**YOUSEF ALEXANDER CASEWIT**

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The University of Chicago

Divinity School

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Chicago, IL 60637

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**EDUCATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ph.D. | Yale University, Religious Studies Department  Program: Islamic Studies (*high distinction*)  Thesis: *The Forgotten Mystic: Ibn Barrajān and the Andalusian Muʿtabirūn* | 2014 |
| M.Phil | Yale University, Religious Studies Department  Program: Islamic Studies (*high distinction*)  Concentrations: Islamic Religious History  Islamic Religious Thought  Scripture & Tradition | 2012 |
| M.A. | Yale University, Religious Studies Department  Program: Islamic Studies (*high distinction*) | 2011 |
| B.A. | George Washington University | 2002-2006 |

Major: International Affairs (*cum laude*)

Middle East Studies

Latin American Studies

Minor: Religion

I.B. Rabat American School, International Baccalaureate 1998-2002

Language of Instruction: English and Arabic

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2016 - present **Assistant Professor of Qur’anic Studies**, University of Chicago Divinity School

8/2015 - 5/2016 Humanities Research Fellow, NYUAD Research Institute, New York University Abu Dhabi

2015 - 2016 Assistant Professor of Arabic Medieval Intellectual Heritage and Culture, Arabic and Translation Studies Department, American University of Sharjah

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Qurʾānic Studies; Medieval Qurʾānic exegesis; Islamic mysticism, theology, and philosophy; Divine names in Islamic thought; Muslim perceptions of the Bible; Islamicate occult studies; Scriptural Reasoning

**PUBLICATIONS**

***Monographs***

*The Mystics of al-Andalus: Ibn Barrajān and Islamic Thought in the Twelfth Century.* Cambridge University Press (Studies in Islamic Civilization, 2017). Winner of the 2019 Iran World Book Award of the Year. (*c.* 150,000 words).

Reviews of *The Mystics of al-Andalus*

Maribel Fierro, *Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society*, 62 (2017): 115-18.

Jawad Qureshi, *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 34.4 (2017): 78-82.

Kenneth Garden, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 50 (2018): 823-26.

Ali Humayun Akhtar, *The American Historical Review*, 123.4 (2018): 1430-31.

Michael Ebstein, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 139.3 (2019): 733-38.

Noah Gardiner, *Nazariyat*, 5.2 (2019): 213-19.

Ahmet Aytep, *Dîvân*, 2 (2019): 205-09 (review in Turkish).

Arabic translation by Mostapha Bensbaa: *al-Taṣawwuf al-Andalusī* (provision title). Qatar: Muntadā al-ʿAlāqāt al-ʿArabiyya waʾl-Dawliyya, forthcoming.

***Translations and Arabic Editions***

*In the Names of God: A Mystical Theology of the Divine Names in the Qurʾān by al-Tilimsānī*. Analytical introduction, translation, and parallel Arabic edition. Library of Arabic Literature. New York University Press (forthcoming 2022). (*c.* 170,000 words).

*Beyond Virtue*: *The Sufi Ashʿarite Ethics of Ibn al-Marʾa of* *Málaga (d. 1214).* Analytical introduction and translation. Accepted for submission to Oxford University Press’ Studies in Islamic Philosophy series. To be submitted in late summer / early Autumn 2021. (*c.* 70,000 words).

***Arabic Critical Editions***

*A Qurʾān Commentary by Ibn Barrajān of Seville (d. 536/1141):* *Wisdom Deciphered, the Unseen Discovered - Ῑḍāḥ al-Ḥikma bi-ʾAḥkām al-ʿIbra*.Co-edited with Gerhard Böwering, Brill (Texts and Studies on the Qurʾān, 2015; Series Editors: G. Böwering, B. Orfali, D. Stewart) (*c.* 250,000 words).

*Kitāb al-Qawānīn: The Principles of the Path*. A Commentary on Ibn al-ʿArīf’s (d. 1136) Sufi treatise ‘The Splendors of the Mystical Gatherings’ (*Maḥāsin al-Majālis*). Accepted for submission to Beirut’s Dar El Machreq. To be submitted early Autumn 2021). (*c.* 50,000 words).

***Articles in Refereed Journals***

“Hierarchy of Believers in the Works of ʿAfīf al-Dīn al-Tilimsānī (d. 690/1291).” *Journal of Intellectual History of the Islamicate World* (2022), forthcoming. (*c.* 16,000 words).

“Divine Love in ‘The Foundations of the Path’ (*Kitāb al-Qawānīn*) by Ibn al-Marʾa of Malaga (d. 1214).” *Journal of Sufi Studies* 10, no. 1-2 (2022), forthcoming.(*c.* 9,000 words).

