

## Urban Futures Symposium | 21 – 25 August 2023

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**School:** School of Media and Communication

**Presentation:** Confirmation of Candidature

**Title:** Iranian cinema and the 'modest woman'

**Abstract:**

Iranian cinema and society operate under a strict set of rules called “modesty”. These censorship rules in cinema require women to appear and behave modestly such as using appropriate language and avoiding forbidden religious acts, resulting in an overproduction of the image of the “modest” woman. Women in society and filmmakers in cinema have resisted these rules since the Islamic Revolution. In the post-green movement era, a significant political movement starting in 2009, women’s resistance peaked, including appearing on social media and streets without veils and acting “immodestly”. During this period, Iranian cinema also entered a new phase, in films such as the Oscar-winning *A Separation* (2011) by Asghar Farhadi, in which a sometimes allegorical or didactic tone was replaced with a more direct and harsher criticism of the Islamic Republic. This PhD will investigate the portrayal of women in Iranian cinema between the Green Movement and the Woman Life Freedom (2009-2022) to illuminate the strategies and nuances of resistance of filmmakers under modesty censorship rules.

