

CYRUS ALI ZARGAR

AL-GHAZALI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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EDUCATION

- PhD** University of California, Berkeley – Near Eastern Studies, 2008
- MA** University of California, Berkeley – Near Eastern Studies, 2003
- BA** University of California, Los Angeles – English literature, Latin minor, 2000

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Central Florida, Department of Philosophy
Professor, August 2022-Present
Associate Professor (with tenure), May 2018-August 2022

Augustana College, Department of Religion
Associate Professor (with tenure), 2014-2018
Assistant Professor, 2008-2014

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Near Eastern Studies
Instructor, 2006-2008

San Francisco State University, Department of Philosophy
Adjunct Professor, 2006

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED ISLAMIC STUDIES
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH, MARCH 2025-PRESENT

RESEARCH

LANGUAGES

English (native)
 Arabic (mastery, especially classical)
 Persian (near-native)
 Reading knowledge of German, French, and Latin

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Classical Sufism / Islamic Philosophy / Arabic and Persian Sufi Literature / Ethics in Literature and Film

FORTHCOMING BOOKS UNDER CONTRACT

Speaking Islam: Religion and Sacred Language. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, Forthcoming.

BOOK PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT

Religion of Love: Sufism and Self-Transformation in the Poetic Imagination of ‘Aṭṭār. Albany, NY: The State University of New York Press, 2024.

This monograph considers space, time, and praxis in the Persian Sufi poetry of ‘Aṭṭār, focusing on the development of sacred symbols. Research and editing funded by a Gerda Henkel Stiftung grant. Cover art supported by the Persian Heritage Foundation. Multiple podcasts, reviews, and lectures on this book have been scheduled for 2024, including a book panel at Emory University in Spring 2024.

The Ethics of Karbala: Myths, Modernity, and the Warrior’s Nobility. London, UK: Routledge, 2024.

A groundbreaking study of the virtue of nobility (*karam*), this is the first book to investigate a historical event and its remembrance through the lens of Islamic virtue ethics. It has important implications for Islamic ethics, virtue ethics, cross-cultural philosophy, Nietzsche studies, military science, and religious studies.

The Polished Mirror: Storytelling and the Pursuit of Virtue in Islamic Philosophy and Sufism. London: Oneworld, December 2017.

The Polished Mirror introduces readers to Islam's two major ethical traditions focused on virtue, using narratives to unravel theoretical writings.

Reviewed in the following venues:

Journal of the American Oriental Society

Journal of Islamic Ethics

Reading Religion (American Academy of Religion)

Journal of Islamic and Muslim Studies.

Subject of podcasts: New Books in Islamic Studies; Renovatio; Path & Present; and Dhawq

Subject of a book panel at the American Academy of Religion, 2021

Subject of a book panel at the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, 2019.

Sufi Aesthetics: Beauty, Love, and the Human Form in the Writings of Ibn 'Arabi and 'Iraqi. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 2011.

Reviewed in the following venues:

Journal of the American Academy of Religion

Reviews in Religion & Theology

Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society

Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies

Translations into the following languages:

Turkish with Kitap ve Dergi Yayinciligi (forthcoming)

Persian by 'Alī-Riḍā Riḍāyat, with Afkār Press (forthcoming).

BOOK TRANSLATIONS

The Martyr of Ardihāl: A Historical Biography of 'Alī ibn Muḥammad al-Bāqir. Qum: The University of Religions and Denominations Press, 2020.

Translation of Zujājī, Majīd, *Ḥamāsa-yi Tārīkhī-i Mashhad-i Ardihāl* (Tehran: Nashr-i Subḥān, 2000).

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES

Virtue and Manliness in Islamic Ethics, edited by Cyrus Ali Zargar. *Journal of Islamic Ethics* (Leiden: Brill, December 2020), Volume 4: Issue 1-2, includes editor's introduction, pp. 1–7.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES FORTHCOMING

“Empathy in the *Mathnawī*: Delineating the Expressive Self in Islamic Virtue Ethics” in *The I.B. Tauris Handbook to Contemporary Islamic Studies*, ed. Seyf Kara. London: Bloomsbury, Forthcoming.