“Al-Ghazālī’s Virtue Ethical Theory of the Divine Names: The Theological Underpinnings of the Doctrine of *Takhalluq* in *al-Maqṣad al-Asnā*.” *Journal of Islamic Ethics* 4, no. 1-12 (2020): 155-200 (*c.* 20,000 words).

“Shushtarī’s Treatise *On the Limits of Theology and Sufism*: Discursive Knowledge (*ʿilm*), Direct Recognition (*maʿrifa*), and Mystical Realization (*taḥqīq*) in *al-Risāla al-Quṣāriyya*.” *Religions* 11 (2020): 1-32 (*c.* 20,000 words).

“A Muslim Scholar of the Bible: Biblical Proof-Texts for Qurʾānic Teachings in the Works of Ibn Barrajān (d. 536/1141).” *Journal of Qurʾānic Studies* 18.1 (2016): 1-48 (*c.* 15,000 words)*.*

“A Reconsideration of the Life and Works of Ibn Barrajān.” *al-Abhath* 60-61 (2012-2013): 111-142 (*c.* 15,000 words).

***Articles in Refereed Edited Volumes***

“Ibn Barrajān’s Mystical Contemplations of the Qurʾān,” co-authored with Sam Jaffe, in *Handbook of Qurʾānic Hermeneutics*, Georges Tamer, ed., Berlin: DeGruyter (accepted and in press, forthcoming 2022) (*c.* 8,500 words).

“The Treatise on the Ascension (*al-Risāla al-miʿrājiyya*): Cosmology and Time in the Writings of Abū l-Ḥasan al-Shushtarī (d. 668/1269)” in Jamal Elias and Bilal Orfali, eds., *Light upon Light: Essays in Islamic Thought and History in Honor of Gerhard Böwering*, Leiden: Brill, (2020): 182-238(*c.* 20,000 words).

***Articles in Progress***

“The Blessed Tree in the Exegetical Works of Ibn Barrajān of Seville (d. 536/1141),” co-authored with Sam Jaffe. To be submitted to *Sufi Studies* (*c.* 13,000 words).

“A Commentary on Ibn Sīnā’s Poem on the Soul Ascribed to al-Tilimsānī,” co-authored with Scott Doolin, to be submitted to *Islamica* (*c.* 40,000 words).

***Publications in Non-Refereed Fora***

“Zahiris,” *Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, eds. Gerhard Böwering, Patricia Crone, Wadad Kadi, Devin J. Stewart, Muhammad Qasim Zaman Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, (2012): 603 (*c.* 600 words).

Muḥammad Mitwallī al-Shaʿrāwī, *The Qur’an Commentary of al-Shaʿrāwī*. A translation of Suras 12 and 13. Member of a translation team working on the Azhari scholar’s popular 25-volume Quran commentary.Cairo: Dar al-Shorouk: in press. (*c.* 50,000 words).

“The Objective of Metaphysics in Ibn Sabʿīn’s Answers to the Sicilian Questions,” *Iqbal Review*, 49.2 (2008): 99-120 (*c.* 7,000 words).

***Book Reviews***

“Mohammed Rustom,” *The Triumph of Mercy: Philosophy and Scripture in Mullā Ṣadrā*, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, 25.3 (2014): 399-401 (*c.* 1,500 words)*.*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

“Naming God in Theological and Philosophical Tradition,” A virtual lecture to be given at Building Bridges Seminar. Naming God: Christian and Muslim Perspectives (Jun. 7th, 2021).

“In the Names of God: Approaching the *Asmāʾ Allāh al-Ḥusnā* Genre in Islam,” Annual Wilfrid Laurier University Keynote Series (Nov. 17th, 2019).

“The Revival of Sufism: Current Directions in Contemporary Islam,” Al-Ghazali Annual Lecture, Elmhurst College (Sept. 23rd, 2019).

“Contemplating the Signs of God between the Real and the Created” (*Tadabbur āyāt Allāh bayn al-ḥaqq waʾl-khalq*), A nationally televised Royal Lecture on Ibn Barrajān’s thought and understanding of the natural world in Honor of King Hassan II (*Dars Ḥasanī*) delivered in classical Arabic before his Majesty Mohamed VI at the Royal Palace, Rabat Morocco (Jun. 8th, 2018). Link: <http://www.habous.gov.ma/tv/2018/7172-2015-07-20-09-13-72.html>

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“The Influence of the Shādhiliya Sufi Order in North America,” presented in Arabic at *The* *First World Forum on Sufism* (*al-Muntadā al-ʿālamī al-awwal liʾl-taṣawwuf*), Morocco, Chefchaouen (Apr. 19th, 2019).

