



2018–2019

PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

YEAR IN REVIEW







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COVER: (Front) Al-Mubashshir B. Fatik, *Socrates and Two Students*, *Mukhtar Al-Hikam Wa Mahasin Al-Kalim*, 1200, Harvard Fine Arts Library, Digital Images & Slides Collection. (Back) *Coffeehouse Interior*, 16th c., Harvard Fine Arts Library, Digital Images & Slides Collection.

EDITOR: Meryum Kazmi, Program Coordinator

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Ivan Bolivar, Classic Graphx

Director's Message



Professor Tarek Masoud

THE ALWALEED Islamic Studies Program, which I have now had the honor of directing for a second year, is dedicated to enabling Harvard's faculty and students to produce and engage with cutting-edge

research on Islam and Muslim societies. Although this task could not be more urgent, it is not an easy one. The community of scholars at Harvard who are working on issues of concern to the Muslim world is vast and far-flung, and it requires extra exertion to discover who they all are, let alone to design programming that serves them and that amplifies their scholarly efforts. This document, which reports on activities conducted during the 13th year of the program's existence, testifies to the effort and creativity that the program's team (led by executive director Dr. Harry Bastermajian and program coordinator Meryum Kazmi), has brought to the mission of promoting the study of Islam at Harvard.

The Alwaleed Program is first and foremost a scholarly enterprise, and so many of our activities are focused on the production and dissemination of scholarship. One way we do this is by sponsoring academic conferences and workshops, such as Alwaleed Professor Ousmane Kane's Islam in Africa

workshop; and the Middle East Beyond Borders workshop co-chaired by Alwaleed Professor Malika Zeghal. In 2019, the program sponsored a conference on "Thinking Islam Within Religious Studies," convened by Professor Ahmed Ragab in honor of the retirement of former Alwaleed Program director, Professor William Graham. Participants in the day-long conference—which explored themes related to Professor Graham's research on early Islamic religious history and texts—included Walid Saleh, Professor of the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto; Jane McAuliffe, Director of the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress; and Guy Stroumsa, the Martin Buber Professor *Emeritus* of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

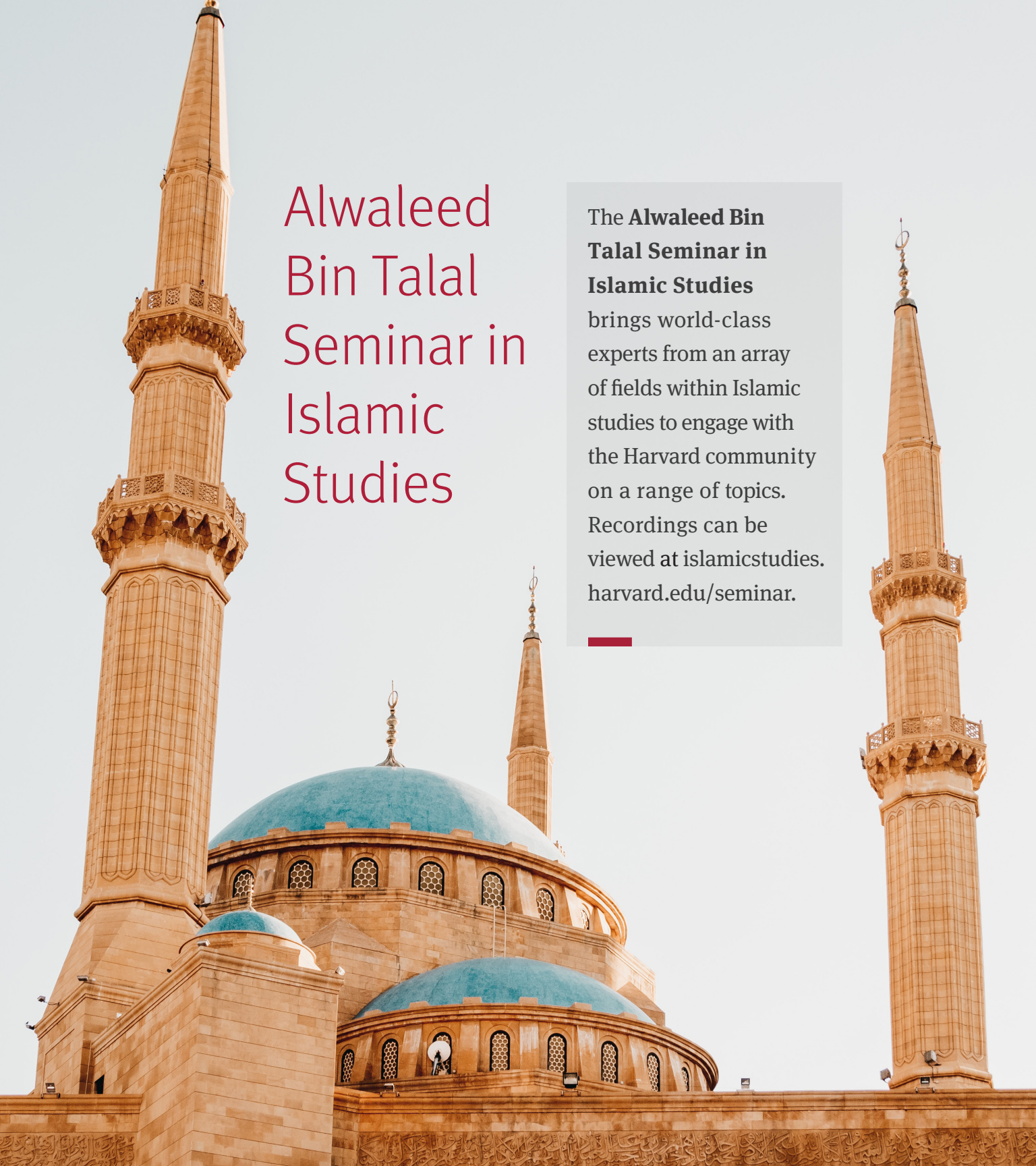
Also in support of scholarship is the program's Alwaleed Bin Talal Seminar in Islamic Studies, which we inaugurated in December 2018, and which has become a center of gravity for the Islamic studies community at Harvard. Led by Professor Shady Nasser, a member of the Alwaleed Program's Steering Committee, the program has brought to campus some of the leading scholars in the field, including Dimitri Gutas, Professor of Arabic and Greco-Arabic at Yale University, who spoke about the translation of Aristotle's *Poetics* into Arabic; Zareena Grewal, Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies at Yale, who spoke about American views of the Qur'an; Felicitas Opwis, Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies

at Georgetown University, who spoke about the development of Islamic legal theory; and Rudolph Ware, Professor of History at UC Santa Barbara, who spoke about anti-slavery movements in Islamic West Africa. We were also pleased to co-host with the Center for Jewish Studies and Harvard's Department of Philosophy a book talk by Sari Nusseibeh, Professor of Philosophy and President *Emeritus* of Al-Quds University in Ramallah, Palestine.

Harvard's Islamic studies faculty is second to none, and it is particularly blessed with a strong cohort of junior faculty across the university's 12 schools. One of the ways that the Alwaleed Program supports these remarkable scholars is through a newly-established faculty research grant program. Under this initiative, grants have been made to Professor Shady Nasser, who used the funds to host a conference on Qur'anic studies; Professor Gareth Doherty of the Graduate School of Design, who will use his grant to conduct field research for a study of landscape architecture in the Gulf; and Professor Ahmed Ragab of Harvard Divinity School, who is using the funds to support his innovative research into Islam's "meta-history." Another effort the Alwaleed Program has undertaken to support and incubate new scholarship is its establishment of an undergraduate thesis award. The Alwaleed Bin Talal Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis in Islamic Studies is open to undergraduates in all Harvard departments whose theses are focused on Islam or Muslim societies. This year's winner, Anwar Omeish '19, completed a sophisticated study of the Algerian revolution entitled, "Toward the Modern Revolution: Frantz Fanon, Secularity, and the Horizons of Political

Possibility in Revolutionary Algeria." Ms. Omeish's interdisciplinary thesis spans postcolonial theory, African studies, the history of black political thought, and Islamic studies. The faculty also chose to recognize, with an honorable mention, the thesis by Hannah Hess '19, entitled, "Debating Misyār: Temporary Marriage in Contemporary Saudi Arabia." Ms. Hess analyzes both Arabic and English sources to explore why temporary marriage became socially desirable in Saudi Arabia, the legal discourse surrounding it, and the evolution of the debate amid political and social pressures in the Kingdom. Overall, the number and quality of submissions for the prize was an encouraging testament to the healthy state of Islamic studies among Harvard's undergraduates. The coming year will see the establishment of a similar prize for doctoral theses.

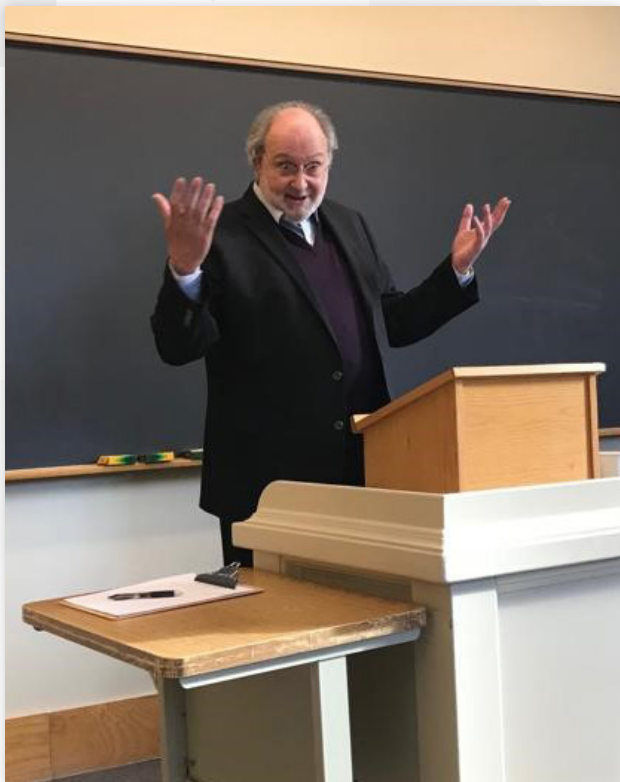
The Alwaleed Program could not do all of these things without the intellectual support of our faculty steering committee (including Alwaleed Professors Ousmane Kane, David Roxburgh, and Malika Zeghal) and the financial support of Provost Alan Garber, Vice Provost Mark Elliott, and the deans of the Business, Design, Divinity, and Kennedy Schools. I can think of no greater illustration of the importance that Harvard University places on the study of Islam than the fact that the university's leaders have chosen to allocate scarce resources to this endeavor. It is my hope that what you read in the pages that follow will demonstrate that investment to have been well placed indeed.



