public debate on topics such as democracy and political processes in the Middle East, regional rivalry and Islamic militancy. The second edition of his book, [Middle East Politics and International Relations: Crisis Zone](#) (Routledge, 2022) is now available.

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