“Biblical Proof-Texts in the Qurʾānic Exegesis of Ibn Barrajān of Seville (d. 536/1141),” *Society of Biblical Literature* (SBL) / *International Qurʾanic Studies Association* (IQSA), Biblia Arabica: The Bible in Arabic among Jews, Christians, and Muslims; Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA (Nov. 21st, 2015).

“What Ambiguity? Ibn Barrajān’s (d. 536/1141) Treatment of the Muḥkamāt and Mutashābihāt,” *American Academy of Religion* (AAR), Qur’an Group, Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA (Nov. 23rd, 2015).

“Filling the Qurʾānic Gaps: Citations of Genesis and Matthew in the Works of Ibn Barrajān (d. 536/1141),” *Society of Biblical Literature* (SBL), Qur’an and Biblical Literature, Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA (Nov. 24th, 2015).

“Ibn Barrajān and the Andalusian Muʿtabirūn,” Utrecht University, *The Aesthetics of Crossing: Experiencing the Beyond in Abrahamic Traditions*, Utrecht, Netherlands (Mar. 20th, 2015).

“Ibn Barrajān and the Tradition of *Iʿtibār* in al-Andalus,” *American Oriental Society* (AOS), Annual Meeting, Portland OR (Mar. 2013).

“Natural Phenomena as Gateways into the Celestial Realm: The Sufi *Tafsīr* of Ibn Barrajān,” *Middle East Studies Association* (MESA), Annual Meeting, Denver CO (Nov. 2012).

“Cosmological Doctrines of Ibn Barrajān,” *American Academy of Religion* (AAR), Annual Meeting, Chicago IL (Nov. 2012).

“Religion, Politics and Economics: Developing a Consensus Paradigm,” panel discussant for the Association of Muslim Social Sciences' (AMSS) 41st annual conference: *Religious Dimensions of Democratization Processes in Muslim-Majority Nations*, Yale Divinity School (Sept. 29th, 2012).

**FACULTY COLLOQUIA**

“Al-Ghazālī’s Virtue Ethical Theory of the Divine Names,” presented at the *Divinity School Faculty Retreat* (Jan. 24th, 2019).

Dean’s Forum:response and discussion of my book *The Mystics of al-Andalus: Ibn Barrajān and Islamic Thought in the Twelfth Century*, with response by Professor James T. Robinson, University of Chicago Divinity School (May 1st, 2019).

“Muslim understandings of human *Vulnerability as Liability and Possibility: Religious and Professional Explorations*,” March 3rd workshop, “Religious Dimensions of Healthcare,” with Professors Andrea Bieler and Cynthia Lindner on the panel, University of Chicago, (Mar. 2nd-3rd, 2019).

“Religious Persecution during the Late Meccan Period,” Panel on “Religious Prejudice and Persecution” for the Divinity School Council and the Martin Marty board (Feb. 12th, 2019).

“Al-Ghazālī on the Beautiful Names of God,” in Al-Ghazālī: The Major (Mature) Works, *New York University Abu Dhabi*, hosted by NYU Abu Dhabi Research Institute, UAE (Dec. 10th-11th,2017).

“The Beginnings of a Mystical Discourse in al-Andalus,” *Arabic and Translation Studies Department Research Seminar*, American University of Sharjah (Dec. 10th, 2014).

“Ibn Barrajān and the Indigenous Mystico-Philosophical Tradition of al-Andalus,” *Yale Arabic Colloquium*, Yale University (Dec. 4th, 2013).

“Beyond Maraboutism & Neo-Sufism in West Africa: Reconsidering Mauritanian Scholarship in Light of its 16th-19th Century Curricular Creeds,” *Ifriqiyya Faculty Colloquium*, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asia, and African Studies (MESAAS), Columbia University (Feb. 7th, 2013).

**INVITED GUEST LECTURES**

“Sufism in al-Andalus: An Overview Followed by insights into a Commentary by Ibn al-Marʾa on Ibn al-ʿArīf,” *Kutubía*,Órgiva, Spain (Apr. 3rd, 2022).

“Upholding the Balance: Tilimsānī’s Commentary on the Divine Name *al-Muqsiṭ*,” A virtual lecture to be given at the *Ibn al-ʿArabī Society Summer Seminar Series*, *al-Mīzān*: Justice and Harmony in the Works of Ibn al-ʿArabī and the Akbarī Tradition (Jun. 20th, 2021).

“The Spirit, the Heart, and the Intellect: A Sufi Perspective,” *Ibn ʿArabī Interreligious Research Initiative*, a virtual lecture to be given at Monash University’s Melbourne (Jun. 4th, 2021).