Alwaleed Bin Talal Seminar in Islamic Studies

The **Alwaleed Bin Talal Seminar in Islamic Studies**

brings world-class experts from an array of fields within Islamic studies to engage with the Harvard community on a range of topics. Recordings can be viewed at islamicstudies.harvard.edu/seminar.




DECEMBER 6, 2018:

“Arabic Studies Beyond Arabic:
Integrating the Western Humanities
Canon” by Dimitri Gutas, Professor
of Arabic and Greco-Arabic,
Yale University

In the inaugural meeting of the Alwaleed Bin Talal Seminar in Islamic Studies, the Alwaleed Program hosted Dimitri Gutas, Professor of Arabic and Greco-Arabic at Yale University. In a room packed with students, faculty and visiting fellows, the world-renowned philologist and scholar of Islamic intellectual history presented his new research on the translation of Aristotle’s *Poetics* into Arabic and the transmission of its various manuscripts in the Arabic-speaking world.



Dimitri Gutas Seminar/photo credit: Farah El-Sharif


**ALWALEED BIN TALAL
SEMINAR IN ISLAMIC STUDIES**

The

Quran


in the **American Imagination**

A lunch talk by
ZAREENA GREWAL


Associate Professor of American Studies
and Religious Studies, Yale University

2.25.19 / 12-1:30PM

**WILLIAM JAMES
HALL 601**



co-sponsors
The Warren Center for Studies in American History,
The Department of Anthropology, The Program on American Studies,
and The Committee on the Study of Religion


**PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL
ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

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6 Quincy Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

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HarvardIGSP HarvardIslamic IGSPHarvard

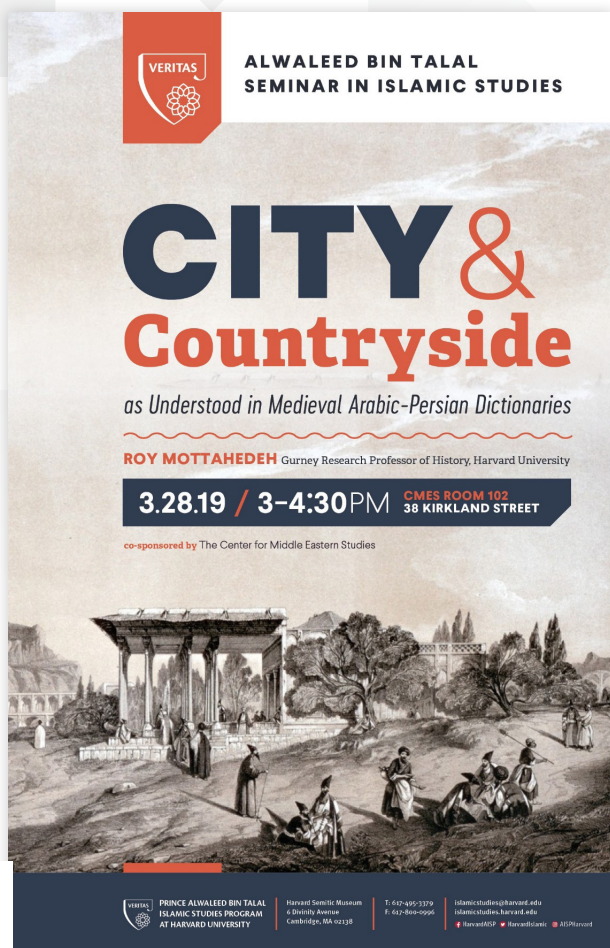
FEBRUARY 25, 2019:

“The Qur’an in the American Imagination” by Zareena Grewal, Associate Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies, Yale University

After beginning our seminar in the classical Islamic world, the second meeting with Zareena Grewal brought us to the contemporary United States. Professor Grewal presented on her upcoming work, *Is the Qu’ran a Good Book?* That explores the idea of the Qur’an as a “racialized” object in American debates about tolerance.



Zareena Grewal/photo credit: Meryum Kazmi



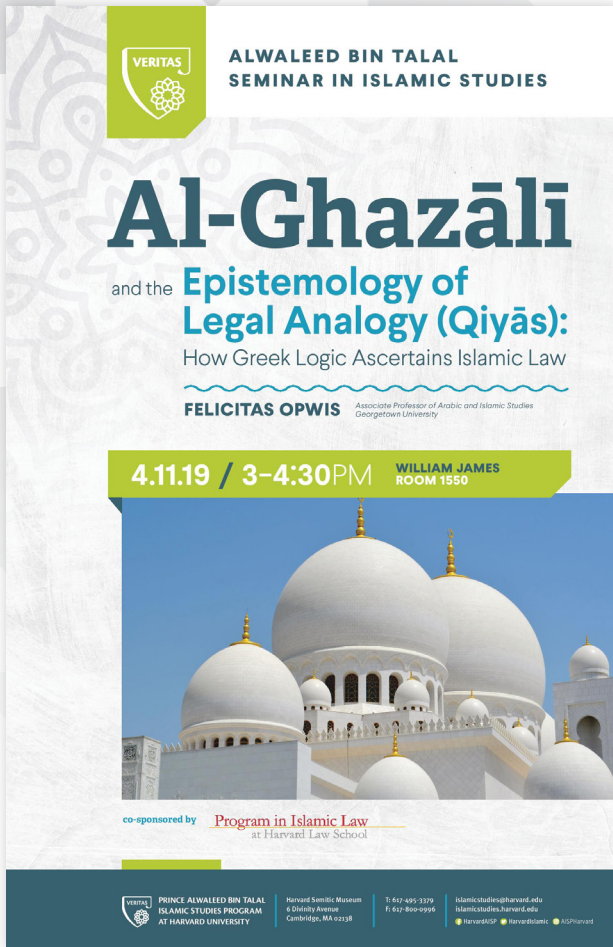
MARCH 28, 2019:

“City and Countryside as Understood in Medieval Arabic-Persian Dictionaries” by Roy Mottahedeh, Gurney Research Professor of History, Harvard University

Harvard’s own Professor Roy Mottahedeh presented his new philological research on terms for city and countryside in 10th to 13th century Arabic-Persian dictionaries for the Alwaleed Bin Talal Seminar in Islamic Studies. Professor Mottahedeh’s presentation demonstrated that, given the shifting and often unexpected meanings of terms, dictionaries can serve as a valuable source of cultural history for the period.



Roy Mottahedeh/photo credit: Justin Ziebell



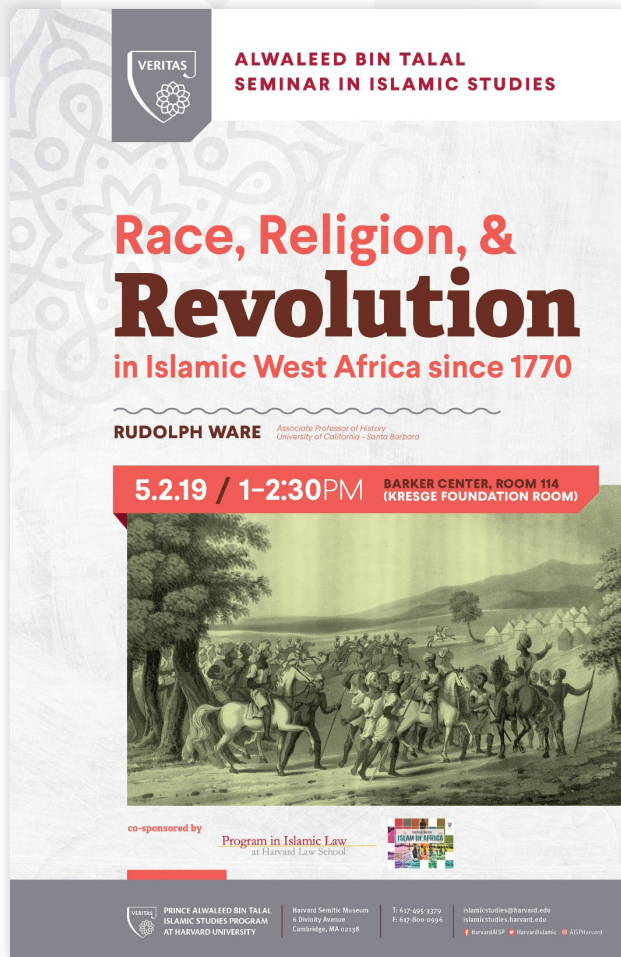
APRIL 11, 2019:

“Al-Ghazālī and the Epistemology of Legal Analogy (Qiyās): How Greek Logic Ascertains Islamic Law” by Felicitas Opwis, Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Georgetown University

Professor Felicitas Opwis presented on the influence of logic in the Islamic legal tradition. Specifically, she discussed how al-Ghazālī, often credited with being the first to introduce a legal work with a chapter on logic, used syllogistic logic to develop the concept of legal analogy (qiyās) in his legal theory.



