

Abstract proposal for GLOBAL NOMAD documentary film

It's hard to ignore the presence of the Iranian Diaspora in major cities of the developed world. They cross the borders in search of a better life. Sometimes they live in more than one place at a time. Sometimes they live in one place but their heart is in another.

According to US surveys they are generally considered successful immigrants, but at the same time many of them feel alienated and have an identity crisis wherever they are. The underdeveloped state and the condition of their own country continues to be a major concern for them. They feel a need to regain a lost dignity, enjoy their unsettled life and explore its potentials.

They may be considered 'temporary citizens', whether they stay in a place for years or months. Migration scholars call these types of migration, the ones that do not involve permanent settlement, 'transnational mobility'. But looking at the history of Iran where there has always been a mixture of nomadic groups and sedentary civilisations, I propose to call these new breeds of Iranian migrants 'global nomads' instead of 'temporary citizens' or 'transnational migrants'.

Furthermore, these nomads mostly belong to groups of friends and family that are scattered and mobile. These loosely defined mobile communities play a major role in defining the identity of our 'global nomads' and exploring where their tribal allegiances lie. These mobile communities are in touch with one another through different means of communication and they refresh their ties regularly through face-to-face and eye-to-eye meetings (as noted by Georg Simmel).

The film that we propose to make tries to show how these people can turn the threats of such unsettled lifestyles into an opportunity for development of their communities through attracting their participation. It aims to start an inspiring discussion among the global and local nomads (i.e. pastoral nomads of Iran) as well as professional planners and designers to create new alternatives.

The Film

Goal

To help these global nomads make a paradigm shift to a new understanding (to turn a threat into an opportunity). To attract their participation and start an inspiring discussion among them and the experts to build new models for development of mobile communities (using lessons from traditional nomads), new models for urban development (unsettled models), and new approaches to architecture and lifestyle design.

Format

We have a studio with the capability of production and post-production in HD 16:9 and mastering the film into any desired format (DVD, AVI, WMV, FLA, etc.).

Duration

46 minutes (with the option of having longer versions for cinema).

Language

There will be two films produced, one in Persian and the other in English.

Crew

- Presenter/Narrator/Writer
- Camera and sound
- Director (and second camera)
- Coordinator/organiser

Locations (tentative)

Locations in Tehran, Shiraz and nomadic territories in Fars province, London, Dubai, and Paris will be filmed by the crew. New York and Mumbai may be outsourced to local teams in each city.

The Site (community)

Features

The website will include the following features:

- Articles
- Powerpoint presentations
- Photographs
- Video pieces (parts of the film in the making, raw interviews, etc.)
- Video conferencing options (for interviews or PAR Search Conferences to be used in the film)
- Weblog (for discussions on topics)
- Questionnaire (via Google docs®)
- Networking /Mapping mobile communities (via Google Earth® and facebook®)

Language

The website will be bilingual. The articles will be in Persian, English or both languages. Visitors will be encouraged to post their comments and input in Persian, English, or any combination of the two as is commonly used on the internet (i.e. Penglish)