“Les Noms Divins par al-Tilimsānī,” *Conscience Soufie*, A virtual lecture in French (Jan. 17th, 2021). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsJOWMBtk4g>

“ʿAfīf al-Dīn al-Tilimsānī and the Akbarian Tradition,” *Perennia Verba*, Summer School,Studies in Sufism 4th Edition: Approaches to the Study of Ibn ʿArabi and the Akbarian School: Theories, Texts, Practices (Aug. 31st, 2020).

“The Names of the Prophet: Metaphysical Approaches to Understanding the Life of Muhammad,” Annual Milad-un-Nabi Lecture, Ismaili Center, Toronto. (November 16th, 2019).

“God is His Own Proof: The Quest for Certainty in Islamic Mysticism, Theology, and Philosophy,” *Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies*, Oxford University, UK, Trinity Term (Jun. 19th, 2019).

“Transmitted Tradition and Realized Knowledge,” The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC) & The Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, Annual Muslim-Catholic Event, Villa Park, I, May 21st, 2019.

“Defining ‘Good’ Islamic Scholarship: Challenges to the Field of Islamic Studies,” A lecture for *Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion*, DVSC 51000, Co-Taught by Professors Dwight Hopkins, Willemien Otten, University of Chicago Divinity School (Mar. 13th, 2019).

“Transmitted Tradition (*naql*) and Realized Knowledge (*taḥqīq*),”A lecture for *Introduction to the Study of Religion*, DVSC 30400, taught by Professor Ryan Coyne (Nov. 7th, 2018).

“Islamic Spiritual Psychology,” *Ministry Studies*, a lecture in Cynthia Lindner’s course, University of Chicago Divinity School (Jan. 12th, 2018).

“Prophetic Love Literature,” *American Islamic College*, Public Lecture, Chicago, IL (Nov. 28th, 2017).

“What is the Soul (*nafs*)?,” Lecture in Classical Arabic for The Arabic Circle (*al-Nadwa al-ʿArabiyya*) at NELC, University of Chicago Divinity School (Nov. 3rd, 2017).

“Graduate Workshop on the Science of the Letters in al-Andalus: Ibn Masarra, Ibn Barrajān, and Ibn ʿArabī,” *Seminar on the Science of the Letters*, James Robinson, University of Chicago Divinity School (Jan. 31st, 2017; Feb. 7th, 2017).

“Divine Names and Prophetic Attributes: an interactive engagement of Islamic theology and ethics,” *American Learning Institute for Muslims*, ALIM Summer Program, Benedictine University (Jul. 29th, 2017).

“The Names of the Prophet: A Metaphysical Approach to Understanding the Life of Muḥammad,” *Islamic World Studies Lecture*, Loyola University (Apr. 5th, 2017).

“In the Names of God: Approaching the *Asmāʾ Allāh al-Ḥusnā* Genre in Islam,” *American Islamic College*, a public lecture (Jan. 25th, 2017).

“The Hermeneutics of Certainty in Ibn Barrajān’s Quran Commentary *Īḍāḥ al-ḥikma*,” A Public Lecture at The University of Chicago Divinity School (Jan. 28th, 2016).

“The Epistemological Hegemony of the Quran in the Writings of Ibn Barrajān,” Graduate Seminar Lecture at the University of Chicago Divinity School (Jan. 29th, 2016).

“Muslim Readings of the Bible in al-Andalus,” A Research Presentation at the College of William and Mary, Religious Studies Department (Jan. 27th, 2016).

“Introduction to the Sources of Authority in Islam: Quran and Hadith,” The College of William and Mary, Rebecca Hernandez’s *Women in Islam* (Jan. 26th, 2016).

“Islamic Responses to Modernity: Salafism and Wahhābism,” Gerhard Bowering’s *The Religion of Islam*, Yale University (Nov. 19th, 2013).

“The Arabic Translation of the Latin Vulgate in al-Andalus,” Stephen Davis’ *Arabic Bible and Biblical Interpretation Seminar: Genesis 1-2, Text and Commentary*, Yale University (Nov. 18th, 2013).

“Divine Unity and Justice in Muʿtazilite Theology,” Frank Griffel’s *Introduction to Islamic Theology and Philosophy*, Yale University (Sept. 26th, 2013).

“The History and Approach to Islamic Learning in Madrasas of West Africa,” Gerhard Bowering’s *The Religion of Islam*, Yale University (Sept. 5th, 2013).

“State-Jurist Entente in Almoravid Spain,” Gerhard Bowering’s *The Golden Age of Islam*, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University (Feb. 14th, 2013).

“The Efflorescence of Sufism in Muslim Spain: A Case for Ibn Barrajān as the al-Ghazālī of Andalusia,” *Ifriqiyya Lecture Series*, Columbia University (Feb. 6th, 2013).

“The Ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood,” Frank Griffel’s *Islam Today: Jihad and Fundamentalism*,Department of Religious Studies, Yale University (Sept. 9th, 2012).