“On the Limits of Reasoning in ‘Aṭṭār’s *Dīwān*: Transcendent Knowledge in Post-Classical Khurasan,” *Eye of the Heart*, edited by Muhammad Faruque and Atif Khalil. Leiden: Brill, Forthcoming.

“What does the Quran say?” *Islam in Five Minutes*, edited by Edith Szanto. London: Equinox Publishing, Forthcoming.

“Narrativity in the Poetry of Ḥāfiẓ,” [*Untitled Festschrift*], edited by Alan Godlas. Leiden: Brill, Forthcoming.

“Competing Conceptions of Happiness in Classical Islamic Thought: Abū Ḥāmid al-Ghazālī and the Philosophers,” *Ethics and the Person*, edited by Abdulkader Tayob. Leiden: Brill, Forthcoming.

“The Hiddenness of the Imam: Absence and Love in Twelver Shi‘i Islam.” *Messianic Figurations: Abrahamic and Non-Abrahamic Mediators of the Eschatological*, ed. Francis Xavier Clooney, Kimberley Christine Patton, and Kurt Anders Richardson. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES IN PRINT

“The Cruelty of the Way and the Afflictions of *Dīn*: A Study of ‘Aṭṭār’s *The Speech of the Birds*’ Climactic Moment,” *Mystical Landscapes in Medieval Persian Literature*, ed. Fatemeh Keshavarz and Ahmet T. Karamustafa. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2025, pp. 219-244.

“‘Aṭṭār (d. 618/1221) on the wayfarer’s encounter with the senses,” *Handbook of Islamic Sensory History, 600-1500*, ed. Christian Lange and Adam Bursi. Leiden: Brill, 2024.

“Godly Utterance or Angelic Intelligence: Ibn ‘Arabī’s Theory of Revelation as a Response to the Philosophers,” *The Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society* 73 (2023), pp. 77-98.

“Suffering as Metaphysical Narrative: Exploring an Islamic Theodicy of Authorship,” *From the Divine to the Human: Contemporary Islamic Thinkers on Evil, Suffering, and the Global Pandemic*, ed. Muhammad U. Faruque and Mohammed Rustom. Abingdon: Routledge, 2023, pp. 214-226.

“Asad Allāh Qazwīnī’s Cosmology of the *Ahl al-bayt*: A Study and Critical Edition of *Kitāb-i Walāyat-i muṭlaqa*,” introduction by Cyrus Ali Zargar, edition by Alireza Asghari, *Islamic Thought and the Art of Translation: Texts and Studies in Honor of William C. Chittick and Sachiko Murata*, ed. Mohammed Rustom, Leiden: Brill, 2023, pp. 389-415.

"Transcending Character as a Quest for Union: The Place of *al-Jam'* in Sufi Ethical Commentaries on Khwāja 'Abdallāh Anṣārī's *Waystations*," *Mysticism and Ethics in Islam*, edited by Bilal Orfali, Atif Khalil, and Mohammed Rustom. Beirut: American University of Beirut Press, 2022. Pp. 163-186.

Article currently being translated into Arabic for the American University of Beirut Press.

"Sober in Mecca, Drunk in Byzantium: Antinomian Space in the Poetry of 'Aṭṭār," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 89:1 (March 2021), pp. 272-297.

"A Daring Obedience: Ibn 'Arabī's *Futuwwa* on the Right Side of the Law," *Journal of Islamic Ethics* 4:1 (December 2020), pp. 38-65.

"The Gaze and a Sufi Ethics of Vision in Majidi's *The Willow Tree*: Form, Meaning, and the Real," *Journal of Religion & Film* 24:1 (2020), Article 55.

"The Lyricality of the Soul: Jesus, the Word, and Supplication according to Ibn al-'Arabī." *The Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society* 65 (2019), pp. 59-82.

"The Imām's Ethical Body: Embodied Virtue and the Human Constitution in Shī'ī Philosophy." *Philosophy and the Intellectual Life in Shī'ah Islam*, ed. Saiyad Nizamuddin Ahmad and Sajjad H. Rizvi. London: The Shī'ah Institute Press, 2017. Pp. 208-240.

"Allegory and Ambiguity in the Films of Majid Majidi: A Theodicy of Meaning." *Journal of Religion & Film* 20:1 (2016), Article 3.

Article translated into Persian and published a second time by the *Journal of Religion & Film*.

