



2017–2018

# PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

YEAR IN REVIEW











# Contents

---

3	Message from the Faculty Director
5	Event Highlights
11	2017-18 Courses
15	Alwaleed Professorship Activity Report
21	2017-18 Faculty Steering Committee
27	Alwaleed Fellows
31	Student Coordinators
32	Alwaleed Program Team

**Cover:** Illuminated Qur'an folio copied by Arghun al-Kamili, Baghdad, Iraq 1340  
from Turk ve Islam Eserleri Muzesi, Istanbul, courtesy of Harvard College Library



## Director's Message

**W**HEN THE ALWALEED BIN TALAL ISLAMIC Studies Program was established twelve years ago, the University's Provost, Steven Hyman, declared that "For a university with global aspirations, it is critical that Harvard have a strong program on Islam that is worldwide and interdisciplinary in scope." As the fourth director of this distinguished program, I view it as my mission to work toward the achievement of that aspiration. As will be evident from this document—which reports on the program's activities during the previous academic year under my immediate predecessor, Professor William Graham—I begin my tenure with something of a head start.

The 2017-2018 academic year was what sports fans might call a "rebuilding year" for the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program. In it, Professor Graham revived the program's activities after a brief hiatus, revitalized the faculty steering committee with broader representation from across Harvard's many schools and faculties, and devised a strategic plan that will guide our activities and initiatives for the next several years. Some of the milestones of the last year include a conference on Islam and toleration; a highly-attended panel on Islam and democracy as part of Harvard's Worldwide week; and several cosponsored events across the University. It is not an exaggeration to say that 2017-2018 was the year in which many in the Harvard community rediscovered the important work of the Alwaleed Program.

I do not take for granted the forward momentum that I have inherited. Therefore, this year sees the establishment of several initiatives to further the study of Islam at Harvard, and to bring the Alwaleed Program more fully into the intellectual lives of our students and faculty. The first initiative is a regular research seminar on Islamic studies, to be led by Professor Shady Nasser of the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (along with a graduate student coordinator, and NELC doctoral candidate, Farah El-Sharif). This seminar will bring to campus leading scholars of Islamic studies and provide opportunities for our faculty and graduate students to engage with the best research on Islam and Muslim societies being conducted outside of Harvard. The second initiative is a junior faculty research grants program, which allows the program to be an integral part of catalyzing the next generation of cutting-edge scholarship on Islam. Projects funded under this initiative include a workshop on the latest findings in the field of Qur'anic studies; a book manuscript on the evolution of the study of Islamic history during the colonial and post-colonial periods; and an innovative research project on the ways in which colors take on political meanings in the Arabian Gulf, and the implications this has for the built landscapes of the region.

In addition to these two larger, research-focused initiatives, this year will also see the inauguration





of activities aimed toward our students and the general public. The first is an undergraduate thesis prize for Harvard students in the humanities and social sciences whose work advances our understanding of Muslim religion, politics, history, and culture. The second is an annual Alwaleed Bin Talal Lecture on Islam in the World, which each year will bring to campus a public figure—such a public servant, civic leader, or public intellectual—to address a broad audience on issues of general concern surrounding Islam and Muslims.

The list above is not exhaustive, and next year's annual report will hopefully include accounts of activities and plans that are currently in early stages of conception. But it is my hope that, by undertaking the combination of research, outreach, and student-centered activities outlined here, we will have demonstrated the gains to be had from an Islamic studies program that is, to recapitulate Hyman's words, strong, worldwide, and interdisciplinary in scope.

Just as I and the Alwaleed Program team are the beneficiaries of the tremendous preparatory work done by Professor Graham, so too are we the beneficiaries of support from leaders of this University and its various faculties. In particular, I record my thanks, on behalf of the entire Islamic studies community, to Vice Provost for International Affairs

Mark Elliott; University Provost Alan Garber; Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, David Hempton; Dean of the Faculty of Government Douglas Elmendorf; Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration Nitin Nohria; and Dean of the Faculty of Design, Mohsen Mostafavi. With their advice, guidance, and generous financial support, these individuals have demonstrated powerfully Harvard's abiding commitment to the study of Islam.

Finally, none of what we do would be possible without the tremendous Islamic studies faculty at Harvard. From our former faculty directors, Bill Graham, Ali Asani, and Roy Mottahedeh, to our three Alwaleed Bin Talal Professors, Malika Zeghal, Ousmane Kane, and David Roxburgh, to energetic members of our steering committee such as Kristin Fabbe, Salmaan Keshavjee, Ahmed Ragab, Leila Ahmed, Gareth Doherty, Khaled El-Rouayheb, Gulru Necipoglu Kafadar, and Shady Nasser—these scholars constitute a near inexhaustible fund of intellectual capital on which the program is most privileged to be able to draw. I cannot exaggerate how excited I am to work with them to grow this program, and to deliver on the promise and potential that animated the founding of the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program twelve years ago.

— *Professor Tarek Masoud,*  
*Harvard Kennedy School of Government*



# Event Highlights

## YEAR-LONG EVENT SERIES:

### Alwaleed Supper Colloquium for Islamic Studies

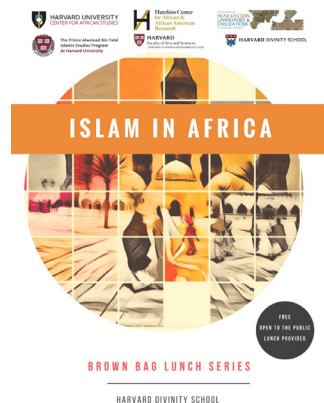
The Alwaleed Supper Colloquium for Islamic Studies met on the first Monday of each month during the fall and spring semesters as a forum for Harvard Islamic studies faculty to present their current research.

#### COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE:

- **Monday, October 2, 2017**  
Ahmed Ragab, Richard T. Watson Associate Professor of Science and Religion, Harvard Divinity School  
*"Piety and Patienthood in Medieval Islam"*
- **Monday, November 6, 2017**  
Nancy Smith-Hefner, Department of Anthropology, Boston University  
*"Islamizing Intimacies: Romantic Love and Conjugal Projects in Contemporary Java"*
- **Monday, December 4, 2017**  
William Graham and Shady Nasser, Harvard University, *"Personal and Social Aspects of Traditional Transmission Mechanisms in Classical Islam"*
- **Monday, February 5, 2018**  
Rodrigo Adem, College Fellow, Department of History, Harvard University  
*"Historicizing Qur'anic 'Ambiguity': A Theological Challenge to Scriptural Exegesis"*
- **April 2, 2018**  
Malika Zeghal, Harvard University  
*"Constitutionalizing the Muslim State: Issues, Agreements, and Disagreements"*

## ISLAM IN AFRICA BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

Last year, the Alwaleed Program co-sponsored Professor Ousmane Kane's lecture series that provided students an opportunity to learn about the research of scholars from Harvard and other universities on a range of topics related to Islam in Africa. Presenters included Professor Kane himself, who spoke about his ongoing research on the West African diaspora in the United States, Kimberly Wortmann (Wake Forest University), who spoke about Omani Religions Institutions in Contemporary Tanzania, Professor Alex Thurston (Georgetown University) who spoke about Boko Haram, Professor Sarah Eltantawi (Evergreen State College) who spoke about Islamic penal law in Nigeria, Darren Kew (University of Massachusetts) who spoke about intra- and interfaith peacebuilding among Muslims in Nigeria, Ayodeji Ogunnaike (Ph.D. student, Harvard University) who spoke about his research on Islam, Christianity and traditional religions in Africa and Sana Camara (Truman State University) who spoke about Sheikh Ahmadu Bamba and the Poetics of Exile.