Felicitas Opwis/photo credit: Justin Ziebell



MAY 2, 2019:

“Race, Religion, and Revolution in Islamic West Africa Since 1770” by Rudolph Ware, Associate Professor of History, University of California at Santa Barbara

Professor Rudolph Ware delivered the final seminar of the year on the anti-slavery movement in the highly-educated Muslim society of the Senegal River Valley, challenging the narrative that abolitionism began in America and Europe. Professor Ware’s work draws attention to the centrality of Black Africans not only in this important period in African history, but also in Islamic history in general.



Rudolph Ware/photo credit: Justin Ziebell



(Above) Armaan Siddiqi and Johannes Makar/photo credit: Meryum Kazmi; (Below) Shady Nasser, Rashmi Singhal, Cole Crawford and Sharon Tai/photo credit: Johannes Makar

Research Methods in Islamic Studies Workshop

THE RESEARCH METHODS IN ISLAMIC STUDIES

Workshop is a bi-annual workshop that engages graduate students and faculty active in the field of Islamic Studies around current methodological questions. Where Islamic Studies is informed by, intervenes in, and adds to cognate disciplines such as Anthropology, Area Studies, History, Art History, Near Eastern Studies, and Religion Studies, this is an especially productive undertaking. The workshop showcases novel and established methods and draws special attention to the burgeoning potential of the Digital Humanities. Besides offering intellectual and logistical support, the workshop connects researchers to the various libraries, research institutes and other services at Harvard (and beyond) with the aim of fostering research opportunities and collaboration. In the 2018-19 academic year, both workshops were organized by Johannes Makar, Ph.D. student in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

In the Fall 2018 workshop, representatives from the Harvard libraries familiarized both new and returning students with the vast Islamic studies resources that Harvard has to offer, including helpful tips on searching for images and titles in Islamicate languages. András Reidlmayer, Bibliographer in Islamic Art and Architecture, reminded attendees that the vast majority of Islamic studies resources are not yet digitized and that it is crucial for an effective researcher to know how to navigate physical resources such as those shared with participants from Harvard's collections. The day concluded with an engaging presentation by Sultan al-Qassemi, the Emirati entrepreneur and art collector known for his commentary on Arab affairs, especially through Twitter during the Arab Spring, who shared his project of documenting the modern architecture of Sharjah that is scheduled to be demolished to create a more "traditional" aesthetic for the emirate. Salma Abouelhossein, Ph.D. student in Urban Design at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, served as a respondent.

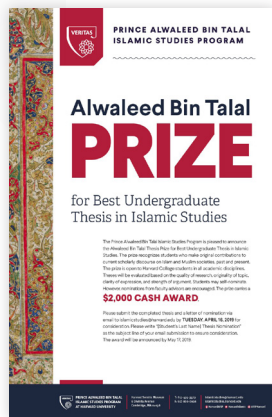
The Spring 2019 workshop was entitled "Tidy Data for Researchers: Or, How to Get Your Spreadsheets to Actually Tell You Something" and focused on helping attendees learn practical skills to enhance their research. It was facilitated by digital humanities experts, Cole Crawford and Rashmi Singhal of

Digital Arts and Humanities (DARTH) and Jeremy Guillette of the History Department, and developed specifically for Islamic studies researchers. Students, faculty and visiting fellows with varying levels of experience with digital scholarship learned about the benefits of using spreadsheets in their work and practiced cleaning up and manipulating data in Microsoft Excel and OpenRefine. Jeremy Guillette also demonstrated uses for Tableau, a powerful tool for data visualization.



András Reidlmayer and workshop participants/photo credit: Johannes Makar

Alwaleed Bin Talal Prize for Best Under- graduate Thesis in Islamic Studies



IN THE 2018-19 ACADEMIC year, the Alwaleed Program announced the first ever Alwaleed Bin Talal Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis in Islamic studies with the aim of promoting research in the field among undergraduates. The prize was open to Harvard College students in all academic disciplines who wrote a thesis related to Islam

or Muslim societies and offered a \$2,000 cash prize. We were thrilled to receive many strong submissions on a range of topics from exceptionally talented students. The inaugural award went to Anwar Omeish '19 for her outstanding thesis entitled, "Toward the Modern Revolution: Frantz Fanon, Secularity, and the Horizons of Political Possibility in Revolutionary Algeria."



Anwar Omeish

Anwar, who concentrated in Social Studies with a secondary concentration in Statistics, wrote a thesis that spans postcolonial theory, African studies, the history of black political thought and

Islamic studies to offer an original critique of Frantz Fanon's political theory. She not only interrogates the influences on Fanon's concept of the problem of colonialism but also demonstrates that the assumptions underlying his anti-colonial project reinforce the very colonial structures he seeks to dismantle and sideline the Islamic discourses of Algerian revolutionaries. Anwar draws on primary sources in Arabic, French and English and critical social theory to argue that Fanon fails to acknowledge his theoretical commitments and how they are inherently problematic, instead focusing on particular forms of domination such as colonialism and capitalism that rest on those commitments.

Anwar's primary thesis advisor, Oludamini Ogunnaike, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the College of William and Mary, has called her thesis "a stunning work of political philosophy for an undergraduate to produce" and "arguably the most significant contribution to the study of Frantz Fanon's work in the last decade, offering both an original and comprehensive critique of Fanon's political theory, the epistemological commitments his politics presupposes, and the roughly seven decades of activist and scholarly commentary that has failed to properly interrogate the limits of Fanon's approach."

Anwar's work also received Harvard's prestigious Captain Jonathan Fay Prize, the Hoopes Prize and the Thesis Prize from the Committee on Ethnicity, Migration and Rights. The Alwaleed Program is proud to honor Anwar's outstanding contribution to the field of Islamic studies and we look forward to supporting more promising young Islamic studies researchers at Harvard in the years to come.

Research Grants

The Alwaleed Program funded the following early-career faculty for their new Islamic studies research.



Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

PROFESSOR NASSER held a conference on “The Transmission and Reception of the Qur’ān in Light of Recent Scholarship” that brought together scholars from around the world who are working on the Qur’ān’s textual tradition. This conference was also an opportunity for Professor Nasser to present and discuss his forthcoming book, *The Second Canonization of the Qur’ān*.



Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the Master in Landscape Architecture Program, Graduate School of Design

PROFESSOR DOHERTY will use his grant for travel and research in the Arabian Peninsula to investigate the concept of “chromatic metaphor” in Bahrain. Professor Doherty suspects that green, a color often associated with Islam, is associated with the Shi’a and Iran in Bahrain and that the Sunni-controlled nation thus seeks to use red as a “chromatic metaphor” for green.



Richard T. Watson Associate Professor of Science and Religion, Harvard Divinity School; Affiliated Associate Professor, Department of the History of Science; and Director of the Science, Religion, and Culture Program

PROFESSOR RAGAB will travel and conduct research for his book, *The Islam Archive: A Meta-History of Islam in the Colonial and Post-Colonial World*, which is currently under agreement with Princeton University Press. This book will construct a meta-history and investigate how “Islamic history” was produced in the traditional Golden Age/Decline dichotomy that emerged in Orientalist and Colonial discourses and spread to the Islamic world.

Event Highlights

The Alwaleed Program held a variety of events in cooperation with other programs and centers at Harvard.

Series with Our Partners

The Alwaleed Program is proud to support on-going events with our partners. The **Islam in Africa Brown Bag Lecture Series** is convened by Professor Ousmane Kane on Wednesdays at lunchtime and features speakers from different universities who present on their work related to Islam in Africa. The **Middle East Beyond Borders Graduate Student Workshop** is chaired by Professors Malika Zeghal and Kristen Stilt and provides graduate students working on the Middle East an opportunity to discuss and get feedback on their scholarly writing. Under the direction of Professor Intisar Rabb, the Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School holds an **Islamic Law Lecture Series** in which leading experts in Islamic law give lunch talks on a range of topics.

WWW.SCHOOL.HARVARD.EDU/ALWALEED

WEST AFRICA AND THE MAGHREB
REASSESSING INTELLECTUAL CONNECTIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY
13-15 SEPTEMBER 2018 | SPERRY ROOM
HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL, 40 FRANCIS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE

Concert by NOOR ENSEMBLE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018
KEYNOTE LECTURE: "THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE PILGRIMAGE TRADITION IN WEST AFRICA"
Ousmane Kane

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018
PANEL 1: SUFISM AND SUFI ORDERS IN MUSLIM AFRICA
Ousmane Kane, Janet Carver, Anissa Marcou-Sella, Christine Thun-Nhi Dang
Chair: Stephanie Paulsell
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
PANEL 2: PRAYERS, INVOCATIONS AND THE TALMUDIC TRADITION
James Hagen, Leanne Wright & Adam Larson, Paul Anderson, Oudumini Ogunmakin
Chair: Kimberly C. Patton
2:45 PM - 4:45 PM
PANEL 3: RE-EVALUATING THE HISTORIC CORE CURRICULUM
David Owen, Alana Trouillot, Abubakar Abubakar, Ismail Warscheid
Chair: Christine Hallberg
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
CONCERT BY NOOR ENSEMBLE (ANDOVER CHAPEL)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
PANEL 4: JIHAD IDEOLOGY: WHAT IS NEW, WHAT IS NOT?
William Miller, Abdullahi An-Na'im, Zakaria Qutb, Ahmed Salem, Anwar Brodhaoui
Chair: Francis X. Clooney
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
PANEL 5: NEW INTELLECTUAL CONNECTIONS
Hassan Karim, Farouk Ibrahim, Robert Purvis, Ebrahim Suli
Chair: Jacob K. Olupona
10:45 AM - 12:45 PM

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

September 13–15, 2018:

West Africa and the Maghreb Conference

This annual conference on Islam in Africa is convened by Ousmane Kane, Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society. Scholars from across the United States presented lectures and papers on

the theme of “Reassessing Intellectual Connections in the 21st Century.”