"Revealing Revisions: Fayḍ al-Kāshānī's Four Versions of al-Kalimāt al-Maknūnah." *Iranian Studies* 47:2 (2014), pp. 241-262.

"The Poetics of Shuhūd: Ibn al-'Arabī's 'Intuitive, Enamored Heart' and the Composition of Erotic Poetry." *The Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society* 54:2 (2013), pp. 13-36.

"The Ten Principles: Theoretical Implications of Volitional Death in Najm al-Dīn Kubrā's al-Uṣūl al-'Ashara (A Study and Translation)." *The Muslim World* 103:1 (2013), pp. 107-130.

"The Satiric Method of Ibn Dāniyāl: Morality and Anti-Morality in Ṭayf al-Khayāl." *Journal of Arabic Literature* 37.1 (2006), pp. 68-108.

Article translated into Turkish for inclusion in *The Obscene Humour and Political Satire in Shadow Theatre* (forthcoming).

ESSAYS AND ENTRIES (EDITOR-REVIEWED)

"Inspired Wisdom and the Child Prodigy: Morality Beyond the Technical in Shi'ī Sacred History," *Al-Sidrah* 12:1 (January 2025), pp. 36-39.

Foreword to *The Book of Clouds*, by Oludamini Ogunnaike. Louisville, KY: Fons Vitae, forthcoming.

"The Secret of the Morality Tale: Sa'dī on What It Means To Be Human." *Renovatio* 2:1 (Spring 2018), pp. 81-88.

"Satiric Traversals in the Comedy of Mehran Modiri: Space, Irony, and National Allegory on Iranian Television." *Humor and Middle Eastern Cinema*, ed. Gayatri Devi and Najat Rahman. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2014. Pp. 79-103.

"Water." *Islamic Images and Ideas: Essays on Sacred Symbolism*, ed. John Andrew Morrow. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2014. Pp. 112-123.

"Kašf o Šohud." *Encyclopædia Iranica*, ed. Ehsan Yarshater (Center for Iranian Studies). Fascicle XV/6 (2011), pp. 668-673.

"Two Illustrated Manuscripts of the Qajar Period: Identification and Introductory Discussion." *Liberal Arts through the Ages*, ed. Catherine Carter Goebel. Rock Island, IL: Augustana College, 2011. Pp. 66-67. Illustrations '34A and '34B.

"The Virtues of Hunger in Classical Islamic Thought and Its Relevance for a Culture of Satiety." *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 9.4 (2009), Web.

BOOK REVIEWS

Journal of Islamic Studies. Review of *The Poetics of Spiritual Instruction: Farid al-Din 'Attar and Persian Sufi Didacticism* by Austin O'Malley (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2023). Forthcoming.

Marginalia Review of Books (2023). "Philosophical Sufism in Translation," Review of *The Essence of Reality: A Defense of Philosophical Sufism*, by 'Ayn al-Qudāt al-Hamadhānī, tr. by Mohammed Rustom (New York: New York University Press, 2022).

Journal of the American Oriental Society 142:2 (2022), pp. 493-494. Review of *Repentance and the Return to God: Tawba in Early Sufism*, by Atif Khalil (Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, 2018).

Journal of the American Oriental Society 141:1 (2021), pp. 215-217. Review of *Sufism: A New History of Islamic Mysticism*, by Alexander Knysh (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017).

The Maydan (December 2018). Review of *Radical Love: Teachings from the Islamic Mystical Tradition* by Omid Safi (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2018)

INVITED LECTURES

Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale" Italy.
 "Poetic Witnessing and the Artful practice of Perception (Iḍrāk): Sufism and Aesthetics," *Islamic Literatures in Sub-Saharan Africa: Themes, Genres and Publics*, December 2024.

Zentrum für Islamische Theologie, Universität Münster, Germany. "Suprarationality in the Poetry of ʿAṭṭār, April 2024.

International Centre for Advanced Islamic Research (London), Toronto, Canada. "Inspired Wisdom and the Child Prodigy: Morality Beyond the Empirical in the Shiʿi Hagiographical Tradition," *God in the Modern World*, April 2024.

The Centre for Advanced Irfan Studies (TRADISI), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 "Perception and Aesthetics in the thought of Ibn ʿArabī," September 2023.

