

HUSSEIN ALI ABDULSATER

Assistant Professor of Arabic Culture and Islamic Studies

Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Yale University (Islamic Studies, Areas of Specialty: *Islamic Religious Thought, Islamic Religious History, Islamic Scripture and Tradition*) – May 2013

M.Phil., Yale University (Islamic Studies, Areas of Specialty: *Islamic Religious Thought, Islamic Religious History, Islamic Scripture and Tradition*) – May 2010

M.A., American University of Beirut (Arabic Language and Literature, Areas of Specialty: *Sufism, Classical Arabic Poetry and Prose*) – February 2007

B.E., American University of Beirut (Computer and Communication Engineering) – June 2004

Attended the Lebanese University (Philosophy) – Fall 2003–Spring 2006

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Visiting Assistant Professor, The Middle East Institute, Columbia University—Fall 2015

Assistant Professor, Civilization Studies Program, American University of Beirut—Spring 2016

Visiting Assistant Professor, Civilization Studies Program, American University of Beirut—Fall 2013–Summer 2015

Instructor, Civilization Studies Program, American University of Beirut—Summer 2012–Summer 2013

Instructor, Department of Humanities, Lebanese American University—Summer 2012–Summer 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Islamic theology and ethics; classical Arabic literature; Shi'ism; Qur'anic Studies, Abbasid social and cultural history

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Shi'i Doctrines, Mu'tazili Theology: al-Sharīf al-Murtadā and the Systematization of Imami Discourse.
Edinburgh University Press (forthcoming; <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-shi-039-i-doctrine-mu-039-tazili-theology-hb.html>)

Articles

- “From Traditionalist Spirits to Rationalist Bodies: The Concept of the Human Being in Early Imāmī Theology” (submitted for publication)
- “Reason, Grace and the Freedom of Conscience: The Period of Investigation in Classical Islamic Theology,” *Studia Islamica*, 110:2 (2015), 233-262
- “To Rehabilitate a Theological Treatise: *Inqādh al-Bashar min al-Jabr wa-l-Qadar*,” *Etudes Asiatiques*, 68:2 (2014), 519-547
- “Early Tafsīr, Late Resurgence and Spurious Ascription: The Curious Case of *Risālat al-Muḥkam wa-l-Mutashābih*,” *al-Abḥāth*, 60-1 (2012-2013), 59-86
- “Dynamics of Absence: Twelver Shi'ism during the Minor Occultation,” *Zeitschriften der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 161:2 (2011), 305-335

Encyclopedia Entries

"al-Nawbakhtī, Abū Sahl Ismā'īl" for the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, *THREE*

"Ibn Qiba" for the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, *THREE*

"Morteza, 'Alam al-Hoda" for the *Encyclopedia Islamica*

Preprint Articles

"The Community as the Vehicle of Divine Intervention: Two Sectarian Salvation Narratives in Islamic Historiography" (in progress)

"The Poetic Appeal of Heresy: al-Mutanabbi as an Unorthodox Theologian" (in progress)

"The *Jinn* as Political Actors: An Examination of an Early Assassination within the Muslim Community" (revising for publication)

Book Reviews

al-Muhājir, Ja'far. "al-Hijra al-Āmiliyya ilā Īrān al-Şafawiyya" [*The Āmilī Migration to Safavid Iran*] (in English and Arabic), Aga Khan University, *Islamic Civilization Abstracts in Encyclopedias about Muslim Civilisations*. Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi. Edinburgh University Press, 2009

al-Muhājir, Ja'far. "Jabal Āmil bayn al-Shahīdayn" [*Jabal Āmil between the Two Martyrs*] (in English and Arabic), Aga Khan University, *Islamic Civilization Abstracts in Encyclopedias about Muslim Civilisations*. Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi. Edinburgh University Press, 2009

Translations

al-Tashayyū' wa-l-Taḥawwul fī al-Āşr al-Şafawī, Cologne: al-Jamal, 2007. An Arabic translation, with source criticism, comments and an analytical introduction, of: Turner, Colin. *Islam without Allah: The Rise of Religious Externalism in Safavid Iran*, Richmond: Curzon Press, 2000

Arabic translations from English of 36 abstracts in *Encyclopedias about Muslim Civilisations*. Edited

by Aptin Khanbaghi. Edinburgh University Press, 2009

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

“Man in Islamic Theology,” *AUB-Exeter Collaboration*, April 2016

“The Reception of the Theory of States in Classical Imami Theology,” *The Shi‘ah Institute*, 1st Annual Symposium, London, September 2015 (Invited)

“History in the Straitjacket of Theology,” *Middle East Studies Association*, 48th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 2014

“*Renewing Falsafa: Epistemic possibilities and methodological obstacles*,” Summer Academy: ‘Language, Science and Aesthetics’, German Orient Institute, Beirut, September 2014 (Thematic Discussion)