BOOK TALK *Piety & Patienthood in Medieval Islam*

Ahmed Ragab
Richard T. Watson Associate
Professor of Science and Religion

Monday, September 17 - 6–8pm
CGIS 5030, Doris and Ted Lee Gathering Room
talk and Q&A, followed by reception



health and disease were informed by both medical knowledge and religious attitudes.

September 17, 2018:

Book Talk: Piety and Patienthood in Medieval Islam by Ahmed Ragab

Professor Ahmed Ragab spoke about his recently released book, *Piety and Patienthood in Medieval Islam*, in which he traces the development of literature on “prophetic medicine” and examines how attitudes towards

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE LAKSHMI MITTAL AND FAMILY SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE & THE ALWALEED ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM

THE RIIAAZ QAWWALI ENSEMBLE
A JOURNEY OF CULTURES AND FAITHS THROUGH QAWWALI

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 26
6:00-7:30 PM

BELFER 5020
CGIS SOUTH
1730 CAMBRIDGE ST

MUSLIM SOCIETIES
IN SOUTH ASIA
SERIES

September 26, 2018:

Riyaaz Qawwali Ensemble

Sonny K. Mehta, Artistic Director of the Texas-based Riyaaz Qawwali Ensemble, spoke about the role that this South Asian Sufi folk music has played in his life and how the Ensemble has been received by diverse audiences across the US and internationally. The members of the Ensemble represent the religious and cultural diversity of South Asia and aim to spread a message of oneness through the language of Qawwali.

September 28, 2018:

Thinking Islam within Religious Studies: Methods, Histories and Futures – A Celebration of Professor William A. Graham



The Alwaleed Program hosted a day-long conference assembled by Professor Ahmed Ragab in honor of Professor William A. Graham's career and scholarship. Professor Graham retired in July 2018 after a long and distinguished career at Harvard that included serving as the Faculty Director of the

Alwaleed Program, Dean of Harvard Divinity School, Faculty Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Committee on the Study of Religion and the Core Curriculum Committee on Foreign Cultures at Harvard.

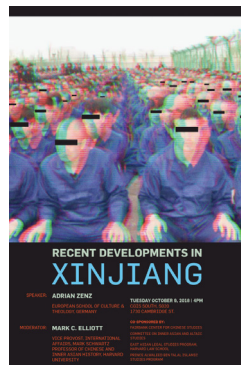


The conference was held at Harvard Divinity School and brought together world-renowned scholars of Qur'anic Studies, Comparative Religion and History of Religion

that presented their work and offered remarks on Professor Graham's scholarship and legacy. Speakers included Kimberley Patton, Charles Stang, Elizabeth Lee-Hood, and Diana Eck, all from Harvard Divinity School; Shady Nasser, Ali Asani, and Roy Mottahedeh, all from Harvard University; Mohsen Goudarzi, University of Minnesota; Jane McAuliffe, Library of Congress; Guy Stroumsa, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Walid Saleh, University of Toronto.

October 9, 2018:

Recent Developments in Xinjiang



This timely event hosted Adrien Zenz, the German anthropologist whose ground-breaking research exposed China's massive detention of Uighur Muslims in its northwest province of Xinjiang. Zenz presented his findings to a packed room, sharing satellite images of internment camps and Chinese government documents that reveal the nature of the detention and surveillance taking place.



October 24, 2018:

Islam and Race Panel Discussion



As part of Harvard Worldwide Week, the Alwaleed Program held a panel discussion convened by Professor Ahmed Ragab on the topic of Islam and Race. Professor Ragab spoke about race in Islamic history, Kimberly Wortmann, Assistant Professor of the Study

of Religion at Wake Forest University, spoke about the Black African-Arab racial dynamics in Zanzibar and

Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Muslim Chaplain to the University, spoke about race and Islamophobia in the contemporary American context.



November 1, 2018:

Sari Nusseibeh lecture: Are Possible Facts Real? An Avicennian Vignette

11.1.18
5-7pm
Tal Auditorium, C205 South
720 Cambridge Street

Are Possible Facts Real?

An Avicennian Vignette

PROFESSOR

SARI NUSSEIBEH

Professor of Philosophy
President Emeritus
Al-Quds University

CO-SPONSORS: The American Bar Endowment; Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University; The Harvard College Center for Islamic Studies; The Department of Philosophy; Islamic Studies Program; Center for Middle Eastern Studies; The Center for Islamic Studies at Harvard University.

Professor Sari Nusseibeh, President Emeritus and Professor of Philosophy at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem spoke about his latest research on possible facts in Avicenna's *al-Shifa'* in a lecture that drew students and faculty interested in the Islamic rational sciences.

November 11, 2018:

From Lahore With Love

Pakistani musician and author Ali Sethi (Harvard College '06) talked to his longtime friend and mentor Ali Asani, Professor of Indo-Muslim Religion and Cultures, about Sufi poetry, his own artistic journey, life as a perpetual student of the arts and his student days at Harvard.

From Lahore With Love

ALI SETHI

MUSICIAN AND AUTHOR

CHAIR: ALI ASANI
Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures, Harvard University

A lecture-cum-demonstration that reveals the many ways in which Sufi poets and musicians have encoded a subversive ambiguity into South Asia's religious-cultural ethos, one that continues to empower experiential forms of knowledge while confounding the attempts of state, corporate, and global forces to appropriate Sufi poetry and music for hegemonic goals.

WEDNESDAY
11/14
5:30 - 7PM
110 Thompson Room
Barker Ctr, 12 Quincy St.

Muslim Societies in South Asia
Seminar Series

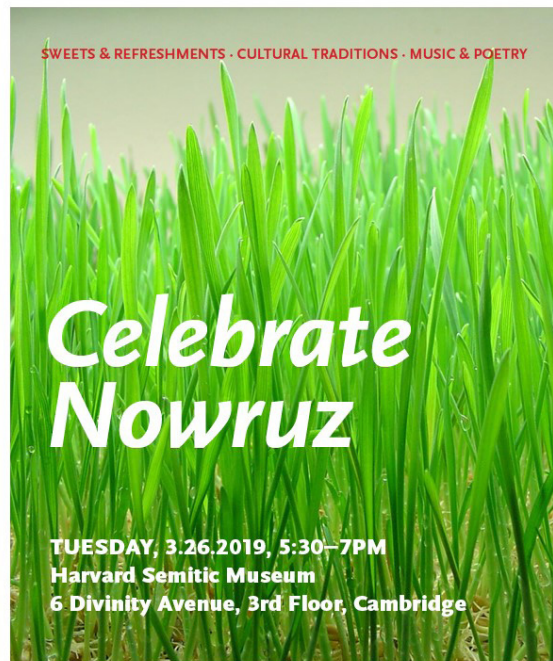
The Lalit Mohan and Family
SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL
ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

March 26, 2019:

Nowruz Celebration

Nowruz, the Persian New Year, takes place on the day of the spring equinox and is celebrated throughout the Persianate world, most of which consists of Muslim-majority countries. This event featured a vibrant *haft sin* table that displayed seven items beginning with the letter *sin* that symbolize concepts such as abundance, prosperity and new life to usher in the new year. Over 200 guests also enjoyed fresh fruit and Iranian sweets alongside live performances of poetry, song and music from different parts of the Persianate world.



SPONSORED BY THE DAVIS CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HARVARD SEMITIC MUSEUM, THE CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES, THE HARVARD GSAS IRANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION, THE HARVARD COLLEGE IRANIAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE ALWALEED ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM



Fall 2018 Course List

Select courses on Islam
and the Muslim world

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Contemporary Voices in American Islam	<i>Leila Ahmed</i>	The twenty-first century has produced a vibrant literature by American Muslims offering re-readings of key moments and texts in Islamic history as well as reflecting on core topics in Islam-among them race, gender, sexuality and tolerance and pluralism-in new, distinctively western ways.
Religion, Gender, and Politics in Transnational Perspective	<i>Leila Ahmed</i> <i>Ann Braude</i>	The course follows key themes in religion and gender as these were shaped and reshaped through the colonial and post-colonial eras. In particular, the religious history of American women and the history of women in Islam primarily in relation to the Middle East (professors Braude's and Ahmed's fields respectively) are intertwined and brought into conversation.
Byzantium between the Crusades and the Islamic World, c.1100-c.1450	<i>Dimiter Angelov</i>	The seminar focuses on the eastern Mediterranean in a period of economic integration and political fragmentation marked by the crusades, the expansion of the Italian maritime republics, western colonization, and the conquests of the Turks. How did the Byzantines react to the new unsettled world around them? What was the role of the newcomers? Special attention will be paid to the crusades, cross-cultural contacts, and the Mediterranean economy.
Muslim Voices in Contemporary World Literatures	<i>Ali 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. Explores a range of issues facing Muslim communities in various parts of the world by examining the impact of colonialism, nationalism, globalization and politicization of Islam on the search for a modern Islamic identity.
Muslim Devotional Literatures in South Asia: Qawwalis, Sufiana Kalam (Sufi Poetry) and the Ginans	<i>Ali Asani</i>	This course explores traditions of Islamic spirituality in South Asia through the lens of three genres: the qawwali, concerts of mystical poetry; sufiana kalam, Sufi romantic epics and folk poems; and the ginans, hymns of esoteric wisdom recited by the Satpanthi Ismailis.