University of Toronto, Canada (co-hosted by Lund University, Sweden). *Re-evaluating Academic Trajectories in the Academic Study of Islam*.
 "Empathy in the Masnavi: Knowing the Expressive Self in Islamic Virtue Ethics," April 2023

The Shiʿi Research Institute, Toronto, Canada.
 "State of the Field: Mysticism and Ethics in Shiʿi Studies," April 2023.

University of Cape Town, South Africa. *Islam and Ethics in Contemporary Societies*.
 "Is there an Islamic conception of happiness?" January 2023

University of Florida (Keynote Address), *Genres of Islamic Difference*
 "An Islamic Warrior Ethos and Nietzsche's Orientalism," August 2022

University of Cincinnati and Carleton University (with funding from the Birmingham Centre for Philosophy of Religion and the John Templeton Foundation). *International Conference on New Perspectives on Evil, Suffering, and the Global Pandemic: From the Divine to the Human*.
 "Suffering as Metaphysical Narrative: Another Author's Story" June 2022

Florida Philosophical Association (Keynote Address)
 "Translating the Anthems of Mystical Antiphilosophies," February 2022

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa ("Nothing In Common: An Interreligious Dialogue Concerning the Kyoto School," Departments of English, Religion, and Philosophy)

"Ethical Nothingness: Volitional Death in a Poem by Rumi," February 2022

Columbia University (The Adab Colloquium)

"Proto-Secular Spaces? Mapping Infidelity in the Poetry of 'Aṭṭār," October 2021

University of Exeter, UK and Habib University in Karachi, Pakistan (Decolonial Islamic Spiritualities)

"Words on Screen: Islamic Ethics, Modernity, and the Films of Majid Majidi," October 2021

Universität Münster, Germany, Zentrum für Islamische Theologie Münster (Leib und Leiblichkeit)

"Sense and Ma'rifa: The Perceiving Body in 'Aṭṭār's Psychology of Union," Panel on *Mystische Perspektive*, September 2021

Centre for Islamic Theology at the Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen and the Chair of Islamic Religious Studies at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, sponsored by the Akademie für Islam in Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft (AIWG) project.

"Aesthetic Thought in the Writing of Ibn al-Arabi," in the "Beauty and Islamic Theology" series (Dr. Bilal Bidat), July 2021.

University of Cape Town, South Africa (Ethics and Islamic Intellectual Traditions Moderators)

"The Warrior Ethos as Islamic Virtue: The Karbala Narrative in Moral Philosophy," June 2021.

University of Virginia, Virginia Center for the Study of Religion

"Gratitude and the Uncluttered Mind: 'Aṭṭār's 'Religion of Old Women,'" April 2021

Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham, UK

"What is Islamic Virtue Ethics?" March 2021

Fatih Sultan Mehmet University, Islamic Arts Practice and Research Center, Turkey

"Perception and Poetics in the Sufi Tradition," November 2020

The Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society, Oxford, UK (Ibn 'Arabī, The Geometry of Reality)

"The Ambiguities of Union: Exploring the Relationship between Perception and Reality," October 2020

Washburn University, Thomas L. King Lecture

"Muslim Encounters with the Christian Other in Persian Sufi Poetry," February 2020

Augustana College

Panel on Iran Crisis, "Persian-Language Social Media," January 2020

Yale Law School, Abdallah S. Kamel Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilization

"Transcending Character: The Place of Virtue in Post-Classical Sufi Ethical Commentaries," October 2019

Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics, Doha, Qatar (Islamic Ethics: State-of-Art and Future Directions)

“A Case for Islamic Virtue Ethics: Philosophy and Sufism as Historically Extended Lines of Argument in *The Polished Mirror*,” August 2019

University of Birmingham, UK (Sufism and Philosophy: Historical Interactions and Crosspollinations)

“Mystical Union in a Rational Universe: The Incoherence, Avicennan Psychology, and ‘Aṭṭār’s *Muṣībat-nāma*,” April, 2019

University of Cape Town, South Africa (Moral and Ethical Frameworks and Performances in Religion)

“Alchemies of Happiness: ‘Aṭṭār’s Theory of Love as Moral Universal,” February, 2019

The Hub Foundation: Featured Lecture

Pleasanton, CA, “Storytelling and the Pursuit of Virtue in Islam,” April 2018

Johns Hopkins University (Illumination in Islam and the Arts: Mysticism and Cinema)