“An American Muslim Leader: Plemon al-Amin,” *Critical Islamic Reflections* (CIR), Yale University (Apr. 2009).

“The Delicate Balance between Tradition and Modernity in Morocco,” *Qalam wa-Lawḥ Center for Arabic Studies*, Rabat (May 15th 2008).

“The *Medina* of Fes as an Embodiment of Classical Islamic Ethos,” Dartmouth College Summer Abroad Program, Arabic Language Institute of Fez (ALIF), Fez (May 2008).

“An overview of Sufism in Morocco,” *Qalam wa-Lawḥ Center for Arabic Studies*, Rabat (June 30th, 2008).

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**University of Chicago, Divinity School:**

*Signature Undergraduate Lecture Course*

ISLM 32419/RLST 24550/SIGN 26068: Major Trends in Islamic Mysticism (Autumn 2019)

*Undergraduate Lecture Courses*

ISLM/NEHC 30030; RLST 11030; MDVL 10030: Introduction to the Qur’an (Autumn 2016, Winter 2019)

ISLM 36250; RLST 16250: Introduction to Islamic Theology (Spring 2019)

*Undergraduate Study Abroad Courses*

SOSC 19050: Islamic Thought in the Maghrib, Middle Eastern Civilizations, Morocco 2, Rabat (Winter 2018, Winter 2020)

*Graduate Seminars*

ISLM 42900: Readings in Islamic Theology (Winter 2021)

ISLM 50600: Readings in Philosophical Sufism (Winter 2021)

ISLM 52100: Sufism in al-Andalus (Spring 2019)

ISLM 43210: Contemporary Arabic Scholarship on the Qur’an (Spring 2018)

ISLM 50010/ARAB 40015: Seminar on Afif al-Din al-Tilimsani (Spring 2017)

ISLM 30035/NEHC 30035: What is a Madrasa Education (Winter 2017)

*Graduate Seminars (taught in Arabic)*

ISLM 43311: Divine Names in Islamic Thought (Winter 2019)

ISLM 50210: The Muhammadan Reality (Autumn 2017)

*Islamic Studies Research Skills Seminars*

ISLM 40010/ARAB 40010: Introduction to Arabic and Islamic Studies (Spring 2017, Winter 2021)

ISLM 44604: Arabic Manuscript Editorial Techniques and Textual Criticism (Autumn 2017)

*Research and Directed Readings*

DVSC 45100/50100 Special Readings Courses on topics including Islamic psychology, philosophy, ethics, mysticism, and Qurʾān exegesis (Autumn 2016, Winter 2017, Autumn 2017, Winter 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Autumn 2020, Winter 2020)

**American University of Sharjah (UAE), Arabic and Translation Studies Department**

*Undergraduate Lecture Courses*

ARA 102 Introduction to Arabic Heritage (2015-2016).

**Yale University, CT, Religious Studies Department**

*Graduate Seminar*

RLST S201; HUMS S222; MMES S210: Islam and the West (Summer Session A, 2014)

*Undergraduate Courses*

RLST 287: Islamic Theology and Philosophy, Teaching Fellow (Fall 2013)

RLST 287: Islam Today: Jihad and Fundamentalism, Teaching Fellow (Fall 2012)

RLST 170/MMES 192: The Religion of Islam, Teaching Fellow (Fall 2011)

**Fairfield University, CT, Religious Studies Department**

*Undergraduate Lecture Course*

RS 270 A&B: Introduction to Islam, Adjunct Professor (Spring, 2014)

**New York University, NY, Wagner**

*Undergraduate and Graduate Seminar*

UPADM-GP 251.001: Contemporary Approaches to Islam, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Service (Spring 2014)

**Stony Brook University, NY, Religious Studies Department**

*Undergraduate Lecture Course*

AAS-RLS 280: *Islam*, Instructor (Spring 2012)

*Senior Seminar*

RLS 450: Death and the Afterlife in the Abrahamic & Eastern Religions, Instructor (Spring 2012)

**American Language Center, Morocco**

*English as a Second Language*

Intermediate and Advanced Language Courses Marrakesh (Fall 2007).

**HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS**

*The Mystics of al-Andalus: Ibn Barrajān and Islamic Thought in the Twelfth Century* was awarded Iran’s Twenty-Sixth Book of the Year World Prize, Feb. 5th, 2019 ($10,000)

*Tadabbur āyāt Allāh bayn al-ḥaqq waʾl-khalq*,(Contemplating the Signs of God between the Real and the Created: A Lecture on the thought of Ibn Barrajān d. 1141), Nationally televised *Dars Ḥasanī* Lecture in the Royal Palace, Rabat Morocco, June 8th, 2018. Link http://www.habous.gov.ma/tv/2018/7172-2015-07-20-09-13-72.html

NYUAD Humanities Research Fellow ($100,000) 2015-2016

MacMillan Doctoral Fellowship ($5,000) 2011-2012

Yale Graduate School Fellowship ($125,000) 2008-2012

American Institute of Maghrib Studies Fellowship ($15,000) 2010-2011

(Multi-Country Manuscript Research Grant: Turkey, Morocco, Mauritania)

Lindsay Fellowship for Research in Africa ($3,000) 2010 (summer)

(Manuscript research, Mauritania)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Award ($6,000) 2009 (summer)

(FLAS, Damascus, Classical Arabic training)

Dean’s Honor List (GWU) Fall 2005, Spring 2006

Graduated with *Cum Laude* distinction from the Elliott 2006

School of International Affairs, GWU

*Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for Religious Studies/Theology* 2006-present

**STUDENT SUPERVISION**

***Divinity School Doctoral Advisees***

Samantha Pellegrino, “Artifice, Artificial, Alchemical: New Methods for Questions of Divinity, Generation, and Imitation in Jabirian Texts.”

Susan Lee, “Virtue Ethics of Miskawayh and Yaḥyā b. ʿAdī.”

Mehmet Emin Gulecyuz, “Molla Fenari and the Ibn al-ʿArabī Tradition.”

Zahra Moeini Meybodi, “Early Meccan Suras.”

Scott Doolin, “Saʿīd al-Dīn al-Farghānī and Sufi Poetry.”

Lien Fina, “Contemporary Sufism in Indonesia.”

Mohammed Mehdi Ali, “Early Sufism and the Ibn ʿArabī Tradition” (incoming Ph.D. Student)

Alla Alaghbri, “Islamic Theology and Ethics” (incoming Ph.D. Student)

Levi Marshall, “Jewish and Islamic Mysticism” (incoming Ph.D. Student, Ad-Hoc: Robinson, Casewit, Otten, Fishbane)

**PH.D. COMMITTEES**

***Committee Member***

***Divinity School***

Elizabeth Anne Sartell, “Mystical Philosophy: Ibn al-ʿArabī’s Lettrist Cosmogony,” Divinity School. Chaired by Michael Sells (Spring 2021).

Ahmed Arafat, “Continuity in the Literary Structure of the Quranic Text: Revisiting the Classical Arabic Tradition,” Divinity School, Chaired by Michael Sells (projected Spring 2022).

Izzet Coban, “The Dialectic of Nonbeing: Language, Ontology, and Cosmology in the 9th-14th Century Islamic World,” Chaired by Michael Sells (projected Spring 2022).

Alexandra Matthews, “*Kitāb al-fatarāt wa-l-qirānāt:* Astrology, Authority, and Apocalyptic in the Fāṭimid Daʿwa,” Chaired by James Robinson and Paul Walker (admitted to Ph.D. candidacy Winter 2020).

***Exam Committees***

Nikhita Mendis, Sufi Literature: Post-15th Century Shādhili Pedagogical Texts (Anthropology, Spring 23)

Reza Hemyari, Early Kalam. (NELC, Spring 22)

Katherine Randazzo, Islamic Intellectual History. (Oral Exam, Department of History).

Magda El-Ghitany, IS1 Qurʾanic Studies and Modern Arabic Literary Criticism in Egypt. Chaired by Hussein Agrama (Winter 2022).

Lien Fina, IS2 Sufi Literature. (Planned Spring 2022); co-examiner with Orit Bashkin, Islamic Modernities.

Mehmet Emin Gulecyuz, IS2 Sufi Literature; IS6 Ottoman Intellectual History co-examiner (Planned Spring 2021).

Susan Lee, IS2 Sufi Literature; and IS6 Special Topic: Late Antiquity to Medieval Arabic Writers (Co-Examiner with Mark Swanson, Planned Spring 2021).

Nicholas Lorenz, IS1 Qurʾanic Studies (Planned AY 2022-23).

Rachel Katz, IS3 Islamic Philosophy, Anthropology and Sociology of Religions. (Planned Autumn 2021).

Adi Shiran, IS6 Islamic Theology. History of Judaism. Chaired by James Robinson (Winter 2021).

Rachel Katz, IS3 Islamic Philosophy. History of Judaism. Chaired by James Robinson. (Planned Autumn 2021).

***Committee on Social Thought***

Daniel Walting, “The Dearest Desire: Philosophy and Islam in The Book of Ibn Tūmart,” Chaired by David Nirenberg (Spring 2021).

***South Asian Languages and Civilizations***

Daniel Morgan, “Spokesman of the Unseen World: Shāh Walī Allāh, Islamic Reform and Applied Cosmology In Late-Mughal Delhi,” Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations. Chaired by Muzaffar Alam (Winter 2020).

***Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations***

Kyle Wynter-Stoner, “The Maḥmūdīyah: Reconstructing the Institutional and Intellectual History of a Madrasa Library in Mamluk Egypt,” Chaired by Ahmed El Shamsy (projected Spring 2022).

***History Department***

Alexa Herlands, Race and Medieval Islamic Geography. Oral Qualifying Exams. Chaired by David Nirenberg.

**M.DIV. COMMITTEES**

***Senior Thesis Director***

Nora Zaki “‘Are hearts not at peace in the remembrance of God?’ An anthropology for spiritual care in a Sufi order,” (Spring 2018).

Maher Alhaj, “On the Halalizing of Queer Sexualizing: Between Neoliberalism and Ahl as-Sunna wa’l-Jamāʿah at the Onset of the twenty-First Century,” (Spring 2020).

Kate Bridges-Lyman, “How (Not) To Have Patience: Practical Theology & *Ṣabr*,” (Autumn 2021).

Ariz Saleem, “Abū Bakr al-Shiblī: Expanding Horizons of Self-Understanding,” (expected to complete in 2021).

Dina Rehab, “Spiritual Development and Divine Proximity in the Islamic Tradition,” (expected to complete in 2022).

Arshan Khalid, Living Sufism in the United States.

Amatunoor Frederickson, 2019.

Fathima Noohu, Salman Ahmad Safir

**MAPH** **Thesis Advisor**

Mirza Hamza Baig, “The Life and Legal Methodology of Ibn al-Humām (d. 861/1457),” (2022).

**M.A. THESIS READER**

John Burden, “Towards an Understanding of the *Qawāʿid Fiqhiyya* as General Rules of Law,” First Reader: Ahmed El Shamsy, NELC.

***M.A. Advisees***

Admitted 2016-2017: Clay Lemar, Wayel Azmeh, Austin Pitts

Admitted 2018: Sawyer French, Abdurrahman Muhammad, Afifa Rahman, Malik Ashar, Ashar Malik

Admitted 2019: Alla Alaghbri, Navid Amiri, Christian Andrewsen

Admitted 2020: Sarah Tate Chambers, Raza Baqai, Julide Iye, Muhammad Talha, Nathan Wood

**B.A. COMMITTEES**

***Thesis Adviser***

Saloni Jaiswal, “The Notion of *Tawḥīd* Accordig to Abū l-Qāsim b. Muḥammad al-Junayd in *Rasāʾil al-Junayd*: The Relationship Between Human and Divine Attributes in Attaining *Tawḥīd*,” (Spring, 2020). Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

**REFEREE SERVICE**

**Estudios Árabes e Islámicos, Fuentes Arábico-Hispanas,** CSIS

Edinburgh University Press

Brill

Journal of Religion

Arabica

Journal of Islamic Ethics

American University of Beirut Press

**RELEVANT ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Oct. 29-31, 2018**

*Islamic Cultural Action in the West towards Development and Co-Existence Consolidation*. As member of ISESCO’s “Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic World,” I was invited to participate in the drafting of the ten-year executive Program for Islamic Educational and Cultural Institutions outside the Islamic world at a conference, organized by ISESCO and The Islamic Organization for Latin America & the Caribbean, entitled *Islamic Cultural Action in the West towards Development and Co-Existence Consolidation*, Santiago, Chile, Oct. 29-31, 2018.

**Dec. 2, 2013 Islam & Politics After the Arab Spring**

**Arabic-English Spontaneous Translator Abd al-Fattāḥ Mourou**

**-** Spontaneous Arabic-English translator for Abd al-Fattāḥ Mourou, Co-Founder and Vice-President of the moderate Tunisian Islamist party Ennahda.

**June 25 - July 7 2012 Salam Institute for Peace and Justice**

**Muslim-Christian Dialogue Republic of Chad**

- Conducted a series of workshops in the central African country of Chad in Arabic to discuss issues of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence among Chadians.

- Engaged local Muslim communities on the practice of Islam in the United States and countering violent extremism in Chad.

**Oct. 2009 – Jan. 2012 Stony Brook University (SUNY) Sufi Texts Reading Seminar Dr. William Chittick**

- In-depth analytical examination of sections from Ibn al-ʿArabī’s *Fuṣūṣ al-Ḥikam,* Ibn Turka's *Tamhīd al-Qawāʿid*, and ʿAfīf al-Dīn al-Tilimsānī‟s *Sharḥ Asmāʾ Allāh al-Ḥusnā*.