FALL 2018 COURSE LIST *continued*

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
What is Good in Islam? Ethics in the Islamic Tradition	<i>Nicholas Boylston</i>	Can values be judged by reason or are they dependent on revelation? What is the goal of human existence and how is it to be attained? What is the relationship between the Sharia and ethics? What are a human's responsibilities towards fellow humans? How is the human self to be cultivated? In this class we will explore the diverse approaches to these questions in the Islamic tradition, with a focus on the pre-modern.
Black Muslims: Race, Religion, and Culture in the United States	<i>Youssef Carter</i>	This seminar is an interdisciplinary examination of African-descended Muslims in the United States whereby we unpack the establishment of Black Muslim communities, simultaneous politics of race and religion, exegetical fissures, and questions of gender, citizenship and marginalization among others.
Political Violence in the Name of God: Jihad, Holy War and Just War	<i>Jocelyne Cesari</i>	Everywhere we witness greater tensions and confrontations between religions and the secular principles of the international system. This course will address the following questions: Has secular nationalism failed? Why is religion seen as a legitimate alternative form of politics nationally and internationally? Is there a proclivity to violence from religious extremists?
The World's Religions in Multicultural America: Case Studies in Religious Pluralism	<i>Diana Eck</i>	An exploration of the dynamic religious landscape of the US with special focus on Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh traditions in the most recent period of post-1965 immigration. How are faith and freedom negotiated in a more complex society? In what contexts do minority religious communities encounter long-dominant Christian and Jewish communities? How is America changing as religious communities struggle with civic, constitutional, ethical, and theological issues, especially in the post-9/11 period?
The Concept of Knowledge in Maghribi Mystics: From Zarruq (d. 1483) to Ahmad ibn Idris (d.1873)	<i>Baber Johansen</i>	The first part of this seminar will be dedicated to the study of a concept, developed in the work of Zarruq, that integrates Islamic mystics (tasawwuf) in a universalist concept of knowledge. We will study the biography of the author and read one of his major texts in Arabic. In the second part of the seminar we will compare this universalist approach to knowledge with the work of Ahmad ibn Idris in Morocco, and later in Yemen, during the first half of the 19th century.

FALL 2018 COURSE LIST *continued*

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Marriage and Filiation in Syrian Hanafi Law Texts of the 17th and the 19th Centuries	<i>Baber Johansen</i>	We will begin our seminar with a discussion on the Hanafi concept of marriage as a legal institution based on contractual relations between equals and filiation as the result of contract and not of biological facts. We will discuss the differences between Sunni Law Schools on these matters. The second part of this seminar will compare 17th century Damascene Hanafi texts with 19th century Damascene texts by authors of the same Law School.
Critical Perspectives on the Dynamics and Development of Islam in Africa	<i>Ousmane Kane</i>	An estimated 450 to 500 million Muslims live in Africa close to a third of the global Muslim population. The overwhelming majority of them live in the northern half of the continent, above the equator. The spread of Islam increased the contact between the peoples of North Africa, the Sahara, and parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The course is designed to provide an understanding of the spread of Islam and the formation and transformation of Muslim societies in Africa.
Spiritual Cultivation in Islam Part I: The Classical Era	<i>Ousmane Kane and Khalil Abdur-Rashid</i>	This course, as part of the new HDS Initiative on Islamic Spiritual Life and Service, is intended for students preparing for vocation in a variety of settings in which they will provide Islamically-inspired service and support. The course will acquaint students with Islamic pedagogy and practice on spiritual cultivation, highlighting the foundational importance of spiritual-ethical virtues in Islamic piety and the lifelong quest for nearness to and knowledge of God.
(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.
Middle Eastern Politics and Policy	<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. Explores the role of colonial legacies, Islam, peculiarities of the physical environment, demographic patterns, cultures of patriarchy, the distortions of foreign aid and oil wealth, and the machinations of great powers in generating the region's particular pattern of political development.

FALL 2018 COURSE LIST *continued*

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Revolution and Politics in Contemporary Iran	<i>Payam Mohseni</i>	Iran is increasingly a significant power in the Middle East and a salient country to global affairs. Accordingly, this course examines the intricacies of Iranian politics since the 1979 revolution. It explores a broad range of topics including the causes of the Iranian revolution; the political implications of the Islamic regime's institutional architecture; the competitive factional dynamics within the ruling elite; Iranian foreign policy, Iran-US relations, and nuclear negotiations; and Shia political ideology.
The Volatile Veil: Gender, Sexuality, and Islam	<i>Afsaneh Najmabadi</i>	Muslim women's public veiling has become a volatile symbol: a sign of solidarity, an embodiment of Muslim women's oppression, a target of states' regulations, and of public harassment. This course will begin with some contemporary manifestations of these issues, here in the US, in Europe, and in the Middle East and North Africa. It will then move back into history of the present, in order to trace some of these meanings, in their emergence at different moments, and consider their distinct political work in various historical contexts. These journeys will include women's voices – from those who practice veiling, and those who do not.
Readings in Classical Arabic Poetry, Prosody, and Literary Theory	<i>Shady Nasser</i>	Readings in Classical Arabic poetry (Pre-Islamic, Umayyad, and Abbasid) chosen from a variety of classical sources (anthologies, Diwān collections, Encyclopedias and literary theory). Arabic Prosody will be studied in detail throughout the semester using al-Tibrīzī's manual of 'arūd. A selection of writings on literary theory discussing language, form, and poetic norms.
The Quran in Muslim Life and Practice	<i>Shady Nasser</i>	The course offers a basic introduction to the Qur'an, focusing on its origins, form, and content, with attention to its ongoing life in Muslim exegesis, general piety, mystical thought, and other domains of thought and practice.
Monuments of Islamic Architecture	<i>Gülru Necipoğlu</i> <i>David Roxburgh</i>	An introduction to ten iconic monuments of the Islamic world from the beginning of Islam to the early modern period. The course introduces various types of building-mosques, palaces, multifunctional complexes- and city types and the factors that shaped them, artistic, patronal, socio-political, religio-cultural, and economic.

FALL 2018 COURSE LIST *continued*

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Mysticism and Literature	<i>Luis Girón Negrón</i>	Examines trends, issues and debates in the comparative study of mystical literature. Close readings of primary works by Jewish, Christian and Muslim authors from the Middle Ages through the 16th century.
Sick and Pious: Medicine, Piety and Patienthood in Medieval and Modern Islam	<i>Ahmed Ragab</i>	How did pious Muslims get sick? Rooted in the prophet's experiences with medicine and healing, Muslim pietistic literature developed cosmologies in which physical suffering and medical interventions interacted with religious obligations and spiritual health. This course traces the development of prophetic medical literature and religious and medical writings around health and disease to look at the production of pious patienthood from the medieval into the modern period. We will ask about the legacy of the prophet, the imams and their companions, the making of embodied piety from the medieval into the modern period.
Introduction to Islamic Philosophy and Theology: The Classical and Medieval Period	<i>Khaled El-Rouayheb</i>	Islamic Civilizations 145A is an introduction to some of the key problems and figures in medieval Islamic theology and philosophy. The main topics covered will be: The rise of theological controversies in early Islam and the crystallization of theological factions; the rise of an Arabic tradition of Neo-Platonized Aristotelianism with such figures as Farabi (d. 950) and Avicenna (d.1037); the confrontation between the theological and Aristotelian traditions in such works as <i>The Incoherence of the Philosophers</i> by the theologian al-Ghazali (d.1111) and the response by Averroes (d.1198); the powerful influence of philosophy on later Islamic theology; the anti-Aristotelian, Platonist philosophy of "Illumination" of Suhrawardi (d.1191), and the mystical monism of Ibn Arabi (d.1240) and his followers.
Islam and Politics in the Modern Middle East	<i>Malika Zeghal</i>	The course critically examines the ideologies and political strategies of twentieth century Islamist movements, as well as their origins and evolution. It will relate the emergence of organized Islamist movements in the first part of the twentieth century to earlier Islamic reformist narratives, and explore the political and social contexts in which these movements emerged and evolved. Particular attention will be given to the ideas these movements developed and to the texts they published and disseminated.

Spring 2019 Course List

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Beyond Akhlāq: Ethical Literatures of the Persianate World	<i>Robert Ames</i>	This course offers an overview of the development of classical Persian literature through the lens of ethics (broadly conceived as normative or prudent conduct), from the 10 th through 15 th centuries. Students will become acquainted with the key themes and beliefs at work in pre-modern Persian literature, and with the variety of literary forms, images and rhetorical devices employed to train the reader.
Approaches to Studying Indo-Muslim Culture and South Asian Islam	<i>Ali Asani</i>	A seminar for graduate students focusing on current scholarship on Islamic civilization in South Asia.
Ismaili History and Thought	<i>Ali Asani</i>	This course explores the doctrines and practices of the Ismailis, adherents of a minority branch of Shia Islam that recognizes the continuation of religious authority after the Prophet Muhammad through a particular line of his descendants known as the Imams.
Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies	<i>Ali Asani</i>	The course is an introduction to the fundamental concepts of Islam and the role that religious ideas and institutions play in Muslim communities around the world. Its main concern is to develop an understanding of the manner in which diverse notions of religious and political authority have influenced Muslim societies politically, socially and culturally.
Historical Background to the Contemporary Middle East: Religion, Literature and Politics	<i>Gojko Barjamovic</i>	What defines the Middle East? What long-term historical and cultural developments can we trace in the region? How do these affect contemporary global order and policy? This team-taught course in the NELC department will address these three fundamental questions of great present relevance by introducing students to the ancient and modern peoples, languages, cultures, and societies of Western Asia and North Africa.