Paper presentation, “A Metaphysics of Sight in Majīd Majīdī’s *The Willow Tree*,” February 2018

New York University, Abu Dhabi (Rationality and Language in Islamic Thought)

Paper presentation, “Futuwwa as Situated Virtue in the Thought of Ibn al-Arabī,” November 2017

The Shi‘ah Institute (Warburg Institute, London)

“The Imām’s Ethical Body: Embodied Virtue and the Human Constitution according to Mullā Ṣadrā and Fayḍ Kāshānī,” September, 2015

The Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society, Berkeley, CA, Zaytuna College (Symbols of Transformation)

“Bird from the Garden of Meanings: Soul and Speech in Ibn ‘Arabi’s Reading of Jesus,” November, 2014

The Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society, University of Oxford, UK (Mystical Perception and Beauty)

“The Poetics of Shuhūd: Experience and Expressing Human-Divine Beauty,” May, 2013

“The Virtue Underlying All Virtues: Volitional Death in the Thought of Najm al-Din Kubra”

Augustana College, Celebration of Research, February, 2013

The Graduate Medievalists at Berkeley, University of California, Berkeley (The Graduate Student and Faculty Colloquium Series)

“Morality and Anti-Morality in Ṭayf al-Khayāl: An Introduction to the Satiric Method of Ibn Dāniyāl,” May, 2004

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Academy of Religion.

Roundtable Panelist, "The Logic of the Birds: Sufi Poetry and Poetics." "Ibn 'Arabī and the Perceptiveness of the Poet." November 2023 (Islamic Mysticism) American

American Academy of Religion

Panel Respondent, "Islamic Mystical Platonisms." November, 2023 (Neoplatonism Unit and Islamic Mysticism).

The Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics

"When Allegory becomes Morality Theater: The Ethics of Depicting Muhammad in Majidi's Epic." January 2022.

American Academy of Religion

Panel Respondent, "Metaphors of Embodiment, Knowledge, and the Self in Indian and Islamic Philosophy." November, 2021 (Comparative Studies in Religion and the Study of Islam)

American Academy of Religion

Panel Respondent, "'New Directions in Islamic Ethics: *Gendered Morality and The Polished Mirror*.'" Panel on my book (*The Polished Mirror*), as well as Zahra Ayubi's *Gendered Morality*. November, 2021 (Philosophy of Religion Unit)

The Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics

Panel Respondent, "Conversations in Islamic Ethics: A Discussion on Cyrus Ali Zargar's *The Polished Mirror: Storytelling and the Pursuit of Virtue in Islamic Philosophy and Sufism*." January, 2019

Reconsidering the Manly and the Fraternal in Islamic Virtue Ethics: The Case of *Futuwwa*

"*Futuwwa* Outside Normativity and Within the Law: Ibn al-'Arabī's Daringly Obedient 'Young Man' (*fatā*)." November 2019

(Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics, Doha, Qatar)

Sufism and the Body

"'Aṭṭār's *Book of Affliction* and the Inner Human Faculties: A Sufi Psychology of Union."

September 2019

(Utrecht University, Netherlands)

American Academy of Religion

"Form, Meaning, and the Gaze in Majīd Majīdī's *The Willow Tree*." November, 2018 (Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Unit).

Mediterranean Seminar (Mysticism and Devotion)

Paper Respondent to Anna Akasoy, "Imaginary Spaces of Devotion in Andalusí Mystical Poetry."
April, 2017 (Colorado University, Boulder)

American Academy of Religion

Panel Respondent, "The Sufi Tradition in Formation." November, 2015 (Atlanta, Islamic
Mysticism Group)

International Conference on Religion and Film

"Ambiguity and Allegory in the Films of Majid Majidi: A Theodicy of Meaning." May, 2015
(Istanbul, Department of Cultural and Social Affairs and University of Nebraska, Omaha)

American Academy of Religion

"The Hiddenness of the Imam: Reconciling Absence and Guidance." November, 2012 (Panel on
Comparative Messianism)

Society for Cinema & Media Studies

"Ironical Distance in the Comedy of Mehran Modiri: Contemporary Iranian Life through an
Outsider's Eyes." March, 2012