“The Road to Certainty and Rational Salvation,” *Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon: Authors, Texts, Trends, Traditions*, UNESCO World Philosophy Day, Beirut, November 2013 (Invited)

“Dynamics of Absence: Twelver Shi‘ism during the Minor Occultation,” *American Oriental Society*, 220th Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, March 2010

Invited Lectures

“Sacred History and Worldly Events,” guest speaker, Civilization Studies Program Brownbag, American University of Beirut, March 2014

“The Development of Shi‘i Theology and Law in Relation to Politics,” guest lecturer, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, State University of New York at Stony Brook, March 2012

“The Iranian Revolution and Clerical Hierarchy,” guest lecturer, Department of Near Eastern

Languages and Civilizations, Yale University, November 2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-organizer of “State of the Field Workshop on Liberal Arts Education,” Civilization Studies Program, American University of Beirut, 2016

Coordinator of the Civilization Studies Program Forum, working to create venues for critical intellectual inquiry (Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

Coordinator of the Civilization Studies Program 202 Course Committee, working on the development of a course on Medieval, Islamic, and Renaissance Civilizations (Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

Editor of the Arabic material in *Encyclopedias about Muslim Civilisations*. Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi. Edinburgh University Press, 2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Advisory Work - Graduate Level

Advisor, M.A. thesis, title: “Twelver Shiite Neo-Platonism and Neo-Platonic Twelver Shiism: Origin, Emanation and Return in Fayz al-Kashani's Corpus,” Islamic Studies Program, American University of Beirut (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)

Reader, Ph.D. Dissertation, title: “The Images of Khadijah al-Kubrā: Muhammad's First Wife across the Centuries,” Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, American University of Beirut (current)

Reader, M.A. thesis, title: “The Lawfulness of Working for the Unjust Ruler: A Study in Early Imāmī Thought and Literature,” Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, American University of Beirut (Fall 2013-Spring 2014)

Teaching - Graduate Level

Instructor, Islamic Studies Program, Columbia University

- Designed and taught: “Miracles in Sunni and Shi‘i Theology” (Fall 2015)

Instructor, Islamic Studies Program, American University of Beirut

- Designed and taught: “Sources and Methods in the Study of Islam” (Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

Teaching - Undergraduate Level

Instructor, Civilization Studies Program, American University of Beirut

- Designed and taught: “Moral Discourses in Classical and Monotheistic Traditions” (Spring 2014)

Instructor, Civilization Studies Program, American University of Beirut

- “Medieval, Islamic, and Renaissance Civilizations” (Summer 2012–Spring 2016)
- “Ancient Near East and Classical Civilizations” (Fall 2014–Summer 2015)

Instructor, Department of Humanities, Lebanese American University

- Designed and taught: “History of the Arabs” (Spring 2013)

Instructor, Department of Humanities, Lebanese American University

- “Ancient Arabic Literature” (Summer 2012–Spring 2013)
- “Arabic Rhetoric” (Summer 2012–Spring 2013)
- “Historical Survey of Arabic Literature” (Fall 2012)

Teaching Fellow, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University

- “The Religion of Islam” (Prof. Gerhard Böwering, Fall 2009, Spring 2011)
- “Islam Today, Jihad, and Fundamentalism” (Prof. Frank Griffel, Fall 2010)
- “Islamic Theology and Philosophy” (Prof. Frank Griffel, Spring 2010)

Instructor, Center for Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut

- “Arabic, High Advanced Level” (Summer 2009, 2010)
- “Arabic, Superior Level” (Summer 2008)

- “Arabic, Intermediate Level” (Summer 2006)
- “Arabic, Advanced Level” (Summer 2005)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Yale University Dissertation Fellowship – 2011-2012

Beinecke Manuscript Library Research Fellowship – Fall 2011

Yale Graduate School Fellowship (full tuition and stipend) – 2007-2011

American University of Beirut Academic Scholarship (full tuition) – 2005-2007

American University of Beirut Summer Research Assistantship – Summer 2006

LANGUAGES

Arabic (native)

Persian (reading fluency, speaking competence)

German, French (reading competence)

WORKSHOPS

“A Workshop and a Panel on Liberal Arts Education,” Center for Teaching and Learning,
American University of Beirut, 2013

“Fundamentals of Teaching Texts,” Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University, 2010

“Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language,” Center for Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, American
University of Beirut, 2010

OVERSEAS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

Middle East Studies Association

American Academy of Religion

American Oriental Society

REFERENCES

Dr. Hossein Modarressi, Bayard Dodge Professor of Near Eastern Studies
Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University
Email: hm@princeton.edu

Dr. Gerhard Böwering, Professor of Islamic Studies
Department of Religious Studies, Yale University
Email: gerhard.bowering@yale.edu

Dr. Dimitri Gutas, Professor of Arabic and Graeco-Arabic
Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Yale University
Email: dimitri.gutas@yale.edu

Dr. Maher Jarrar, Professor of Arabic Language and Literature
Civilization Sequence Program, American University of Beirut
Email: mjarrar@aub.edu.lb