

HUSSEIN ALI ABDULSATER

Assistant Professor of Arabic Culture and Islamic Studies

Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

249 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

The Mahdi Fellow, The Middle East Institute, Columbia University—Fall 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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-Murtadā and the Systematization of Imami Discourse.
Edinburgh University Press, 2017 (Paperback Edition, 2018).
(<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-shi-039-i-doctrine-mu-039-tazili-theology-hb.html>)

Articles

- “A Jāhizian Contribution to Reason in Islam? Revisiting al-Muḥāsibī’s *Mā‘iyyat al-‘aql*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 142:1 (2022) [forthcoming]
- “The Objectivist Ethics of Justicists: the Mu‘tazilis and the Limits of Reason.” In *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Islamic Ethics* (forthcoming)
- “Imāmī Theology.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Shi‘i Islam* (forthcoming)
- “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*, (2019), 70-90
- “Full Texts, Split Moons, Eclipsed Narratives: The Literary History of a Cosmological Miracle,” *Narrative Culture*, 5:2 (2019), 141-186
- “Traditionalist Spirits and Rationalist Bodies: The Concept of the Human Being in Early Imāmī Theology,” *Shi‘i Studies Review*, 2:1-2 (2018), 1-37
- “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 Shīʿism during the Minor Occultation,” *Zeitschriften der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, 161:2 (2011), 305-335

Encyclopedia Entries

“al-Nawbakhtī, Abū Sahl Ismāʿīl” for the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, *THREE*

“Ibn Qiba” for the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, *THREE*

“Morteza, ‘Alam al-Hoda” for the *Encyclopedia Islamica*

“The Imama in Shiʿi Islam” for the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, *THREE* (under progress)

“al-Shaykh al-Mufid” for the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, *THREE* (under progress)

General Readership Pieces

“Humouring the Humourless,” *The Critical Muslim*, 38 (Spring 2021), 15-23

Preprint Articles

“Beyond Sects and Dynasties: Towards a New Periodization of Islamic Theology” (in progress)

“The Temporality of the Qurʾan 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-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-‘Aşr 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 Attendance and Contributions

“Hishām b. al-Ḥakam, an Imāmī maverick,” *Historicizing the Shi‘i Hadith Corpus*, [was scheduled in Leiden for June 2020; postponed due to Covid-19 to December 2021]

Discussant of the theme of “Naming God,” *The Nineteenth Building Bridges Seminar*, [was scheduled in Tübingen, for June 2020; postponed due to Covid-19 to June 2021]

“The Formation of Arabic Scholarship,” Yale University, November 2018

“Mu‘tazilism Ignored, Espoused and Negotiated,” *Shi‘i Studies: State of the Art*, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, December 2017

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

“The Essence of the Human Being in Classical Islamic Theology,” *Middle East Studies Association*, 50th Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 2016

“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

“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

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

Invited Lectures

“The Long Shadow of al-Jāḥiẓ,” guest lecturer, Notre Dame’s Islamic Studies Colloquium, November 2021

“al-Jāḥiẓ and al-Muḥāsibī on Reason in Islam,” guest lecturer, Notre Dame’s Medieval Institute, October 2021

“al-Muḥāsibī and *The Essence of Reason: A Note on Authorship*,” Göttingen Orient Symposium, University of Goettingen, May 2021

“al-Jāḥiẓ’s Portrayal of the Rāfiḍa,” Orient Institute, Beirut, January 2021 [canceled due to Covid-19]

“Theology, Ideology and Polemic: The Image of the Rāfiḍa in al-Jāḥiẓ’s Corpus,” Interdisciplinary

Islamic Studies Seminar (IISS), University of Michigan, October 2020

“The Interaction between Mu‘tazilī and Imāmī Doctrines,” Arabic Lecture Series, New York University, May 2020 [canceled due to Covid-19]

“Full Texts, Split Moons, Eclipsed Narratives: The Literary History of a Cosmological Miracle,” guest lecturer, Notre Dame’s Medieval Institute, December 2018

“Jāhīzian Negotiations: The Image of the Rāfiḍa in Jāhīz’s Corpus,” guest lecturer, Notre Dame’s Islamic Studies Colloquium, September 2018

“The Interpretation of the Covenant Verse in Classical Imāmī Theology,” guest lecturer, Georgetown Graduate Association for Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, March 2017

“The Theology of the Qur’ān,” *Notre Dame*, March 2018

“The Concept of Knowledge (*‘ilm*) in Imāmī Scholastic Curricula,” guest lecturer, University of Chicago, March 2017

“Full Texts, Split Moons, Eclipsed Narratives,” Mellon Arts and Humanities Initiative, American University of Beirut, Spring 2016

“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

Refereed book manuscripts for: Cambridge University Press, I.B. Taurus

Refereed several articles for: *The Journal of Religion*, *MATHAL*, *Shi‘i Studies Review*, *al-Abḥāth*, *Arab Journal for the Humanities (AJH)*, *Journal of Shi‘a Islamic Studies*, *Methodos*

Member of the Middle Eastern/North African Studies Committee, Notre Dame

Refereed research grants for: American University of Sharjah (AUS)

Organized talks at Notre Dame: Mushegh Asatryan (April 2021), Matthew Melvin-Kouskhi (May 2021)

Spoke at Notre Dame's Arabic Club on Sunni and Shi'a Muslims (April 2018)

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

Advisory Work

Examiner, PhD Candidacy Oral Exam, Department of Theology, Notre Dame (Spring 2021)

Reader, PhD Dissertation, tentative title: "On the Epistemology of the Qur'an," Department of Theology, Notre Dame (Fall 2020-current)

Reader, PhD Dissertation, title: "Paradigmatic Criteria of Leadership in Islamic Thought: Subject-formation at Sunnī, Shī'ah, and Ṣūfī Crossroads," Department of Middle Eastern Asian and South Asian Studies, Columbia University (Fall 2019-current)

Reader, MA Thesis, title: "The Sacred Power of Obedience: The Ramifications of Taymiyyan Thought on *Baraka*," Department of Middle Eastern Studies, New York University (Spring 2020)

Examiner, MTS Oral Exam, Department of Theology, Notre Dame (Spring 2019)

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 (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 (2018)

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 EXPERIENCE

Graduate Level

Instructor, Islamic Studies Program, Columbia University

- Designed and taught: “Advanced Themes in Islamic Theology” (Fall 2019)

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)

Undergraduate Level

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Formation of the Modern Middle East” (Spring 2021)

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Introduction to Islamic Culture” (Spring 2021)

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Miracles in Islamic Theology and Arabic Literature” (Spring 2019)

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Modern Arab Thought” (Fall 2018, Fall 2020)

Instructor, Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame

- Designed and taught: “Struggle in the Heart of Islam” (Spring 2019, Fall 2020)

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

The Mahdi Fellow, The Middle East Institute, Columbia University—Fall 2019

World Award for Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran (2019)

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