Middle East Studies Association

"The Living Qalandar Persona: The Amalgam of Art and Life in Fakhr al-Dīn 'Irāqī." November
2010

American Academy of Religion

"The Imam in the Text: Fayḍ al-Kāshānī and the Reclamation of Shī'ī 'Irfān." November, 2009

Middle East Studies Association

"Hidden Narrative in Hafiz." November, 2009

Middle East Studies Association

"The Poetry of Ṭayf al-Khayāl in Context: Power and the Corruption of Sacred Language."
November, 2005

Middle East Studies Association

"Volitional Death and an Existence More Real: Theoretical Suggestions in Kubrā's Aqrab al-ṭuruq
ilā Allāh." November, 2004

Middle East Studies Association

"Irony and the Sung Refrain." November, 2003

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Persian Heritage Foundation Grant

Award for Publication, April 2023

Gerda Henkel Stiftung Scholarship

Grant for Summer Writing, Editing/Indexing Costs, July 2020

Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics, Doha, Qatar (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)

Award for international seminar and open-access publication, May 2019

Interfaith Youth Core (the Teagle Foundation)

IFYC Interfaith and Pre-Professional Curricular Grant (Cyrus Zargar was grant-writer on behalf of Augustana College), 2016

Augustana College

Presidential Research Fellowship, 2013

New Faculty Research Grant, 2008 – 2011

University of California, Berkeley

Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, 2005-2006

Mellon Travel Grant, 2005

Mellon Travel Grant, 2003

Graduated Highest Distinction

Predoctoral Humanities Award, 2001-2005

Near Eastern Studies Award Supplement

University of California, Los Angeles

Summa Cum Laude

Dean's Honor List (1997 – 2000)

UCLA Daily Bruin, Editor-in-Chief's Achievement Award (1998-1999)

The Phi Beta Kappa Society, inaugurated 1999

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society

The Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics

North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies

Middle East Studies Association

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Appointed AAR (American Academy of Religion) Facilitator. Committee on Professional Conduct. Appointment from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026.

Board Member, Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, January 2020 – May 2024

Co-Chair, Islamic Mysticism Program Unit, American Academy of Religion, November 2018 – May 2024

Islamic Mysticism Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2014 - present

Advisory Board, Mufid Islamic Seminary, the George Washington University, 2018 – present

Elected member of the Governing Board of the International Centre for Advanced Islamic Research, London, UK. October 2023. Ongoing.

Appointed Senior Visiting Fellow for the Centre for Advanced Irfan Studies (TRADISI), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. September 2023. Ongoing.

Associate Editor, *Journal of Sufi Studies* (Brill), March 2022 - present

Expert Forum on *Mathnawī* Narratives: Literary, Theological, Ethical, and Pedagogical Dimensions. Humboldt-University of Berlin, Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology. January 2023.

Board Member, Carleton Centre for the Study of Islam, Carleton University, Canada, December 2021 – present

Seminar Organizer, Reconsidering the Manly and the Fraternal in Islamic Virtue Ethics: The Case of *Futuwwa*, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, November 2019

Book Review Editor, The Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society, 2014 - April 2022

Editorial board member, La Rosa di Paracelso (a journal on Islamic esotericism), 2021 - present

Editorial board member, Journal of the Islamic Sciences History, 2020 - present

Editorial board member, Journal of the Contemporary Study of Islam, 2020 - present

Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Associated Graduates in Near Eastern Studies, Fall 2003 – Fall 2008

SERVICE AS PEER-REVIEW ASSESSOR (SELECT LIST)

A. PRESSES

Yale University Press; Oxford University Press; University of California Press (endorsement procured); Princeton University Press; Brill; Routledge; The Institute of Ismaili Studies Press; Mufid Academic Press

(endorsement procured); State University of New York Press (endorsement procured); Palgrave Macmillan

B. JOURNALS & ENCYCLOPEDIAS

St. Andrew's Encyclopaedia of Theology; Islamic Law and Society; Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Multidisciplinary Studies; British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies; Journal of the Contemporary Study of Islam; Journal of Islamic Studies; Journal of Sufi Studies; Journal of Religion & Film; Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society; Journal of the American Orientalist Society; Journal of Islamic Ethics; Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph; Leverhulme Trust; Comparative Literature and Culture; Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses; Rumi and Rumiology; Senses and Society; Open Philosophy; Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief; Iranian Studies

C. ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion; Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics; North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies; Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics

D. PROMOTION CASES & GRANT REVIEWS

University of Chicago; University of Rhode Island; National Research Foundation, South Africa; Leverhulme Trust

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE (UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE)

Pakistani Students Association, Advisor, 2020-Present
University of Central Florida

Muslim Student Association, Advisor, 2019-Present
University of Central Florida

Honors Thesis, Derwin Sanchez (Philosophy), 2021
University of Central Florida

India Center Faculty Affiliate, September 2021-Present
University of Central Florida

Co-Director of Honors Programs, Fall 2014 - May 2018
Augustana College

Creator and Director of Interreligious Leadership Experiential Minor, 2017 - 2018
Augustana College

Muslim Student Advisor, 2008-2018
Augustana College

Middle East Cultural Appreciation Society, Advisor, 2013-2016
Augustana College

Interfaith Dialogue Advisor, 2008-2018
Augustana College

Member, Middle East Advisory Council, 2014-2016
St. Ambrose University

First-Year Student Advisor, 2009-2010; 2012-2014; 2017-2018
Augustana College

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Chair of Promotion and Tenure Committee, Philosophy Department, January 2022 - Present
University of Central Florida

Member of Lecturer Promotion Committee, August 2022 – Present
University of Central Florida

College of Arts and Humanities, Sabbatical Committee Member, December 2021 – May 2023
University of Central Florida

Co-creator and co-director of Interfaith Dialogue Certificate, 2020 – Present
University of Central Florida

Member of Religion Curriculum Committee, 2018 – Present
University of Central Florida

Religion Major Advisor, 2008-2018
Augustana College

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SERVICE

Keynote Address, Fast-A-Thon Interfaith Banquet at UCF. Muslim Students Association, UCF, and Islamic Center of Orlando. “Human Nature in Islamic Thought: An Interfaith Studies Perspective,” April 8, 2023.

Keynote Lecture for Sixth Annual Iftar Dinner, co-hosted by the City of Orlando’s Office of Cultural Affairs (Orlando City Hall) and the Islamic Center of Orlando. “Empathy in Islam, and Why It Matters.” March 28, 2023.

Lecture, “The Historical Development of Islamic Virtue Ethics,” Ismaili Tariqa Education Board for the US, hosted at Emory University. June 7, 2023

Lecture, "Persian Sufi Literature: A Case Study from the Sixth Daftar of Rūmī's *Mathnawī*," PhD Seminar, "Islamic Civilizations" (ICIVS 505), Emory University. March 28, 2023.

Lecture, "Islamic Virtue Ethics: The Judge and the Sufi," for RELS 364B, "Genies, Saints, and Superheroes: The Moral Imagination of Muslim Literatures," Stetson University. March 23, 2023.

Lecture, "The Month of Ramadan: Muslim Beliefs, Practices, Cultures, and Customs," for Hyatt Regency, Hyatt MENA (Middle Eastern, North African). March 14, 2023.

Lecture, "Islam and the Sunni/Shii Distinction," University of Wisconsin, Madison (Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Language Institute), August 3, 2022

Keynote Lecture for the Interfaith Ramadan Iftar, Islamic Center of Orlando and Rollins College, "Models of Empathy: Interfaith Studies and the Orlando Metropolitan Area." April 23, 2022.

"Islam in Iranian History," Lecture for Political Science 105, "Introduction to Comparative Politics," Augustana College. March 7, 2022.

"Love in the Writings of 'Attar: Theory and Practice," Lecture for Religion 3600, "Sufism," University of Lethbridge (Alberta, Canada). April 4, 2022.

