

## Hessom Razavi – Notes on a pandemic



In his first article for *ABR*, Behrouz Boochani Fellow Hessom Razavi offers a powerful reflection on the current Covid-19 crisis. Dr Razavi, an ophthalmologist, reflects on his own clinical experiences and interviews with senior medicos (including Dr Nick Coatsworth, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer) to provide a nuanced and compelling portrait of our changing lives. He examines the ways in which society has responded to the pandemic and questions what kind of world his daughter (due shortly) will be born into.

‘I contemplate the world our daughter will join. Will social distancing permit me in the delivery room? Will her grandparents be able to hold her? Years from now, what shapes, real or virtual, will her school and social lives take?’

**Hessom Razavi’s article ‘Notes on a pandemic: How society has responded to Covid-19’ appears in the May issue of *Australian Book Review* – out 1 May 2020.**

### About Hessom Razavi

Hessom Razavi is a writer and doctor based in Perth. He was born in Iran in 1976. In 1983 his family fled Iran to escape political persecution. He grew up in Pakistan and the United Kingdom before migrating to Australia when he was thirteen. He completed his studies as an ophthalmologist in 2015 and has visited Manus Island and Nauru in a medical capacity. He also writes poetry and essays, and he is currently working on his first collection.



Hessom Razavi

### About the *ABR* Behrouz Boochani Fellowship

The Fellowship, worth \$10,000, honours the artistry, courage, and moral leadership of Behrouz Boochani, the award-winning author of *No Friend But the Mountains* (2018). The Fellowship is funded by Peter McMullin, a lawyer, philanthropist, and businessman.

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