## FALL 2017 EVENTS:

### Research Methods in Islamic Studies Workshop

On Friday, September 29, 2017, the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program and SHARIAsource: Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School co-sponsored an interdisciplinary workshop on research methods and academic resources for the study of Islam and Muslim societies. This annual workshop is organized by a Harvard graduate student in Islamic studies. Ari Schriber, a doctoral student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, was the student organizer of the 2017 workshop.

### New Directions in the Study of Islamic Scholarship Conference

On October 5-6, 2017, the Alwaleed Program co-sponsored Professor Ousmane Kane's interdisciplinary conference on Islamic scholarship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Scholars presented their research on literary culture in Arabic and other African languages written in the Arabic script in Muslim Africa and challenged historically-dominant narratives about Muslim and African erudition. Themes explored were the role of sub-Saharan Africans as students and teachers; the role of Ajami in the transmission of sophisticated knowledge; the study of Islamic scholarship in Africa beyond literacy and orality; Islamic cosmopolitanism in Africa; and the role of information and communication technology (ICT) in the reconfiguration of knowledge transmission.



### Islam and Democracy

On October 24, 2017, The Ash Center for Democratic Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School and The Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program co-sponsored a cross-disciplinary panel discussion on the intersection of Islam and democracy across the Muslim world as part of Worldwide Week at Harvard. Convened by Professor Tarek Masoud, the panel of experts included: Professor Kristin E. Fabbe of Harvard Business School; Sophie Lemièrre, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; Andrew F. March, Berggruen Fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics; and Roy P. Mottahedeh, Gurney Research Professor of History, *Emeritus*.



PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL  
ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM  
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

HARVARD Kennedy School  
ASH CENTER  
for Democratic Governance  
and Innovation

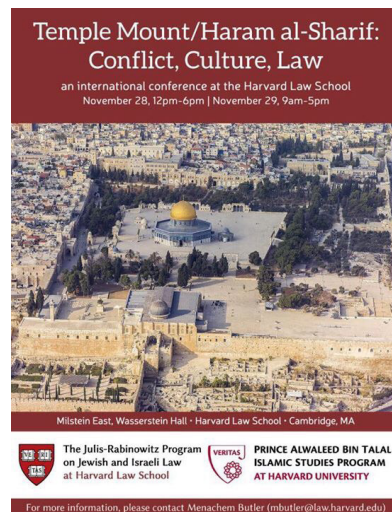


## Investing in the Middle East

On November 12, 2017, the Alwaleed Program sponsored a roundtable discussion on investing in the MENA region at the Arab Conference at Harvard Business School organized by the Harvard Arab Alumni Association. Panelists included Ahmad Zuaier (Partner, Jadara Capital), Dr. Rania Al-Mashat (Minister of Tourism, Egypt), Soundouss Bouhia (Senior Advisor, Royal Cabinet of Morocco). This roundtable was moderated by Shafika Khayatt (Principal, Booma Solutions).

## Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif: Conflict, Culture, Law

Organized by Professor Noah Feldman of Harvard Law School, on November 28 - 29, 2017, the Julis-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law at Harvard Law School and the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program co-sponsored an international academic conference on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif complex in Jerusalem. This conference brought together art historians, theologians, political scientists, historians, and legal experts to address the politics and conflicts that arise out of this sacred shared space.



## Panel Book Talk: Justice and Leadership in Early Islamic Courts

A panel discussion organized by the Harvard Law School Library on the release of *Justice and Leadership in Early Islamic Courts* (Harvard University Press, 2017) by Intisar A. Rabb, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, the Director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, the Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Harvard University Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and Professor of History in the Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences; and Abigail Krasner Balbale, Assistant Professor of the Cultural History of the Islamic World at Bard Graduate Center. Panelists include William A. Graham, Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies, and University Distinguished Service Professor, and Director, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program, Harvard University; Cemal Kafadar, Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, Harvard University Department of History; and Ahmed El Shamsy, Senior Visiting fellow, Harvard Law School Islamic Legal Studies Program – SHARIASource, and Associate Professor of Islamic Thought, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, The University of Chicago. The talk was co-sponsored with the International Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, the Harvard University Department of History, the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University, and the Harvard Muslim Law Students Association.



## When the elders of Zion Relocated to Eurabia: Conspiratorial Racialisation in Antisemitism and Islamophobia

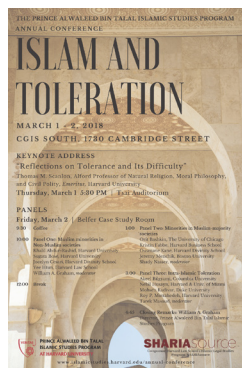
On Thursday, November 30, 2017, Dr. Reza Zia-Ebrahimi, Senior Lecturer in History, Kings College London, presented his research on the intersection of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe. This event was co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School.



## SPRING 2018 EVENTS:

### Islam and Toleration

The Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program hosted a conference on Islam and Toleration on March 1-2, 2018 with a keynote lecture by Thomas M. Scanlon, Alford Professor of Natural Religion, Moral Philosophy, and Civil Polity, Emeritus, Harvard University. This interdisciplinary conference aimed to explore the concepts and realities of toleration in the Islamic tradition with a focus on contemporary work, from Asia and Africa to Europe and



the United States. The conference featured speakers from across Harvard University, University of Chicago, Columbia University, Duke University, and University of Miami. This conference was co-sponsored by Harvard Law School's Islamic Legal Studies Program: SHARIAsource. Complete conference videos can be found at [www.islamic-studies.harvard.edu/islam-tolerance](http://www.islamic-studies.harvard.edu/islam-tolerance)

### Bardic Divas

On March 6, 2018 the Alwaleed Program co-sponsored a celebration of women's music making in Central Asia featuring the performers of "Qyrq Qyz" (Forty Girls) was a retelling of a Central Asian heroic epic in which the main heroes are female—young women whose equestrian skills, valor, and military prowess call to mind the legendary Amazons described by ancient Greek geographers and historians. This event was hosted by the Harvard Music Department and the Aga Khan Music Initiative.





## Annual Nowruz Celebration

Co-sponsored with the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the Harvard Semitic Museum, the Alwaleed Program hosted the 12th Annual Nowruz Celebration of Persian culture and heritage on March 20, 2018, the Persian New Year.



## 2nd Annual Black religion, Spirituality, and Culture Conference

On March 22 and 23, 2018, the Alwaleed Program co-sponsored a conference on the exploration of Black religion, spirituality, and culture across the Diaspora hosted by Harambee: Students of African Descent at Harvard Divinity School.

