

## HUSSEIN ALI ABDULSATER

Assistant Professor of Arabic Culture and Islamic Studies  
Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame  
304 O'Shaughnessy Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556  
Email: hussein.abdulsater@gmail.com

### 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

---

Assistant Professor, Arabic Culture and Islamic Studies, University of Notre Dame—Fall 2016-  
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; Mu'tazilism; Shi'ism; Qur'anic Studies; classical Arabic literature; Abbasid and Būyid social and cultural history

### PUBLICATIONS

---

#### *Books*

*Shi'i Doctrines, Mu'tazili Theology: al-Sharīf al-Murtaḍā and the Systematization of Imami Discourse.* Edinburgh University Press, 2017.

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-shi-039-i-doctrine-mu-039-tazili-theology-hb.html>)

### **Articles**

- “Jāhizian Negotiations: The Image of the Rāfiḍa in Jāhiz’s Corpus,” *Global Intellectual History*, (forthcoming)
- “The Interpretation of the Covenant Verse in Classical Imāmī Theology.” In *Essays in Honor of Gerhard Böwering* (forthcoming)
- “Full Texts, Split Moons, Eclipsed Narratives: The Literary History of a Cosmological Miracle,” *Narrative Culture*, (forthcoming, Spring 2018)
- “Traditionalist Spirits and Rationalist Bodies: The Concept of the Human Being in Early Imāmī Theology,” *Shi‘i Studies Review*, (forthcoming, Spring 2018)
- “The Road to Certainty and Rational Salvation.” In *Practicing Philosophy in Lebanon: Authors, Texts, Trends, Traditions*, Beirut: OIB, 2017
- “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 Shī‘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**

- “Beyond Sects and Dynasties: Towards a New Periodization of Islamic Theology” (in progress)
- “The Temporality of the Qur’an Revisited: An Examination of the Theological Consequences of the Controversy” (revising for publication)

### **Book Reviews**

- al-Muhājir, Ja‘far. “al-Hijra al-‘Āmiliyya ilā Īrān al-Ṣafawiyya” [*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-Tashayyu' wa-l-Taḥawwul fī al-'Aṣr al-Ṣafawī*, 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 and Contributions***

"Mu'tazilism Ignored, Espoused and Negotiated," *Shi'i Studies: State of the Art*, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, December 2017 (*by invitation*)

Discussant of the theme of "Human Dignity," *The Interfaith Dialogue*, McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame, September 2017

Discussant of the theme of "Power—Divine and Human," *The Sixteenth Building Bridges Seminar*, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, May 2017

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

"The Reception of the Theory of States in Classical Imami Theology," *The Shi'ah Institute*, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium, London, September 2015 (Invited)

"History in the Straitjacket of Theology," *Middle East Studies Association*, 48<sup>th</sup> 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*, 220<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, March 2010

### ***Invited Lectures***

- “The Interpretation of the Covenant Verse in Classical Imāmī Theology,” guest lecturer, Georgetown Graduate Association for Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, March 2017
- “The Concept of Knowledge (*‘ilm*) in Imāmī Scholastic Curricula,” guest lecturer, University of Chicago, March 2017
- “Sacred History and Worldly Events,” guest speaker, Civilization Studies Program Brownbag, American University of Beirut, March 2014
- “The Development of Shī‘ī 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 Khadījah al-Kubrā: Muhammad’s First Wife across the Centuries,” Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, American University of Beirut (Fall 2015-Fall 2017)
- Reader, M.A. thesis, title: “Colloquy and Soliloquy in the Arabo-Islamic Heritage: Three Religious Interlocutors,” Islamic Studies Program, 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, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Classical Islamic Literature: An Anthology of Arabic Texts” (Spring 2017)

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Classical Islamic Literature: An Anthology of Arabic Texts” (Spring 2017)

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Shi‘i and Sunni Muslims: Common Legacy, Multiple Narratives” (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Islamic Studies: Sources and Methods” (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

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 Studies Program, American University of Beirut  
Email: mjarrar@aub.edu.lb