**June 2010 – June 2011 Nubbaghiyya Madrasa**

**Manuscript Research, *Madrasa* training Turkey, Morocco, Mauritania**

- Conducted manuscript research for six weeks in Turkey (Istanbul, Konya) and a month in Morocco (Rabat) on authors from the Muslim West (Ibn Barrajān, al- Shushtarī, al-Tilimsānī, Ibn Qasī, et. al.)

- Eight months at the Theological Seminary of al-Nubbāghiyya in southeastern Mauritania, studying a broad range of Islamic sciences traditionally (grammar, morphology, logic, rhetoric, jurisprudence, legal theory, pre-Islamic poetry, prophetic biography and battles, Ashʿarī creed)

**June 2009 – August 2009 Dalāla Institute, FLAS award**

**Classical Arabic training Damascus, Syria**

- Studied selections from Qur'ānic exegeses with Dr. 'Iṣām 'Ῑdū of Dalāla Institute

- Private Tutoring in Persian, Classical Arabic grammar, and Ḥanafī law

**February 2007 – April 2007 *Madrasa* Twemrāt & al-Taysīr**

**Traditional Islamic *Madrasa* training Mauritania**

- Studied Mālikī jurisprudence text: *Nazm al-Akhdarī fī al-Fiqh al-Mālikī*

*Madrasa* Twemrāt, Kīfa, under the direction of eminent Bedouin scholar Sheikh

Mohammad Faḥfū Murābit al-Ḥājj

- Studied Imām Mawlūd al-Yaʿqūbī’s Sufi text: *Maṭharat al-Qulūb* – “Purification of the Heart,” Hamza Yusuf trans. – (Madrasa Al-Taysīr, with Sheikh Mohammad al-Ĥassan al-Khadīm, author of *Sharḥ Matharat Al-Qulūb*)

**June – August 2000, 02, 04, 06 Fulbright Hays Seminar**

**Escort Assistant/Cultural Interpreter Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Mali**

- Escorted groups of 16 American professors on three 6-week Fulbright Hays

Seminars

- Led guided tours of the imperial cities of Morocco, including Rabat and Fez

**October 2005 – May 2005 Capital Communications Groups**

**Multi-Lingual Tour Guide Washington D.C.**

- Led guided tours in Arabic, English, French and Spanish to high-ranking dignitaries of the Islamic world and of Latin America for the *Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program* on American political philosophy.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic World, ISESCO.

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS)

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

American Oriental Society (AOS)

International Qur’anic Studies Association (IQSA)

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DIVINITY SCHOOL SERVICE**

Divinity School Deanship Advisory Committee (Winter 2022)

Chair of Islamic Studies (Autumn 2017 to present)

Academic Policy (Chaired by Jeff Stackert, Autumn 2021 to present)

Committee on Degrees (Chaired by Sarah Fredericks, Autumn 2020 to present)

Ministry Studies (Chaired by Cynthia Lindner, Autumn 2018 - present)

Africa and Middle East Committee for the new University of Chicago Center in Paris (Chaired by Khalid Lyamlahy, Autumn 2020 to present)

Chair of Islam in Africa Search (Laurie Zoloth, Ahmed El Shamsy, Alireza Doostdar, Spring 2019 - Winter 2020)

MA/MDiv Working Group (Chaired by Jeffrey Stackert, starting Spring 2019)

Placement Committee (Chaired by Sarah Fredericks, Winter 2019 to Autumn 2020)

Martin Marty Center Committee (Chaired by Willemien Otten)

External evaluator for NELC Arabic lecturer (Spring 2019)

**PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES**

Fons Vitae Advisory Board (New Generation of Scholars, 2014-Present)

Critical Islamic Reflections Academic Committee at Yale University (CIR, 2010)

American University of Sharjah Committees:

CAS Excellence in Research Award for Humanities and Social Sciences - Academic year 2014-2015

ATS Research Committee - Academic year 2014-2015

Postdoctoral Council Member (2015-2016), New York University Abu Dhabi.

Humanities Research Fellowship Selection Committee Advisor, New York University Abu Dhabi

Editorial Board member, *International Journal of Islam*, published by Benedictine University (2017 onward).

**OVERSEAS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Syria, Turkey, Morocco, Egypt, Mauritania, Spain

**LANGUAGES**

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| --- | --- |
| Arabic: | Native speaking, reading, and writing fluency in Classical Arabic & Modern Standard (MSA)  Native speaking fluency in Moroccan Colloquial Arabic (*dārija*)  Advanced speaking fluency in Levantine Colloquial Arabic (*ʿāmmiyya*) |
| French: | Advanced reading, speaking, and writing fluency |
| Spanish: | Advanced reading, speaking, and writing fluency in Modern Spanish  basic reading competence in Medieval Spanish |
| Persian: | Beginning Reading |
| German: | Beginning Reading |