Wisdom's Edge Foundation's Text Advisory Board Member
2022 (February)- Present

Pre-College Lecture Series, Weekly
The Ark Institute, Seminole County, 2018-Present

Arranging community-university event, "Islamic Traditions of Learning: Education and Ethics in Central and South Asia," November 2018
University of Central Florida

Lecture at the Islamic Center of Orlando, "The Current State of Islamic Studies," September 2018
Jama Masjid, Orlando, FL

Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys (National Endowment for the Humanities)
Featured Speaker, Five Lectures / Moline Library, Moline, IL, 2014

Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys (National Endowment for the Humanities)
Featured Speaker, Four Lectures / Bettendorf Library, Bettendorf, IA, 2014

"Understanding Islam and Muslims, Rising Above Stereotypes"
Grace Lutheran Church, Davenport IA, 11/4/12

“Islamic Mysticism”

The Satva Center, Rock Island IL, 10/13/12

“Jihad in the Context of Islamic Ethics: Mercy and Justice, Duty and Consequence”

Augustana Center for the Study of Ethics, 4/2/12

“Muslim-American Responses to the Tragedy of 9/11”

Augustana College, 9/10/11

“The Qur’an’s Major Themes”

Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport IA, 3/6/11

“Adam and Human Origins”

First Presbyterian Church, Davenport IA, 3/27/11

“Mary and Gender in the Qur’an”

First Presbyterian Church, Davenport IA, 4/3/11

“Muslim Beliefs and Practices”

First Presbyterian Church, Davenport IA, 4/10/11

“Jihad and its Interpretations”

First Presbyterian Church, Davenport IA, 4/17/11

“Hospitalization and Muslim Beliefs/Practices”

Trinity Medical Center, West Campus, 1/25/10

Instructor, CommUniversity: “Introduction to Islam”

St. Ambrose University, From 2/7/10 to 2/28/10; 2/6/11 to 2/27/11; 2/5/12 to 2/26/12

“Suffering, Death, and Hope: Muslim and Christian Perspectives”

The Catholic Benedictine Sisters of St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island IL, 3/8/10

Convocation, “What can we learn from Iran today?”

Augustana College, 12/10/09

“Learning from the Sufis How to Love God”

Annual Augustana Day for ELCA Pastors, 10/08/09

“Women and Gender in Early Muslim Sources”

Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport IA, 2/15/09

Convocation, “From Antiquity to Modernity”

Augustana College, Winter Terms, 2008-2011

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Central Florida

- World Religions
- Islam
- Medieval Philosophy
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Honors Thesis / Independent Study

Augustana College

- Encountering Religion: Theories and Major World Religions
- Islam: An Introduction
- Islamic Mysticism
- The Formative History and Development of Islam
- Muslim Literary Worlds: Islamic ethics in Muslim literature
- Intro to the Literature of the Medieval/Modern Middle East
- Comparative Mystical Poetics
- Christianity and Islam in Dialogue
- Classical and Quranic Arabic
- Persian
- First-year honors (Great Texts)
- Team-taught course: Second-year honors (Anthropology and Religion)
- Honors Thesis / Independent Study

University of California, Berkeley

- First-Year Persian
- Intensive First-Year Persian

San Francisco State University

- Islamic Mysticism

GRADUATE ADVISING

University of California, Riverside

Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Sayyid Maisam Haider Ali Rizvi
Ongoing (committee member)

McGill University, Montreal, Canada
Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Seyed Saleh Pezhman
Ongoing (external examiner)

University of Toronto, Canada
Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Faraz Alidina
July 2024 (external examiner)

Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada
Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Kazem Zabihollahi
January 2024 (committee member)

Western Sydney University, Australia
Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Morokoth So
March 2022 (external examiner)

University of Glasgow, Scotland
Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Syed Ali Abbas
January 2022 (external examiner)

University of Toronto, Canada
Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Joel Richmond
July 2021 (external examiner)

University of Toronto, Canada
Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Parisa Zahiremami
December 2021 (external examiner)

Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley
Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Zachary Markwith
December 2020 (external examiner)

Doctoral Examination Committee Member for Zachary Markwith
May 2017 (external examiner)

Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar
Master's Thesis Committee Member for Bilal Abul Sathar
April 2020 (external examiner)

Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
Master's Thesis Advisor for Mahmoud Jaber
April 2020 (primary advisor)

TEACHING AWARDS, CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS

Quality Online Designation, State University System of Florida

October 2021, awarded to REL 2300, "World Religions" (University of Central Florida)

The Timed Analysis Essay: Benefits and Methods

September 2012 (Augustana College)

"Self-Evaluations," Augustana Center for Teaching & Learning Workshop

November 2009 (Augustana College)

"Innovations in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at Liberal Arts Colleges"

March, 2009 (Wabash College, workshops)

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award

2006-2007 (UC Berkeley)

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST