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CURRENT POSITION

Walter H. Annenberg Professor of the Humanities, Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Religious Studies, Director of the Wolf Humanities Center, Director Penn Forum for Global Islamic Studies, University of Pennsylvania

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Walter H. Annenberg Professor of the Humanities, 2012 to present.

Class of 1965 Endowed Term Professor, 2007 to 2012.

Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, 2006 to present.

Secondary appointment in the Department of South Asia Studies, 2007 to 2019.

Member of the Graduate Groups in Ancient History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and South Asia Regional Studies.

Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Professor of Religion, Religion Department, 2002 to 2006.

Associate Professor, Religion Department, 1996 to 2002.

Assistant Professor, Religion Department, 1989 to 1996.

Secondary appointment in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, 1996 to 2006.

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

Visiting Professor, Department of Religious Studies, 2002 to 2003.

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, 1987 to 1989.

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Yale University (Religious Studies)	May, 1991
A.M.	Yale University (Religious Studies)	May, 1987
A.M.	University of Pennsylvania (Oriental Studies)	December, 1985
A.B.	Stanford University (Religious Studies)	June, 1983

Intensive Advanced Turkish Program, Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Turkey	Summer, 1985
Stanford-in-Tours, France	1981

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Alef Is for Allah: Childhood, Emotion and Visuality in Islamic Society. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2018.

Aisha's Cushion: Religious Art, Perception and Practice in Islam. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2012. Translated into Turkish as *Hız: Ayşe'nin Minderi İslam'da Dini Sanat, Algı ve Pratik*. Trans. İsa İlkay Karabaşoğlu. Istanbul: Küre Yayınları, 2021. Reviewed in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Literary Review*, *Publishers Weekly*, *PopMatters*, *The Guardian*; chosen as an Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice*.

On Wings of Diesel: Identity, Imagination and Truck Decoration in Pakistan. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2011. Winner of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies Best Senior Book Prize, 2011-2012. Reviewed in *Journal of Asian Studies*, *The New York Times*, *Dawn*, *Ceasefire*.

Death Before Dying: Sufi Poems of Sultan Babu. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998. Reviewed in *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Parabola*.

The Throne Carrier of God: The Life and Thought of 'Ala' ad-dawla as-Simnani. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995. Translated into Indonesian as *Sang Penyangga Singgasan Tuban*, Jakarta: Pustaka Hidayah, 2007. Reviewed in *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Iranian Studies*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.

coauthor, *Interpreting the Self: Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition*. Edited by Dwight F. Reynolds. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. Translated into Arabic as *Tarjamat al-nafs: al-sira al-dhātīyya fī'l-adab al-'arabī*. Abu Dhabi: Kalima, 2010.

Textbooks

This is Islam: From Muhammad and the Community of Believers to Islam in the Global Community. In the series "This is Our World." Great Barrington, Vermont: Berkshire Publishing and Kindle, 2011. Reviewed in *Education About Asia*.

Islam. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, and London: Routledge, 1999. Translated into Chinese (Cité, 1999); German (Herder, 2000); Portuguese (Edições 70, 2000); Spanish (Akal, 2001); Japanese (Shunjusha, 2005). German translation reprinted in *Die Fünf Weltreligionen* (Erfstadt: HOHE, 2007).

Edited Volumes

Light Upon Lights: A Festschrift presented to Gerhard Böwering by His Students. Coedited with Bilal Orfali. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2019.

Key Themes for the Study of Islam. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2010.

Guest editor, *Journal of Quranic Studies* 12 (2010), Special Issue on Qur'anic Exegesis.

Guest editor, *Muslim World* 90:3-4 (2000), Special Issue on Saints and Shrines.

Associate Editor, *Encyclopedia of Modern Asia*, edited by D. Levinson and K. Christensen. New York: Charles Scribner, 2002.

Articles in refereed journals and edited works

“Translations of the Qur’ān,” coauthored with Ali Karjoo-Ravary, *Handbook of Qur’anic Hermeneutics*, edited by Georges Tamer, Berlin, Walter de Gruyter [forthcoming]

“Textual Strategies and the Challenge of Meaning in Sufi commentary literature,” in *Festschrift in Honor of Devin Deneese*, edited by Jeff Eden, Allen Frank, and Eren Tasar, Leiden, E.J. Brill, 2021: 237-257.

“Sufism and Islamic Identity in Jalaluddin Rumi’s Anatolia,” in *Light Upon Lights: A Festschrift presented to Gerhard Böwering by His Students*, edited by Jamal J. Elias and Bilal Orfali, Leiden: Brill, 2019: 291-315.