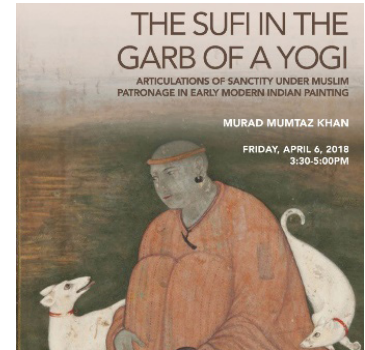


## The Sufi in the Garb of a Yogi: Articulations of Sanctity under Muslim Patronage in Early Modern Indian Painting

Co-sponsored with Harvard's Lakshmi Mittal and Family

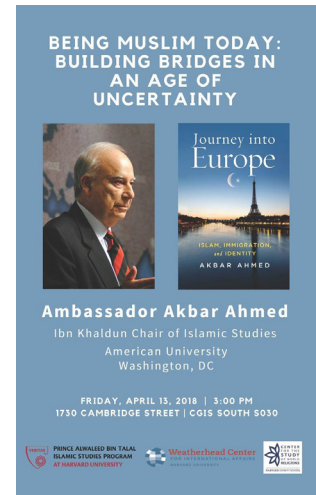
South Asia Institute,

on April 6, 2018, the Alwaleed Program welcomed artist Murad Khan Mumtaz who spoke on 16th and early-17th century album and manuscript paintings made for Muslim patrons where the Nāth yogi appears as an emblem and surrogate for the Islamic spiritual path of tasawwuf (Sufism), an archetype for the mystical traveler (sālik) and a figure of spiritual longing.



## Being Muslim Today: Building Bridges in an Age of Uncertainty

On April 13, 2018, the Alwaleed Program welcomed Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University, to speak on his latest book *Journey Into Europe: Islam, Immigration, and Identity* (Brookings, 2018). This event was co-sponsored by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Center for the Study of World Religions.



## The First Annual Symposium on Islam, Dialogue, and Sectarian De-Escalation at the Harvard Kennedy School

On April 14 – 15, 2018, the Alwaleed Program sponsored a symposium on Islam and Sectarian De-escalation that gathered a diversity of voices from leading scholars, religious authorities, civic community leaders, and policymakers alike to push forward analytical understanding and dialogue on the pressing topic of sectarianism in the Muslim world. The symposium was organized by the Iran Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School.

**The First Annual Symposium on Islam, Dialogue, and Sectarian De-Escalation at Harvard Kennedy School**

**DATES**  
Saturday, April 14  
Sunday, April 15

**LOCATION**  
The Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS)  
1730 Cambridge Street / Tsai Auditorium

**Speakers:**

- Sheikh Fadhil Al-Sabahi, Representative of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani
- Lukman Fally, Former Iraq Ambassador to the United States
- Imam Mohamad Baqir Asadi, Founder, CEGP
- Seyed Ammar Rahbarani, Iran Project associate
- Farah Pandith, Former U.S. Special Representative to Muslim Communities
- Imam Khalid Naze, Islamic Center of New England
- Hussein Kalout, Special Secretary for Strategic Affairs of the Brazilian Government
- Dalay Khan, Executive Director of the Women's Islamic Initiative in Sexuality and Equality
- Mehdi Hassan, Columnist, The Intercept
- Mustafa Akyol, Senior Visiting Fellow, The Friedman Project, Wellesley College

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Full schedule & RSVP at [belfercenter.org/IslamSymposium](http://belfercenter.org/IslamSymposium)

**ORGANIZER**  
HARVARD Kennedy School  
**BELFER CENTER**  
for Science and International Affairs  
The Iran Project

**SPONSORS**  
The Leila M. and South Asia Institute  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY ASIA CENTER  
CGIS  
Pew Research Center  
Harvard Divinity School

## The Conquests of Kisirwan: Ibn Taymiyya and a Claimed-as-Twelve-Shi'i Past

On April 25, 2018, the Alwaleed Program hosted a lecture by Dr. Samer El-Karanshawy, the Carnegie Centennial Fellow at the School of Public Affairs, American University, Washington D.C. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and chaired by Roy Mottahedeh, Professor *Emeritus* of History at Harvard University.



## For the love of books: Symposium in honor of Aron Zysow

On May 6, 2018, the Alwaleed Program, in cooperation with the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, sponsored a seminar organized by visiting professor Ahmed El Shamsy (University of Chicago) in honor of Professor Aron Zysow, a distinguished scholar of Islamic legal history. Participants included: Aron Zysow, Peri Bearman, Kevin Reinhart, Brinkley Messick, Joseph Lowry, Himmet Taskomur, Joseph Witztum, and Ahmed El Shamsy.



# Fall 2017 Course List

Select courses on Islam  
and the Muslim world

(Mis)Understanding Islam Today	<i>Bilal Malik</i>	This course grapples with key controversies –suicide bombings, blasphemy, gender, Muslim minorities, Islamism – as a point of entry into understanding Muslim cultures and societies.
Child Sacrifice, Pros and Cons: The Binding of Isaac in Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Modern Lit	<i>David Stern</i>	Child Sacrifice-- specifically, the story of the parent's sacrifice of the first-born child-- lies at the heart of Western religion and culture. This course will use the interpretive career and literary history of Genesis 22 as a lens through which to study the place of this foundational narrative in Western culture.
Muslim Voices in Contemporary World Literatures	<i>Ali S. Asani</i>	What do Muslims think of acts of terrorism committed in the name of Islam, the mixing of religion with politics, the rights of women, the “West”? This seminar investigates the viewpoints of prominent Muslim writers on these and other “hot button” issues as reflected in novels, short stories and poetry from different parts of the world.
Visual Culture of the Ottoman Empire Between East and West (15th-17th Centuries)	<i>Gulru Necipoglu-Kafadar</i>	Examines the visual culture of the Ottoman Empire straddling three continents (Asia, Europe, Africa), together with cross-cultural artistic interactions with Western and Asian Islamic courts (Safavid Iran, Mughal India).
Revolution and Politics in Contemporary Iran	<i>Payam Mohseni</i>	This course examines the intricacies of Iranian politics since the 1979 revolution.
The Medieval Mediterranean: Conflict and Unity, Tradition and Innovation	<i>Rodrigo Adem</i>	This undergraduate seminar treats the medieval Mediterranean as a matrix of civilizational confluence, conflict, and transformation.
Ottoman State and Society I (1300-1550)	<i>Cemal Kafadar</i>	Surveys the emergence of the Ottoman state from a frontier principality into a world empire in its social, political and cultural dimensions.
Architecture and the Construction of Early Modern Islamic Empire: Proseminar	<i>Gulru Necipoglu-Kafadar</i>	Explores connections between empire building and architecture, with respect to aesthetics, religion, imperial ideology, and theories of dynastic legitimacy.

# Fall 2017 Course List *continued*

<b>Introduction to Islamic Philosophy and Theology: The Modern Period (19th and 20th centuries)</b>	<i>Khaled El-Rouayheb</i>	The course explores the thought of some of the major Islamic philosophers and theologians in the 19th and 20th centuries: Muhammad Abduh, Muhammad Iqbal, Said Nursi, Abu l-Ala Maududi, Sayyid Qutb, Ali Shariati, Murtaza Mutahheri and AbdolKarim Soroush.
<b>Qur'anic Exegesis and Prophetic Tradition</b>	<i>Shady Nasser</i>	An introduction to Qur'anic exegesis and prophetic tradition (Hadith). The course introduces the discipline of Hadith and the role it plays in Qur'anic commentary.
<b>Middle Eastern Politics and Policy</b>	<i>Tarek Masoud</i>	This course explores the major political, economic, social, and security challenges facing — and emanating from — the Middle East. Particular attention paid to the causes of the so-called Arab Spring and the prospects for genuine democratization.
<b>Critical Perspectives on the Dynamics and Development of Islam in Africa</b>	<i>Ousmane Oumar Kane</i>	An estimated 450 to 500 million Muslims live in Africa—close to a third of the global Muslim population. The course is designed to provide an understanding of the spread of Islam and the formation and transformation of Muslim societies in Africa.
<b>Aristotle's De Interpretatione: The Greek and Arabic Reception</b>	<i>Khaled El-Rouayheb Russell Jones</i>	A close reading of Aristotle's De Interpretatione, together with select Greek and Arabic commentaries (foremost those of Ammonius and Al-Farabi), with a view to understanding it on its own terms as well as the uses to which it was put by the commentators.
<b>Apocalyptic Literature from the Second Temple period to Byzantium and Early Islam</b>	<i>Giovanni Bazzana</i>	The course will review a broad sample of texts belonging to the apocalyptic genre and composed between the third century BCE and the seventh century CE.
<b>Introduction to Islamic Mystical Traditions</b>	<i>Ali S. Asani</i>	This course offers an introductory survey of mystical traditions of Islam, popularly labelled as "Sufism."
<b>Introduction to Islamic Law</b>	<i>Intisar Rabb</i>	This course will survey Islamic law (shari'a) in historical and comparative modern contexts. We will approach Islamic law through a lens of comparative law and legal history, to explore (a) the basic sources and methods of interpretation in classical Islamic law, and (b) the appeal to and re-assertion of Islamic law today.



# Spring 2018 Course List

<b>For the Love of God and His Prophet: Religion, Literature, and the Arts in Muslim Cultures</b>	<i>Ali S. Asani</i>	The course surveys the literary and artistic dimensions of the devotional life of the world's Muslim communities, focusing on the role of literature and the arts (poetry, music, architecture, calligraphy, etc.) as expressions of piety and socio-political critique.
<b>Islamicate Societies to 1500</b>	<i>Rodrigo Adem</i>	This course surveys the history of societies where Islam was culturally dominant from the 7th to the 15th century.
<b>Ottoman State and Society II (1550-1920)</b>	<i>Cemal Kafadar</i>	Surveys the transformations of the Ottoman order in the Middle East and southeastern Europe in the early modern era and in the long nineteenth century until the demise of the state.
<b>Syria: History, Politics, and Religion</b>	<i>Rodrigo Adem</i>	This course spans Syria's political history from the genesis of Islam to the foundation of Syria as a modern nation state.
<b>Early Print Culture: Representations of the Islamic East</b>	<i>Gulru Necipoglu-Kafadar Joseph Koerner</i>	Explores depictions of the Islamic East by European printmakers circa 1450 - 1600 and reciprocal construction of "Europe" through these and other depictions. Focuses on original objects in Harvard's collections.
<b>Andalus, Sicily, and the Maghrib in Literary and Cultural Texts: Seminar</b>	<i>William Granara</i>	Literary and historical texts of the Arabo-Islamic cultures of Spain (al-Andalus), Sicily, and North Africa. Examines the emergence of a "Maghribi" identity amidst cross-cultural relations with the Christian North and the Muslim East.
<b>Arabic Philosophical Texts: Seminar</b>	<i>Khaled El-Rouayheb</i>	Readings on selected topics in Islamic philosophy.

# Spring 2018 Course List *continued*

Islamic Theological Texts: Seminar	<i>Khaled El-Rouayheb</i>	Readings on selected topics in Islamic theology.
Early and Medieval Islamic History, 600-1500	<i>Nebil Husayn</i>	This course will survey Islamic history from the rise of Islam to the end of the 15th century.
Islam, Modernity and Politics	<i>Ousmane Oumar Kane</i>	The aim of this seminar is to study the evolution of Islamic thought and political practices in Muslim societies from the 19th to the early 21st centuries.
Muslim Societies in South Asia: Religion, Culture, and Identity	<i>Ali S. Asani</i>	South Asia (India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh) is home to the largest concentration of Muslims in the world. This course introduces students to a variety of issues that have characterized the development and evolution of South Asian Muslim communities.
Islam and Religious Diversity	<i>Nicholas Boylston</i>	Focusing primarily on pre-modern Islam, this course invites students to investigate perspectives on the religious other in the Quran, Islamic law, theology, philosophy and Sufism.
Love, Sanctity and Authority: An Introduction to Shii Islam	<i>Nicholas Boylston</i>	After examining the historical contexts in which these three branches Shii Islam (Twelver, Ismaili and Zaydi) arose, the course will address Shia theologies, rituals, law, spiritualities and notions of authority, comparing views across the three branches and highlighting their internal differences through history.





## ALWALEED PROFESSORSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

# Ousmane Kane

Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society

### IN THE 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR, PROFESSOR

Kane continued his critical work on Islamic political and intellectual history. Through his research, Professor Kane is uncovering the history of Islam in under-studied sub-Saharan African and challenging traditional narratives about the region. In addition to conducting research and writing, Professor Kane remains highly engaged with students at Harvard both inside and outside the classroom.

In September 2017, Professor Kane delivered the C. Mildred Thompson lecture at Vassar College entitled, “Islamic Education in Africa” in which he spoke about his most recent book, *Beyond Timbuktu: An Intellectual History of Muslim West Africa*. In January 2018, he participated in a symposium on Islamic scholarship in Africa at Northwestern University where shared a panel with Charles Stewart, Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on “Rethinking Timbuktu: Revisionist Approaches.” He also delivered the keynote lecture at the conference on “The Qur’an, the Prophet and Islamic Ethics: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on adab, akhlaq, and the ‘ulum al-din” organized by the IKHLAS Initiative of the University of Michigan and

the Institut islamique du Senegal, Dakar Senegal. Professor Kane also expanded his reach to the podcast world when he appeared as a guest on the Ottoman History Podcast in August 2017. In that episode, he discussed Islam in West African history with Harvard students and podcast hosts, Abdul Latif (HDS) and Shireen Hamza (History of Science). In October 2017, Professor Kane convened a conference on “New Directions in the Study of Islamic Scholarship” at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. In this interdisciplinary conference, scholars presented their research on literary culture in in Arabic and other African languages written in the Arabic script in Muslim Africa and challenged historically-dominant narratives about Muslim and African erudition.

Professor Kane also held a Brown Bag Lecture Series on Islam in Africa, an opportunity for students to learn about the research of scholars from Harvard and other universities on a range of topics. Presenters included Professor Kane himself, who spoke about his ongoing research on the West African diaspora in the United States, Kimberly Wortmann (Wake Forest University), who spoke about Omani Religions Institutions in

Contemporary Tanzania, Professor Alex Thurston (Georgetown University) who spoke about Boko Haram and Professor Sarah Eltantawi (Evergreen State College) who spoke about Islamic penal law in Nigeria, among others.

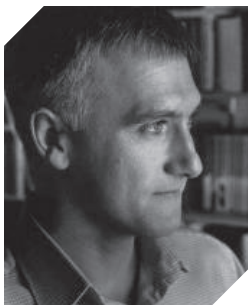
Professor Kane wrote a number of book reviews in the past year. These include a review for Zachary Wright's book, *Living Knowledge in West African Islam: The Sufi Community of Ibrahim Niasse*, Roman Loimeier's *Islamic Reform in Twentieth Century Africa* and Sarah Eltantawi's *Shari'ah on Trial: Northern Nigeria's Islamic Revolution*. He also published articles entitled, "Ahmad Baba et la Traite des Esclaves" in Institut du Monde Arabe in *De Tombouctou à Zanzibar, Islams Africains*, "Challenging Binaries, Crossing Boundaries" in *Harvard Divinity Bulletin* and "L'érudition islamique en Afrique occidentale" in *Afrkika ada Islamiyet: Dunu Bugunu, Yarini* by Ahmet Kavas et al.

Through Harvard Divinity School and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Professor Kane taught courses that included "Critical Perspectives on the Dynamics and Development of Islam in Africa" and "Islam, Modernity and Politics." He also co-taught a course on "Spiritual Cultivation in Islam" for those who plan to provide pastoral care to Muslims, with Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Harvard's first Muslim Chaplain to the University, who joined Harvard last year after a search led by Professor Kane. In summer 2018, Professor Kane led a study abroad trip to Dakar, Senegal, in which undergraduate students had the opportunity to study and experience the religion and culture

of Francophone Africa. Professor Kane continues to advise many doctoral students in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences as well as MTS and MDiv students at Harvard Divinity School.

In addition to his role in the classroom, Professor Kane continued to serve as a spiritual counselor to Muslim students at Harvard Divinity School. In this capacity, he began holding a weekly *dhikr* gathering for students in his home on Friday evenings.

In 2018-19, Professor Kane continues to hold his Islam in Africa brown bag lecture series and held a conference on West Africa and the Maghreb in September 2018. His forthcoming publications include the article, *Les médias privés et la lutte pour la démocratie au Sénégal : Compte rendu de Sidi Lamine Niasse*, Sidi Lamine Niasse, *L'Etranger parmi les siens. Compilation, confrontation civilisationnelle, soucis d'une communauté, trajectoire* for the *African Review of Books*, a book review for Michael Gomez's *African Dominion: A New History of Empire in Early and Medieval West Africa* for the *American Historical Review* and a new book entitled, *Islamic Scholarship in Africa: New Directions and Global Contexts*.



#### ALWALEED PROFESSORSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

## David Roxburgh

Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Islamic Art History,  
Department of History of Art and Architecture

### IN THE 2017-18 ACADEMIC YEAR, PROFESSOR

Roxburgh took a sabbatical to focus on writing, speaking engagements, and exhibitions. Themes of his recent work have included art in Iran, books as art and the impact of emerging technologies.

Professor Roxburgh's most recent book, *Technologies of the Image: Art in 19th-Century Iran*, which he edited with Mary McWilliams, was released in 2017. The book focuses on the historically underappreciated art of Qajar Iran (1779-1925) and the effect of new technologies on various mediums, particularly lacquer, painting and drawing on paper, lithography, and photography. Rather than viewing the work of Qajar artists through the ideals of their European contemporaries, Professor Roxburgh's book seeks to explore Qajar art on its own terms and through the lens of its creators.

Professor Roxburgh also produced a number of other publications including an article on "The Arts of the Book and Calligraphy, 1250–1450" that appeared in *A Companion to Islamic Art and Architecture* in 2017 and *An Album of Artists' Drawings from Qajar Iran* in 2017. The exhibition of *Technologies of the Image*—on view at Harvard Art Museums—and

its accompanying publications were reviewed by Robyn Creswell, "Persia's Hybrid Art," in the *New York Review of Books*, and Belle Cheves, "New Arts and New Audiences: Harvard's 'Technologies of the Image: Art in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Iran'" in *Ajam Media Collective*. Professor Roxburgh has five other articles that are completed and in press.

Professor Roxburgh delivered a number of lectures and papers at conferences both locally and internationally. These included a lecture on "Painting after the Mass-Produced Image: Art in Nineteenth-Century Iran" as part of the Sydney Asian Art Series at the University of Sydney and a conversation with artist Khadim Ali at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, both in Sydney, Australia, in October 2017; the annual Schleuter Lecture on "The Life and Times of Calligrapher Sultan Ali Mashhadi: Arts of the Book and Literature in Late 15<sup>th</sup> Century Herat," at Lafayette College in Easton PA in November 2017; a lecture on "The Suez Canal Inauguration Ceremony: Egypt's Universal Exhibition," in the conference *Making Modernity in Nineteenth Century Islamic Art and Architecture* at the University of Indiana in March 2018; a lecture on "Islamic Diagrams: Introduction,"



in the conference *The Diagram Paradigm: Cross-Cultural Approaches*—which he co-organized with Professors Jeffrey Hamburger and Linda Safran—at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C. in April 2018; a lecture on “Islamic Art as a Research Model for Doing Global Art History,” at the International Art Education Conference, Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing, China in November 2018, and a talk on “Illustrating Epic Poetry and History in Persian Manuscripts from the Mongols to the Timurids” in the Master Series sponsored by ABBVIE and WGBH Forum Network at the local Worcester Art Museum in Worcester, MA in November 2018.

Finally, Professor Roxburgh has curated exhibitions that have brought Iranian and Indian art to local museums. His exhibit on *Technologies of the Image: Art in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Iran*, co-curated with Mary McWilliams at the Harvard Art Museums, was on view from August 2017 until January 2018. At the Worcester Art Museum in Worcester, MA, he recently co-curated—with graduate student Hannah Hyden—an exhibit titled *Preserved Pages: Book as Art in Persia and India, c. 1300–1800*, a selection of rarely viewed works on paper in the permanent collection, that opened in mid-October 2018 and that is on display until January 2019.

Professor Roxburgh also has five additional articles that are soon to be published.





## ALWALEED PROFESSORSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

# Malika Zeghal

Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life,  
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

### MALIKA ZEGHAL IS THE PRINCE ALWALEED BIN

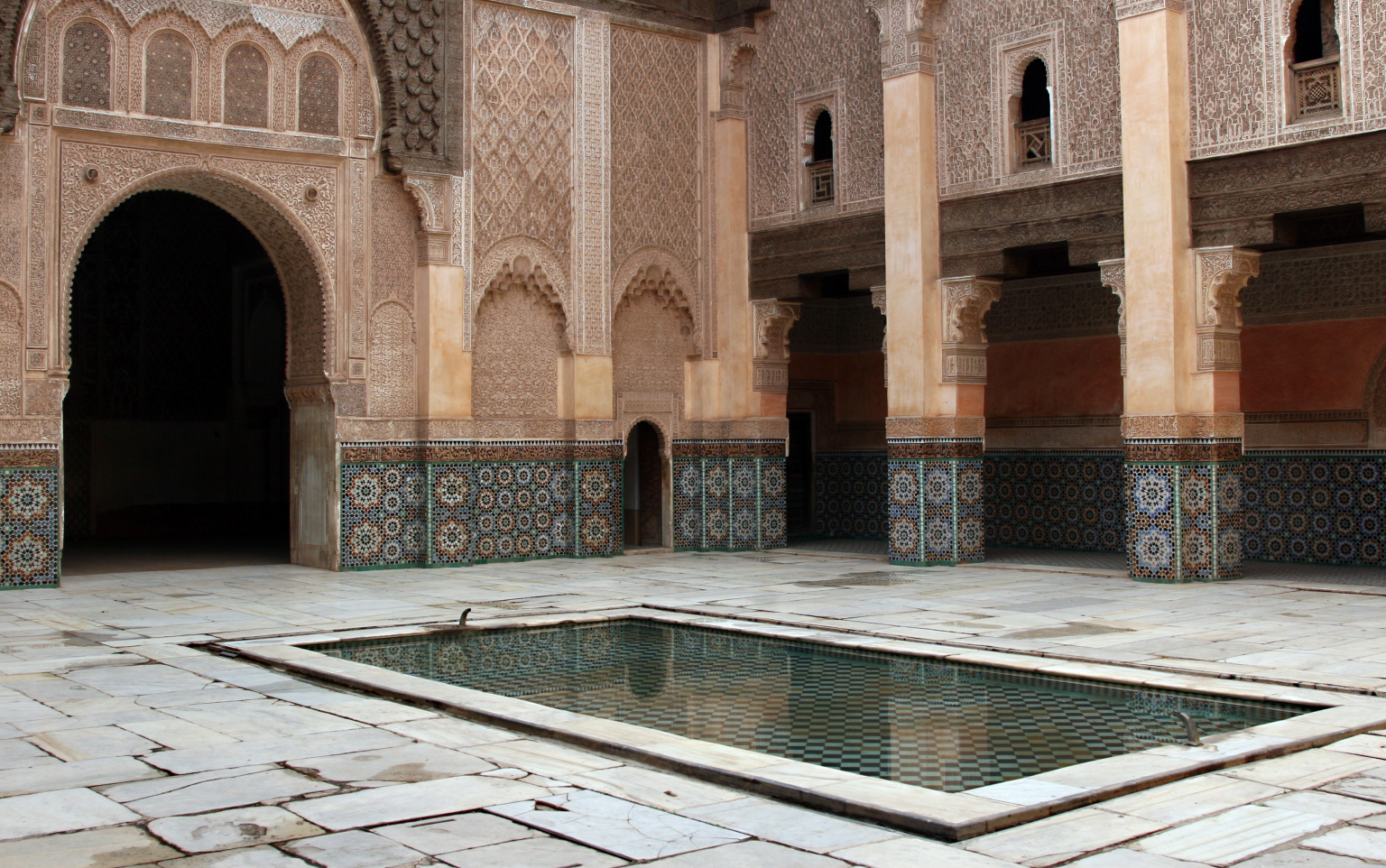
Talal Professor in Contemporary Islamic Thought and Life in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at Harvard University. She is also an Affiliated Professor of Government in the Government Department, and a member of the Committee on the Study of Religion. Her research focuses on the interaction between Islam and politics in the modern Middle East. She is particularly interested in studying the formation of modern Muslim states and their religious institutions, as well as the intellectual and political genealogies of Islamist movements in the region. She also has an interest in modern Islamic intellectual history in the Middle East, Europe and North America.

An alumna of the Ecole Normale Supérieure de la Rue d'Ulm (Paris, France), Malika Zeghal holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (1994). Before joining Harvard University in 2010, she was Associate Professor of the Anthropology and Sociology of Religion at the University of Chicago Divinity School. She is a Member of the Scientific Council of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters (Beit al-Hikma).

Malika Zeghal has published a study of the Egyptian ulama of al-Azhar since the 1950s and of their various forms of engagement with politics (*Gardiens de l'Islam. Les oulémas d'al-Azhar dans l'Egypte contemporaine* [Presses de Sciences Po, 1996]). She has also published a volume on Islam and politics in contemporary Morocco (*Islamism in Morocco: Religion, Authoritarianism, and Electoral Politics* [Markus Wiener, 2008]), which highlights in particular the role of Shaykh Yassine's political mysticism in the Islamist political opposition to the Moroccan monarchy, and has won the French Voices-Pen American Center Award. She has also edited a special issue of the *Revue des Mondes Musulmans et de la Méditerranée, Intellectuels de l'islam contemporain. Nouvelles générations, nouveaux débats* [123, 2008], on contemporary liberal Muslim thought. She is currently working on a book on Islam and the state in the Arab world in the modern period (19th-21st century), forthcoming at Princeton University Press.

With a team of graduate students in NELC, she is currently building a digital map of Islamic intellectual networks in the Maghrib and Egypt in the 1920s and 1930s. This project, called *Afkar*,





is supported by a Grant from the Lasky-Barajas Dean's Innovation Fund for Digital Arts and Humanities.

Professor Zeghal was on sabbatical for the 2017-18 academic year. She is currently working on a book on states, secularity, and Islam in the contemporary Arab world, forthcoming from Princeton University Press.





# Steering Committee

---



**Gareth Doherty**

Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design; Senior Research Associate, Harvard Graduate School of Design; Director of The Master in Landscape Architecture Program, Harvard Graduate School of Design

## **GARETH DOHERTY'S RESEARCH AND TEACHING**

focus on the intersections between landscape architecture, urbanism, and anthropology. His newest book, *Paradoxes of Green: Landscapes of a City-State*, is based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork and explores the landscapes of Bahrain, where green represents a plethora of implicit human values and exists in dialectical tension with other culturally and environmentally significant colors and hues.



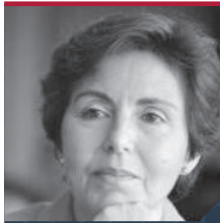
**William Granara**

Professor of the Practice of Arabic on the Gordon Gray Endowment; Director of Modern Language Programs, and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies

## **PROFESSOR GRANARA TEACHES ARABIC**

language and literature and directs the Arabic language program at Harvard University. He specializes in the history and culture of Muslim Sicily. Dr. Granara has written on cross-cultural encounters between Islam and Christendom throughout the Middle Ages, as well as the poetry of Ibn Hamdis, Sicily's most celebrated Arab poet.

# Steering Committee *continued*



**Gülru  
Necipoğlu**

Director of the Aga Khan Program of  
Islamic Architecture at Harvard  
Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art

**GÜLRU NECİPOĞLU SPECIALIZES IN THE ARTS** and architecture of the pre-modern Islamic world, with a focus on the Mediterranean and the eastern Islamic lands. She is interested in questions of aesthetic cosmopolitanism, transregional connectivity between early modern Islamicate empires (Ottoman, Safavid, Mughal), and cross-cultural artistic exchanges with Byzantium and Renaissance/Baroque Europe. Her studies have also addressed architectural practice, plans and drawings, aesthetics of abstraction and geometric design. Her critical concerns encompass methodological and historiographical issues in modern constructions of the field of Islamic art. and hues.