SPRING 2019 COURSE LIST *continued*

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Persian Sufi Literature	<i>Nicholas Boylston</i>	In this course we will explore the major genres of classical Persian Sufi poetry and prose. In addition to examining the formation of these genres and their contexts of composition, we will pursue a range of broader questions, including: What is Sufism, and how do we discern 'Sufi' from 'non-Sufi' literature? What have the purposes and functions of literature been in Persianate Islamic contexts? What is the relationship between language, realization and experience?
Historiography of the Modern Middle East: Proseminar	<i>Rosie Bsheer</i>	This graduate seminar aims to familiarize students with some of the major debates in the field of modern Middle East history and pays careful attention to competing theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches. It will look at some of the most important literature on Orientalism, area studies, Ottoman rule, colonialism, nationalism, gender, and religion.
Religion in India: Texts and Traditions in a Complex Society	<i>Diana Eck</i>	An exploration of the classical texts, spiritual teachings, epic narratives, and religious movements that have shaped a complex civilization for some three thousand years, from the Indus Valley to today. Readings in primary sources – Vedas and Upanishads, Buddhist and Jain teachings, the Mahabharata and the Bhagavad Gita, Bhakti and Sufi poets, Sikh gurus and Muslim kings. Attention to the creation of a rich and composite civilization and the ways in which these sources continue to be of significance to the understanding of modern India.
Hadith Jibril: An Introduction to the Theological, Legal and Spiritual Dimensions of Islam	<i>Yasir Fahmy</i>	This course will engage in a critical reading and analysis of Hadith Jibril. Also known as Umm Al-Hadith (or the mother of Prophetic narrations), this narration gathers the essential acts and practices that are to be performed, internally and externally, in the life of a Muslim.
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. The course will survey political, religious and sectarian developments in this period. Topics include debates about the Quran, Muhammad, hadith and the caliphate.

SPRING 2019 COURSE LIST *continued*

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Coffee and Nighttime: History and Politics (1400-2020)	<i>Cemal Kafadar</i>	Since the fifteenth century, individuals and societies in different parts of the world adopted a gradually but unmistakably quickening tempo in their everyday lives and started to make more uses of the nighttime –for socializing, for entertainment, and for work. In this reconfiguration of the architecture of day and night, people turned to various psychotropic substances such as coffee to help them better manipulate times of activity and repose. They have also created new social institutions such as coffeehouses, which turned into public spaces for engagement with new forms of arts and politics. The course offered a history of these developments until our own time of “living 24/7” in terms of their social, economic and political consequences. Biological aspects such as addiction and pressures on our circadian rhythms were also be explored in the context of histories of sleep and nocturnal activity.
Islam, Modernity and Politics	<i>Ousmane Kane</i>	The aim of this seminar is to study the evolution of Islamic thought and political practices in Muslim societies from the 19 th to the early 21 st centuries.
Discovering Femininity in the Gendered Language of the Qur’an	<i>S. Zahra Moballegh</i>	Does the Qur’an enunciate a distinctive concept of femininity? If so, what is it? This course explores the meaning of gender and femininity in the Qur’an by approaching the text on three levels: vocabulary and grammar; meaning in context; and what can be called “the latent meaning of the text.” To discern the latent Qur’anic view of women, we will investigate the meaning of “being woman” from the Qur’an’s God’s point of view.
Architecture in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: A Cross-Cultural Perspective	<i>Gülru Necipoğlu</i>	Architecture of the eastern Mediterranean basin (at Italian, Ottoman, and Mamluk courts) with emphasis on cross-cultural encounters and transmission of the Romano-Byzantine heritage, science and technology, architectural practice, ornament, urban design, military, religious, and domestic architecture.
Digital Islamic Law Lab: Technologies For Digital Islamic Law	<i>Intisar Rabb</i>	Advised by Harvard Law School faculty and MIT data scientists, this monthly lab provides an opportunity for participants to develop 3 new digital tools for the community of Islamic law scholars, to be published on the SHARIAsource portal.

SPRING 2019 COURSE LIST *continued*

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DESCRIPTION
Communities of Knowledge: Science, Religion and Culture in Medieval Europe and Islam	<i>Ahmed Ragab and Katharine Park</i>	How did people understand nature in the Middle Ages? Is “premodern science” a contradiction in terms? What does it mean for science to be “religious”? How did medieval “Western” and “Islamic” civilization differ? Where and in what ways did they interact, and how did knowledge circulate between them? This course offers a new account of the history of medieval science in Europe and the Middle East.
Islamic Law: Human Rights Advocacy in the Muslim World	<i>Salma Waheedi</i>	This course will focus on human rights advocacy in the Muslim world. After providing an introduction to Islamic law, the course will address difficult questions at the intersection of human rights law and some interpretations of Islamic law.
Reading al-Manar in the Interwar Period	<i>Malika Zeghal</i>	Meeting approximately every other week, students will establish digital maps and databases based on al-Manar and other periodicals in Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt in the Interwar Period.
Introduction to the Modern Middle East	<i>Malika Zeghal</i>	This course is designed to give students an overall good grasp of the history of the modern Middle East and of some of the major themes in modern Middle Eastern Studies. Students will critically engage with some of the most important topics that resonate in that area of the world. We will cover topics such as reformism, economic development, colonialism and nationalism, authoritarianism and democratization, sectarianism, culture, gender, literature and the arts, as well as the role of religion in politics. Most of these topics, in one way or another, will speak to the construction of nation-states in the Middle East and to the challenges they have been confronting.
Islamic Institutions - Middle East & Beyond: Modern Transformations & Debates (19th-21st Centuries)	<i>Malika Zeghal</i>	This graduate seminar explores the transformation of Islamic institutions in the modern period, such as religious endowments (Awqaf), sharia courts, and Islamic education. We will engage with the historiography of these institutions and with primary sources in Arabic that will help us open new paths for research.





ALWALEED PROFESSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Malika Zeghal

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

Affiliated Professor of Government, Department of Government
Member, Committee on the Study of Religion

PROFESSOR MALIKA ZEGHAL'S WORK 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.

In the 2018-19 academic year, she taught courses for both undergraduate and graduate students and served as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She has continued to pursue her own research, which has included expanding her methods and working on collaborative projects with her graduate students.

During the last academic year, Professor Zeghal taught a general education course on “Islam and Politics in the Modern Middle East,” and an undergraduate course, “Introduction to the Modern Middle East,” which gave students an overview of the history and politics of the region along with critical insights into the debates surrounding issues related to religion, colonialism, nationalism,

governance, and economic policies. In Spring 2019, she also taught a graduate seminar on “Islamic Institutions in the Middle East and Beyond: Modern Transformations and Debates” that examined the development of Islamic educational institutions, religious endowments (*awqaf*) and shari’a courts from the 19th to 21st centuries.

Along with Professor Kristen Stilt, Professor of Law and Director of the Program on Law and Society at Harvard Law School, Professor Zeghal directs the Middle East Beyond Borders Graduate Student Workshop. It is organized by Johannes Makar and Armaan Siddiqi, Ph.D. students in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and gives scholars at Harvard, primarily graduate students, across academic disciplines an opportunity to present and discuss their work. Presentations from the 2018-19 academic year included Ahmed Ragab, Richard T. Watson Associate Professor of Science and Religion at Harvard Divinity School, who presented his paper on “Translation as Archive Making: The Case of the Islamic ‘Translation Movement,’” Jenny Peruski, Ph.D. student in History of Art & Architecture, who presented a paper entitled, “Sensuous Scripts: A Vocabulary of Islamic Calligraphy beyond the



Middle East” and Mary Elston, Ph.D. student in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, who presented a chapter of her dissertation entitled, “Experiencing the Manhaj: Language, Time, and Knowledge in the Azhar Study Circles.” Each presentation included remarks from a respondent and discussion with the audience.

In recent years, Professor Zeghal has expanded her research to include the latest digital methods. She is an affiliated faculty member of the Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), a Harvard-wide center that empowers researchers to not only study the world’s problems, but also to help solve them by employing cutting-edge methods and technologies. Currently, Professor Zeghal is working with a group of Ph.D. students on her research project, “Reading *al-Manar* in the Interwar Period,” in which they develop digital maps and databases using *al-Manar* and other periodicals from Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt in the period between the two World Wars.

She has also continued her ongoing research in the National Tunisian Archives (Tunis, Tunisia) and in the French Diplomatic Archives (Nantes, France) and is completing a book on Islam and the state in the Middle East in the modern period (19th to 21st centuries), which is forthcoming from Princeton University Press.

“Mosque” by Wassim Chouak via Unsplash



ALWALEED PROFESSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Ousmane Kane

Alwaleed Bin Talal Professor of Contemporary Islamic Religion and Society,
Harvard Divinity School

THROUGH HIS WORK ON ISLAM IN AFRICA AND IN the African diaspora, Professor Ousmane Kane's work plays a crucial role in expanding the scope of Islamic studies at Harvard.

Professor Kane began the 2018-19 academic year with his third annual Islam in Africa conference at Harvard Divinity School on "West Africa and the Maghreb: Reassessing Intellectual Connections in the 21st Century" from September 13-15, 2018. Professor Kane delivered the keynote lecture on "The Transformation of the Pilgrimage Tradition in West Africa." Subsequent sessions included panel presentations by scholars from Harvard and other universities on topics ranging from Sufi orders, prayers and invocations, historical curricula and the development of Jihadi ideologies in the region. The conference was co-sponsored

by several offices and programs within Harvard University and was widely attended by specialists and non-specialists alike.

Throughout the academic year, Professor Kane held his other signature event, the Islam in Africa Brown Bag Series that convenes on Wednesdays during lunchtime. Each week, a guest speaker delivers a lecture on a topic related to Islam in Africa. The speakers included Oludamini Ogunnaike, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the College of William and Mary, and Michael Gomez, Professor of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University.

While his scholarship focuses primarily on West Africa, Professor Kane published a new book, *Les Sénégalais d'Amérique*. (Dakar: CERDIS, 2018) on the Senegalese immigrant community in New York City. This ethnographic work, a French language edition of his book, *The Homeland is the Arena: Religion, Transnationalism, and the Integration of Senegalese Immigrants in America* (Oxford University Press, 2011), addresses the dearth of literature on Francophone African immigration to Western countries and discusses the role of religion in the process of integration, the ethnic, socio-professional and political factors in migration and gender and intergenerational dynamics within the immigrant



communities. He also produced the documentary film, *The Transformation of the Pilgrimage Tradition in West Africa: Four Generations of African Pilgrims in the Muslim Holy Lands*, that was screened at Harvard in May 2019 and can be viewed on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ugoJpAjQQk>). Professor Kane has also lectured widely in the past year. In December 2018, he delivered the Myriam Makeba lecture before the Fifteenth General Assembly of Codesria in Dakar, Senegal on “Religion, Fundamentalisms and Globalization: Reflections from Africa.” He was also a participant in the panel discussion “Author Meets Critiques” at the African Studies Association Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in December 2018, presented a paper on “Religion, Globalization and Fundamentalisms in Africa” at the Conference “Global Africa: The State of African and African Diaspora Studies in the 21st Century” at The Africa Institute in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates in March 2019 and delivered a lecture on “Islam in West Africa” at the Black Muslim Initiative Conference at New York University in April 2019. Professor Kane also expanded his reach to the African public when he appeared as a guest on the program *Entretien* with acclaimed Senegalese journalist Sada Kane in July 2019.

In Fall 2019 and Spring 2019, Professor Kane taught courses on “Critical Perspectives in the Dynamics and Development of Islam in Africa,” “Islam, Modernity and Politics,” and a two-semester course on “Spiritual Cultivation in Islam,” with a focus on the Classical Era in the fall term and the Modern Era in the spring term. In Summer 2019, he also led a two-month study abroad program to Dakar, Senegal through Harvard Summer School where he taught a course entitled, “Belief, Culture and Society in Francophone Africa” to Harvard undergraduates.

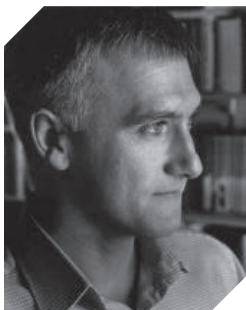


“Mosque of Djenné, Mali” by Pascal Mannaerts via Alamy

In addition to his teaching, research and writing, Professor Kane is highly engaged with students. He advises Master of Theological Studies and Master of Divinity students at Harvard Divinity School and Ph.D. students in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He also serves as spiritual counselor to Muslim students. In this capacity, he has been hosting a weekly gathering for dhikr and spiritual cultivation for them in his home every Friday evening since 2014. Professor Kane is also the coordinator of the Initiative in Islamic Spiritual Life at Harvard Divinity School.

In the 2019-20 academic year, Professor Kane is an editor for the book, *Islamic Scholarship in Africa. New Directions and Global Contexts* (London: James Currey, forthcoming 2020). He also serves as chair of the search committee for the open faculty position in Islamic studies at Harvard Divinity School.

Professor Kane also hosted his fourth Islam in Africa conference on “Africa, Globalization, and the Muslim Worlds” on September 19-21, 2019 at Harvard Divinity School.



ALWALEED PROFESSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT

David Roxburgh

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

IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19, PROFESSOR

Roxburgh returned from sabbatical leave and resumed his role as Chair of the Department of History of Art and Architecture. He offered four courses: “Monuments of Islamic Architecture,” a lecture course shared with Professor Necipoglu; “Word and Image in Persian Painting,” a graduate seminar; “Medieval Architecture of Greater Iran and Central Asia,” a new pro-seminar; and a co-taught a graduate seminar on the Shosoin treasury with Professors Yukio Lippit, Ryuichi Abe, and Eugene Wang.

During the year he presented lectures and served as a moderator at conferences. In November 2018, he delivered the paper “Islamic Art as a Research Model for Doing Global Art History” at the International Art Education conference celebrating the centennial of the Central Academy of Fine Art (CAFA) in Beijing. Professor Roxburgh also moderated the morning session of the conference and was bestowed with a five-year honorary professorship at CAFA. Later in the same month, Professor Roxburgh served as a discussant and moderator at the “Art, Design, and Society” CIHA (Comité International d’Histoire de l’Art) colloquium organized by the

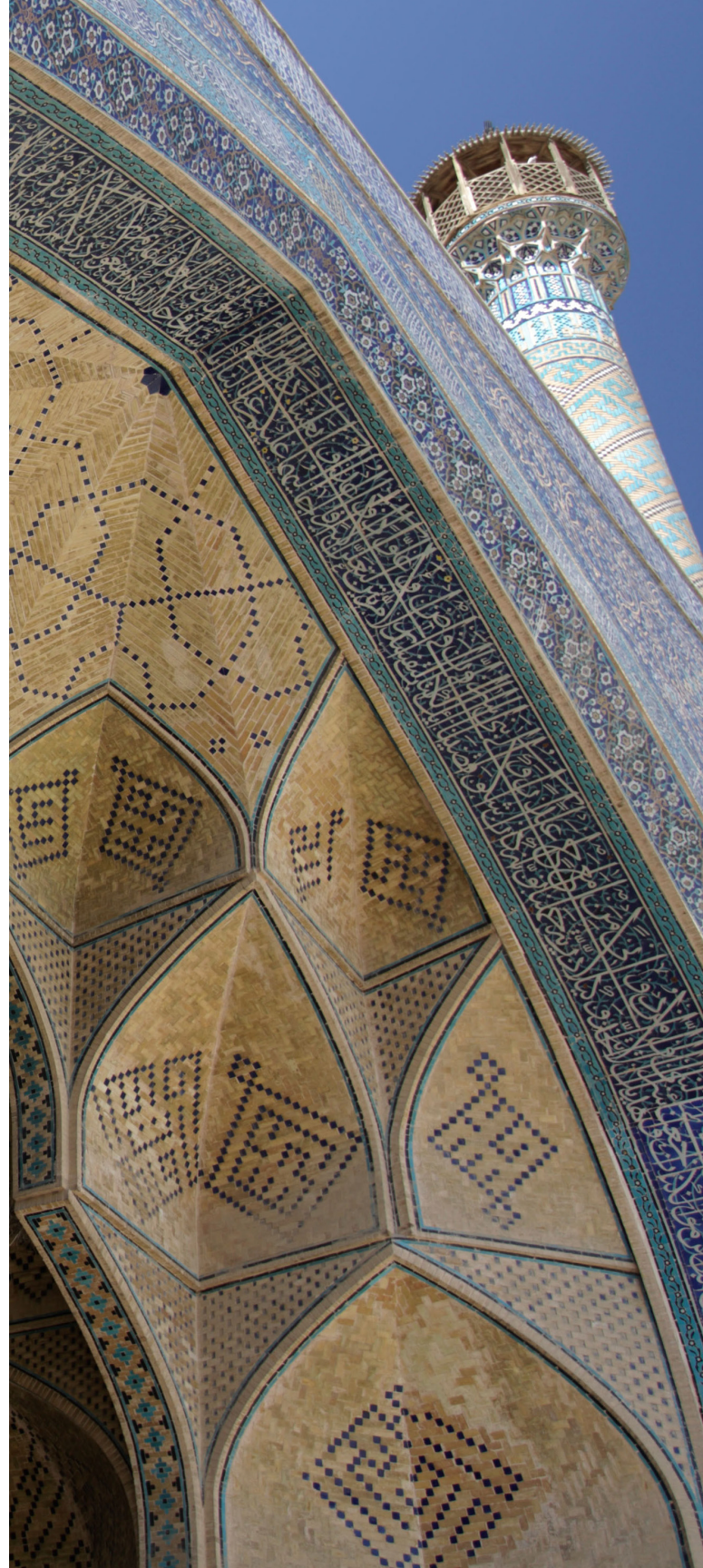
National Museum Institute, New Delhi. He also participated in the CIHA board meeting in his role as a CIHA vice president and president of CIHA’s US affiliate, the National Committee for the History of Art. In the intervening weeks, he delivered a lecture at the Worcester Art Museum, “Illustrating Epic Poetry and History in Persian Manuscripts from the Mongols to the Timurids” in the Masters Series sponsored by ABBVIE and WGBH Forum Network. His lecture occurred during the run of an exhibition he co-curated there—with Harvard Ph.D. candidate Hannah Hyden—titled *Preserved Pages: Book as Art in Persia and India, c. 1300-1800* (13 October 2018-6 January 2019). A second CIHA colloquium was held in March 2019 in Tokyo at the National Museum titled “Toward the Future: Museums and Art History in East Asia.” Professor Roxburgh co-moderated the second day of the conference. His final invited lecture of the academic year was at Bryn Mawr College’s Center for Visual Culture—organized by Harvard alumnus Professor Alicia Walker—where he spoke about his current thought on early Timurid manuscript production.

During the year Professor Roxburgh completed several essays that have all gone to press with

publication dates in 2019 and 2020, comprising studies on the Suez Canal inauguration ceremonies of November 1869; an anthology made for Timurid Prince Baysunghur in the Berenson Collection, Villa I Tatti, Florence; the art of writing and its collection for an exhibition to be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, curated by Aimee Froom; and the diagram in the book of fixed stars by Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi (the latter for the co-edited conference proceedings on the diagram conference held at Dumbarton Oaks in spring 2018). He also contributed several entries to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* and published a review of *Art, Trade, and Culture in the Islamic World and Beyond* (edited by Alison Ohta, Michael Rogers, and Rosalind Wade Haddon) in the *Review of Middle East Studies*.



(Above) "Shah Abbas Mosque and Madrasa Complex" by M. Karesuando via Alamy; (Right) "Jameh Mosque in Isfahan, Iran" via Alamy



Steering Committee



Gareth Doherty

Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and 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 and anthropology. Doherty's recent research projects have centered on landscape-related practices at various sites across the postcolonial and Islamic worlds, specifically in the Arabian Peninsula, West Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Professor Doherty is a recipient of the Alwaleed Program's Early-Career Faculty Research Grant that he will use to expand on his past research on the paradoxes of green in the landscape of Bahrain.



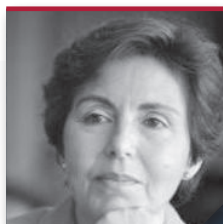
William Granara

Professor of the Practice of Arabic on the Gordon Gray Endowment, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies

WILLIAM GRANARA IS GORDON GRAY

Professor of the Practice of Arabic and Comparative Literature. He specializes in the literature and history of the Arab Mediterranean in both the medieval and modern periods. His *Narrating Muslim Sicily: War and Peace in the Medieval Mediterranean World*, was published in June, 2019. He also writes on contemporary Arabic literature and has published translations of several Arabic novels into English: *The Earthquake* [2000]; *Granada* [2004]; and *The Battle of Poitiers* [2011]. His articles include: "Nostalgia, Arab Nationalism, and the Andalusian Chronotope in the Evolution of the Modern Arabic Novel" (2005); "Nile Crossings: Hospitality and Revenge in Egyptian Rural Narratives" (2010); and "The Mediterranean in Colonial North African Literature: *Contesting Views*" (2019).

STEERING COMMITTEE *continued*



Gülrü Necipoğlu

Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art, Department of History of Art and Architecture; and Director of the Aga Khan Program of Islamic Architecture

GÜLRÜ 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.



Malika Zeghal

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

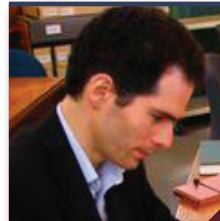


**Leila
Ahmed**

Victor S. Thomas
Professor of Divinity,
Harvard Divinity School

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 R. Jewett Professor
of Arabic and Islamic
Intellectual History,
Department of Near Eastern
Languages and Civilizations

KHALED EL-ROUAYHEB SPECIALIZES IN THE

intellectual and cultural history of the Arabic-Islamic world in the early-modern period (1500-1800), the history of Arabic logic and Islamic theology and philosophy. His recent publications include *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2016), co-edited with Sabine Schmidtke, and his latest book, *The Development of Arabic Logic* (1200-1800) (Schwabe Verlagsgruppe, 2019).

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*

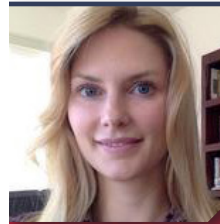


**Ali
Asani**

Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; and Member, Committee on the Study of Religion

ALI ASANI HOLDS A JOINT APPOINTMENT

between the Committee on the Study of Religion and 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. He also teaches courses on Islam in the Harvard's General Education Program, emphasizing the role of the sound arts, visual arts and poetic arts as the primary ways in which most Muslims around the world experience their faith.




**Kristin
Fabbe**

Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Hellman Faculty Fellow, Harvard Business School

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. Her recent book is *Disciples of the State?: Religion and State-Building in the Former Ottoman World* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

STEERING COMMITTEE *continued*

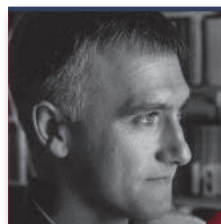


Shady Nasser

Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Department 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. His forthcoming book is entitled *The Second Canonization of the Qur'ān*.



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.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Ahmed Ragab

AHMED RAGAB, RICHARD T. WATSON ASSOCIATE

Professor of Science and Religion, has been both a dynamic intellectual presence and an engaged community member in his time at Harvard.

Through his appointments at Harvard Divinity School and the Department of the History of Science in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Professor Ragab has taught courses, advised students and conducted research on areas including the history of medicine, science and religion, the development of cultures of science and cultures of religion in the Middle East and the Islamic World and gender and sexuality in the medieval and modern Middle East. His recent publications have included books on *Piety and Patienthood in Medieval Islam* (Routledge, 2018) and *Medicine and Religion in the Life of the Ottoman Sheikh: al-Damanhuri's "Clear Statement" on Anatomy* (Routledge, 2018). With the support of the Alwaleed Program's Early-Career Faculty Grant, Professor Ragab is also conducting research for his upcoming book, *The Islam Archive: A Meta-History of Islam in the Colonial and Post-Colonial World*.

Professor Ragab has been involved with many programs on campus including serving as the Director of the Science, Religion and Culture Program and a Steering Committee Member for the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program. Through the Alwaleed Program, Professor Ragab convened a panel on Islam and Race for Harvard Worldwide



Soha Bayoumi, daughter Carmen with their cat, Jesse, and Ahmed Ragab/photo credit: Amanda Y. Su, Harvard Crimson

Week and the Thinking Islam Within Religious Studies Conference in honor of Professor William A. Graham on the occasion of his retirement.

Professor Ragab's work has been not just a job, but a lifestyle at Harvard where he and his family have been deeply embedded in the community. His wife, Soha Bayoumi, is a lecturer in History of Science and the Allston Burr Resident Dean in Kirkland House, where they live with their daughter, Carmen, and cat, Jesse. Both Professor Ragab and Soha Bayoumi bring a social justice orientation with them into the classroom and have also been active outside the classroom on issues that affect students, especially those from marginalized backgrounds. From his interdisciplinary courses on religion and science to conversations over dinner with students in the Kirkland House, Professor Ragab has brought thoughtful, inspiring and engaged scholarship to Harvard.

2018-19 Alwaleed 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.

How did your scholarship develop in the 2018-19 academic year?

“The last academic year has been crucial to my scholarly development. I have further matured my interest in the topic of *jihād* as found in the Qur'ān and interpreted in the Islamic tradition. I am particularly fascinated by the role *jihād* played in the construction of the religious Other. Moreover, I have become convinced that a firm grasp of the modern and contemporary periods is necessary in order to make my research truly meaningful and relevant. In particular, I spent the last year studying the works of liberal and modernist thinkers from South Asia who radically rethought the formative period of Islam as well as traditional notions of *jihād*, the relationship of religion to the state, and interfaith relations. My coursework over the last year reflects this breadth of study, and I further progressed in my Arabic and Urdu language skills. Additionally, I obtained working knowledge of French and studied Western philosophy and ethics, specifically as related to the Enlightenment, modernity, and liberalism. Consistent with my goal to always couple scholarship with practice, I organized a conference at Harvard to celebrate intellectual liberty in Islamic thought and used this opportunity to give a platform to Javed Ahmad Ghamidi, Pakistan's most well-known reformist scholar of Islam who was forced to flee the country after being targeted by the Taliban for his liberal and peace-loving views.”

2018-19 ALWALEED FELLOWS *continued*



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 a minor in Arabic Language from McGill University. He also holds a Master of Theological Studies in Islamic Studies from Harvard Divinity School.

How did your scholarship develop in the 2018-19 academic year?

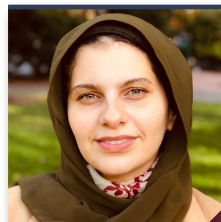
“As language skills are an essential part of studying Islam in South Asia, this past year I devoted a significant amount of time to further strengthening my Hindi-Urdu and Persian language abilities. I studied Advanced Hindi-Urdu at Harvard University in both the Fall and Spring semesters, which has positioned me well in my work on the writings of 19th and 20th century South Asian scholars. While the texts I examine are primarily written in Urdu, the genealogy of ideas surrounding religious identity and literary tradition in the subcontinent necessitates that I study sources in Persian during the premodern and modern periods. The Mughal period played a definitive role in crystallizing identity and defining what it means to be a Muslim in South Asia. After a year of studying the Persian language at Harvard, I had the opportunity this past summer to participate in the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Summer Intensive Mughal Persian Program. I also presented at the AIIS Mughal Persian Archival Workshop at Lucknow University.”

2018-19 Student Coordinators



**Johannes
Makar**

JOHANNES MAKAR COORDINATES THE METHOD 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**

FARAH EL-SHARIF COORDINATES THE ISLAMIC Studies Seminar Series. She is a Ph.D. student in Islamic intellectual history at Harvard where she focuses on the North and West African knowledge production in the 19th century. Her interests lie within themes of colonialism and epistemology, as well as the intersection of Sufism and Islamic Law. She completed her Master's in Islamic Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California and earned her bachelor's degree in Culture and Politics at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service with a concentration in Culture and Politics.

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 and Instructor in the Division of Continuing Education at Harvard University where he teaches courses on Islamic and Middle Eastern history. 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 Alwaleed Program, 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.

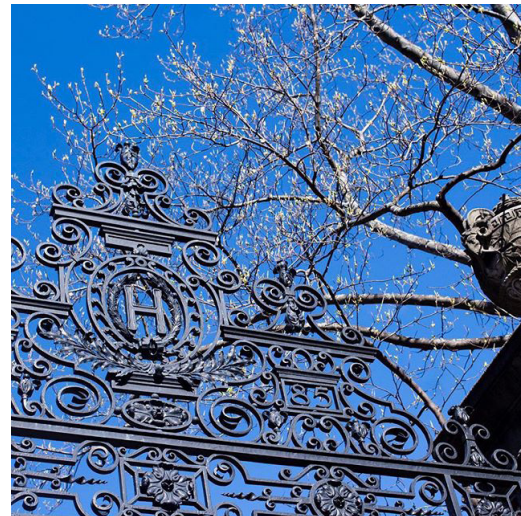
ALWALEED PROGRAM TEAM *continued*



**Meryum
Kazmi**

Program Coordinator

MERYUM KAZMI IS THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR for the Prince 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. Meryum also studied and taught beginner grammar at the Qasid Arabic Institute in Amman, Jordan. She is currently pursuing her AM 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

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