**Malika  
Zeghal**

Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor in  
Contemporary Islamic Thought and  
Life, Department of Near Eastern  
Languages and Civilizations  
Affiliated Professor of Govern-  
ment, Department of Government  
Member, Committee on the Study  
of Religion

**PROFESSOR ZEGHAL'S RESEARCH FOCUSES ON** the interaction between Islam and politics in the modern Middle East. She is particularly interested in studying the formation of modern Muslim states and their religious institutions, as well as the intellectual and political genealogies of Islamist movements in the region. She also has an interest in modern Islamic intellectual history in the Middle East, Europe and North America.

# Steering Committee *continued*

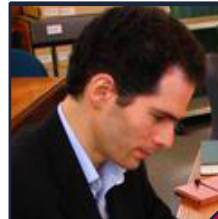


**Leila  
Ahmed**

Victor S. Thomas Professor  
of Divinity

## **LEILA AHMED CAME TO THE DIVINITY SCHOOL**

in 1999 as the first professor of women's studies in religion and was appointed to the Victor S. Thomas chair in 2003. Her latest book, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America*, has been widely acclaimed and was the winner of the Grawemeyer Award in Religion for 2012. Her current research and writing interests include Islam and gender in America, and issues of gender, race, and class in the Middle East in the late colonial era.



**Khaled  
El-Rouayheb**

James Richard Jewett Professor of  
Arabic and of Islamic Intellectual  
History

## **PROFESSOR EL-ROUAYHEB'S RESEARCH**

interests include: the intellectual and cultural history of the Arabic-Islamic world in the early-modern period (1500-1800); the history of Arabic logic; Islamic theology and philosophy. His publications include the three monographs: *Before Homosexuality in the Arabic-Islamic World, 1500-1800* (University of Chicago Press, 2005), translated into French (2010) and Slovenian (2012); *Relational Syllogisms & the History of Arabic Logic, 900-1900* (Brill, 2010) and *Islamic Intellectual History in the Seventeenth Century: Scholarly Currents in the Ottoman Empire and the Maghreb* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).



# Steering Committee *continued*



**DR. KESHAVJEE RECEIVED HIS SCM FROM THE** Harvard School of Public Health in 1993, his Ph.D. in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University in 1998, and his MD from Stanford University in 2001. He completed his clinician-scientist residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Social Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2005. In addition to his appointment with the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Dr. Keshavjee serves on the faculty of the Division of Global Health Equity (DGHE) at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). He is also an attending physician in the Department of Medicine at BWH.



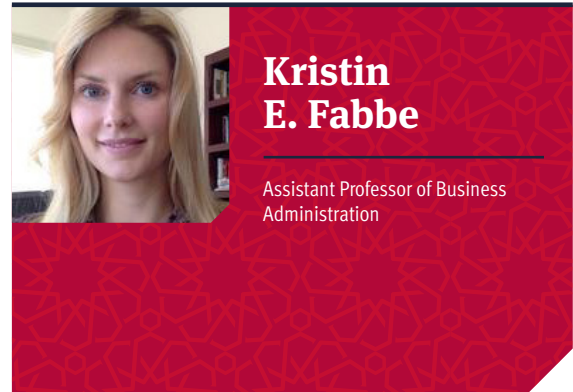
**PROFESSOR RAGAB IS A PHYSICIAN, A HISTORIAN** of science and medicine, and a scholar of science and religion. Ragab's work spans various fields and disciplines. He studies the history of science and medicine, science and religion and the development of cultures of science and cultures of religion in the Middle East and the Islamic World. He also studies various questions related to science and religion in the US with a focus on US Muslim communities.

# Steering Committee *continued*



## **PROF. ASANI HOLDS A JOINT APPOINTMENT**

between the Committee on the Study of Religion and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He also serves on the faculty of the Departments of South Asian Studies and African and African-American Studies. A specialist of Islam in South Asia, Professor Asani's research focuses on Shia and Sufi devotional traditions in the region. In addition, he studies popular or folk forms of Muslim devotional life, and Muslim communities in the West.



## **KRISTIN FABBE IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

in the Business, Government, and International Economy Unit. Her primary expertise is in comparative politics, with a regional focus on the Middle East and southeastern Europe, particularly Turkey. Kristin is co-chair for the study group on Colonial Encounters and Divergent Development Trajectories in the Mediterranean at Center for European Studies at Harvard and a faculty affiliate at the Middle East Initiative at the John F. Kennedy School of Government's Belfer Center.

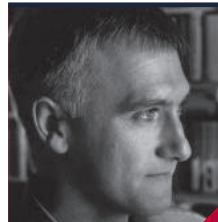
# Steering Committee *continued*



**Shady  
H. Nasser**

Assistant Professor of Near Eastern  
Languages and Civilizations

**PROFESSOR NASSER TEACHES ARABIC** literature and Islamic Civilizations courses. His research interest is Qur'anic studies in general with particular focus on the history of the transmission of the text, its language, and its reception among the early Muslim community. Pre-Islamic and early Islamic poetry, Akhbār Literature, and Hadith transmission, are also among Nasser's research interests.



**David  
Roxburgh**

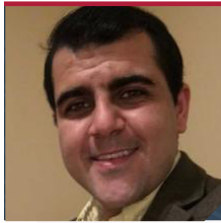
Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of  
Islamic Art History, Department of  
History of Art and Architecture

**PROFESSOR ROXBURGH HAS PURSUED** interests including aesthetics and the history of reception—and approaches to the study of art history. He has focused on primary written sources, manuscript painting, art of the book, calligraphy, Timurid art and architecture, exchanges between China and the Islamic lands, travel narratives, and histories of collecting, exhibitions, and museums. He is currently working on two books: the first on the study of Medieval Iranian architecture through the archive of Myron Bement Smith; the second on art and literature in Herat in the early 1400s.



# 2017-18 Fellows

---



**Nariman  
Aavani**

**NARIMAN AAVANI IS A PH.D. STUDENT IN**

the Comparative Study of Religion at Harvard University, studying Islamic and South Asian philosophical traditions. He is particularly interested in the relationship between topics at the intersection of ethics and the study of self and subjectivity. Mr. Aavani is also working on a second research project on the historical development of ontology in post-Avicennan Islamic philosophy, theology and theoretical Sufism, with a focus on the development of the theory of the primacy of being.

Mr. Aavani received his Master of Theological Studies in Comparative Studies (Hinduism and Islam) from Harvard Divinity School in 2016. He also holds a Master's in Islamic Studies from The George Washington University (2014) and completed his Bachelor's in Philosophy at the University of Tehran (2011).

*Within the last year, my scholarship on ethics and subjectivity in Islamic and South Asian philosophical traditions has matured significantly. Given that this project requires significant philological skill, I have continued to develop my proficiency in Sanskrit and Ancient Greek, which will prove essential to my access to primary sources. I have also continued to develop the philosophical aspects of my project by taking courses in the Philosophy Department. My specialized work in Islamic philosophy is also progressing well, and I will be presented a paper entitled "From Natural Universal to Absolute Existence: Jami's Place in the Historical Development of Islamic Ontology" at the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting in November.*

**—Nariman Aavani**

# 2017-18 Fellows *continued*



**LUCY BALLARD IS A PH.D. STUDENT IN THE STUDY of Religion**, whose interests lie at the intersection of contemporary Islamic studies, religious life in the United States, and conversion studies. Her work focuses on the racial politics of conversion and discourses of whiteness within American Muslim communities with particular attention to ethical pedagogies and embodied practice. Ms. Ballard received her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, where she completed an ethnographic study of Muslim life in rural Appalachia and an honors thesis contextualizing the work of Tariq Ramadan. She also holds a Master of Theological Studies in Islamic Studies from Harvard Divinity School.

*During the last academic year, I was involved in a variety of projects and professional opportunities that stimulated my scholarly growth at the intersections of contemporary Islamic studies and the study of religious life in the United States. In addition to my ongoing participation in two Harvard-sponsored colloquiums—the “North American Religions Colloquium” (NARC) and “Middle East: Beyond Borders” (MEBB)—I served as a panel moderator for the first student-led symposium at Harvard Divinity School on the study of Islam, women, and gender, entitled “Beyond Bans, Beyond Walls.” The panel, which included Professor Zahra Ayubi of Dartmouth College and Professor Ahmed Ragab of Harvard Divinity School, examined historiographical approaches in the study of Muslim women as well as the roles and experiences of Muslim women in the academy. Setting the stage for my dissertation research, I began preliminary ethnographic work with a small Boston-area support group and study circle for female Muslim converts, a field site which has thus far yielded critical insights into how converts to Islam experience, imbibe, embody,*



*and (re)produce Islamic knowledges in accordance with intersectional identities of race, class, gender, national origin, marital status, and age. Additionally, I completed collaborative research for the Religious Literacy Project’s ongoing “Religion in United States History” initiative, which seeks to provide accessible educational materials for K-12 teachers on where and how to incorporate critical religious studies within social studies classrooms. My particular role focused on cultivating primary and secondary sources on understudied religious minorities across American history, especially ethnically and racially diverse Muslim communities.*

*My research interests have been greatly expanded and refined over the last academic year through coursework, professional opportunities, and preliminary ethnographic study. Where my initial interest was to examine the formation of white racial identities within Muslim American communities, I’ve been led to consider more fully how the social and phenomenological body moves in and out of differently charged spaces and the ways in which various markers of identity*

*shape and confine one’s experience as a new Muslim. As I move towards formal ethnographic work, I’m interested in how new Muslim identities are solidified, challenged, and embodied within small group spaces, such as masjid-sponsored or independent support groups and study circles, and how the modes of self-knowing and social engagement within these spaces are shaped by intersecting identities of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and age. In particular, I pay attention to the disciplinary effects of everyday practice and the persuasive dimensions of affective experience in processes of convert re-formation. As such, my interests have shifted from an examination of Muslim convert experiences as a means to study processes of religio-racialization in the United States, instead towards a more nuanced analysis of differently marked, converting/converted Muslim bodies—both socially determined yet viscerally felt—by engaging critical race and gender theory to apprehend the lived experience of Muslim converts in particular American settings.*

---

**–Lucy Ballard**



# 2018-19 Fellows

---



**JAVAD T. HASHMI IS A BOARD-CERTIFIED EMERGENCY physician, former Fellow of Medical Ethics at Harvard Medical School, and a Ph.D. student in the Study of Religion at Harvard University. In addition to his medical training, Dr. Hashmi holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Arabic & Islamic Studies from U.C. Berkeley and Harvard respectively.**

Dr. Hashmi specializes in Islamic studies, with a focus on Qur'anic studies and the traditional Islamic disciplines. His research work focuses on the ethics of war and the sanctity of life in the Qur'an, and the doctrine of jihad in Islamic history. He is also interested in Islamic modernism, especially in the context of South Asia. Dr. Hashmi wants to keep his research relevant to contemporary discourses on Islam, modernity, and ethics. In this regard, Dr. Hashmi believes in the need to foster religious literacy, interfaith understanding, and a human rights discourse.



**JOHN NOWAK IS A PH.D. STUDENT IN ISLAMIC Studies with the Committee on the Study of Religion at Harvard University. His research interests are at the intersection of identity, reform, and literature in the context of 19th and 20th century South Asia. While much scholarship has addressed Islamic reformist movements through a political lens, Mr. Nowak's work focuses on reform and identity formation through an examination of devotional piety at the individual level.**

Mr. Nowak received his Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honors in Political Science and Arabic Language from McGill University. He also holds a Master of Theological Studies in Islamic Studies from Harvard Divinity School.

# Student Coordinators

---



**JOHANNES MAKAR COORDINATES THE METHODS** in Islamic Studies Workshop. He is a Ph.D. Student at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. With a background in the fields of political science, philosophy, Middle East Studies, Johannes is interested in the making of modernity in North Africa and West Asia. Currently, he focuses on the intersection of state modernization and religious reform in Egypt in the 1950s and 60s.



**FARAH EL-SHARIF IS A PH.D. STUDENT IN** Islamic intellectual history at Harvard University where she focuses on the North and West African knowledge production in the 19th century. Farah completed her Master's in Islamic Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA and earned her bachelor's degree in Culture and Politics at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service.

# Alwaleed Program Team



## **TAREK MASOUD IS A PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY**

and the Sultan of Oman Professor of International Relations at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he is also Faculty Chair of the Middle East Initiative. His research focuses on political development in Arabic-speaking and Muslim-majority countries. He is the author of *Counting Islam: Religion, Class, and Elections in Egypt* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), of *The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform* with Jason Brownlee and Andrew Reynolds (Oxford University Press, 2015), as well as of several articles and book chapters. He is a 2009 Carnegie Scholar, a trustee of the American University in Cairo, a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Democracy*, and the recipient of grants from the National Science Foundation and the Paul and Daisy Soros foundation, among others. He holds an AB from Brown and a Ph.D. from Yale, both in political science.



## **HARRY BASTERMAJIAN IS THE EXECUTIVE**

Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University. Dr. Bastermajian earned his Ph.D. in Islamic History and Civilization from the University of Chicago, as well as an AM in Islamic History and an AM in Middle Eastern Studies. He took his undergraduate degree in Economics and International Relations from Lake Forest College. His dissertation examined Armenian identity formation in nineteenth century Istanbul. His research interests include the role of the press in late modern Islamic empires, religious and ethnic minorities in the Muslim world, and inter-communal relations in the late Ottoman Empire. Prior to joining the AISP, Dr. Bastermajian coordinated the Andrew W. Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative at the University of Chicago and was the graduate programs administrator at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard.



# Alwaleed Program Team *continued*



## **MERYUM KAZMI IS THE PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

for the Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University. She earned her BA from Georgetown University where she studied Middle Eastern and African American history. After working in urban education through AmeriCorps and BPE (formerly Boston Plan for Excellence), she became more interested in Islamic Studies and was a student, instructor and program manager at Fawakih, an Arabic institute based in Herndon, Virginia. In order to further her understanding Arabic, Meryum also studied and later taught in the grammar department at the Qasid Arabic Institute in Amman, Jordan. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University and is interested in Arabic language, Qur'anic studies and the development of Islamic educational institutions.











# PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Harvard Semitic Museum  
6 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138

T: 617-495-3379  
F: 617-800-0996

[islamicstudies@harvard.edu](mailto:islamicstudies@harvard.edu)  
[islamicstudies.harvard.edu](http://islamicstudies.harvard.edu)