“Ultimate Sacrifice: Women and Motherhood in Iranian Visual Culture,” in *The ‘Other’ Martyrs: Women and the Poetics of Sexuality, Sacrifice and Death in World Literatures*, edited by Alireza Korangy and Leyla Rouhi, Wiesbaden: Harassowitz Verlag, 2019: 39-53.

“Mevlevi Sufis and the Representation of Emotion in the Arts of the Ottoman World,” in *Emotion and Subjectivity in the Art and Architecture of Early Modern Muslim Empires*, edited by Kishwar Rizvi, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2017: 185-209.

“Güzellik, İyilik ve Hayret (Beauty, Goodness and Wonder),” in *Tasvir: Teori, ve Pratik Arasında İslam Görsel Kültürü*, edited by Nicole Kançal-Ferrari and Ayşe Taşkent, Istanbul: Klasik, 2016: 21-33.

“Götzendämmerung. Moderner Ikonoklasmus in der muslimischen Welt,” *Zeitschrift für Ideengeschichte* 9:3 (2015): 33-48.

“Seeing the Religious Image in the Historical Account: Icons and Idols in the Islamic Past,” in *History and Material Culture in Asian Religions*, edited by Benjamin J. Fleming and Richard Mann, New York: Routledge, 2014: 284-302.

- “The Taliban, Bamiyan, and Revisionist Iconoclasm,” in *Striking Images: Iconoclasm Past and Present*, edited by Leslie Brubaker and Richard Clay, London: Ashgate, 2013: 145-163.
- “Sufi *Dhikr* between Meditation and Prayer,” in *Meditation in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Cultural Histories*, edited by Halvor Eifring. London: Bloomsbury, 2013: 189-200.
- “The Politics of Pashtun and Punjabi Truck Decoration,” in *Under the Drones: Modern Lives in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Borderlands*, edited by Shahzad Bashir and Robert D. Crews. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012: 192-214, 301-302.
- “Sufi *tafsīr* Reconsidered: Exploring the Development of a Genre,” *Journal of Quranic Studies* 12:2 (2010): 41-55.
- “Prophecy, Power and Propriety: The Encounter of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba,” *Journal of Quranic Studies* 11:1 (2010): 55-72.
- “God.” In Jamal J. Elias, ed., *Key Themes for the Study of Islam*. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2010: 161-81; 396-98.
- “Not Reading the Writing on the Wall: Monumental Calligraphy as Visual Sign.” In Saima Zaidi, ed., *Mazaar, Bazaar: Design and Visual Culture in Pakistan*. Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2010: 120-29.
- “Sufi Poetry of the Indus Valley: Khwāja Ghulām Farīd.” In John Renard, ed., *Tales of God’s Friends: Islamic Hagiography in Translation*. Berkeley: California Press, 2009, pp. 249-260.
- “Islam and the Devotional Image in Pakistan.” In Barbara D. Metcalf, ed., *Islam in South Asia in Practice*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009, pp. 120-134.
- “Un/Making Idolatry: From Mecca to Bamiyan.” *Future Anterior: Journal of Historic Preservation* 4:2 (Winter 2007), pp. 2-29.
- “Truck Decoration and Religious Identity: Material Culture and Social Function in Pakistan.” *Material Religion* 1:1 (March 2005), pp. 48-71.
- “On Wings of Diesel: Spiritual Space and Religious Imagination in Pakistani Truck Decoration.” *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics* 43 (Spring 2003), pp. 187-202.
- “The Sufi Robe (khirqa) as a Vehicle of Spiritual Authority.” In Stewart Gordon, ed., *Robes and Honor: The Medieval World of Investiture*. New York: Palgrave, 2001.
- “A Second ‘Alī: The Making of Sayyid ‘Alī Hamadani in Popular Imagination.” *Muslim World*, 90:3-4 (2000), Special Issue on Saints and Shrines, pp. 395-419.
- “Zikr-i Dervîşâne'den Divân Musikisine Kadar: Osmanlılar Devrinde Semâ'ya Bir Bakış (From Dervish Zikr to Court Music: An Analysis of Sema in the Ottoman Period).” *Cogito* (Istanbul) 19 (Summer 1999), Special Issue on the Ottomans, pp. 216-224.

- “Sufism.” Review Article on coverage of Sufism in Encyclopaedia Iranica, vols. 1-7. *Iranian Studies* 31:3-4 (1998), pp. 595-613.
- “The *Hadith* Traditions of ‘A’isha as Prototypes of Self-Narrative.” *Edebiyat* 7:2 (1997), Special Issue on Autobiography in Arabic Literature, pp. 215-33.
- “Risāla-yi nūriyya-yi Shaykh ‘Alā’ ad-dawla-yi Simnānī.” *Ma‘ārif* (Tehran) 13:1 (1996).
- “The Sufi Lords of Bahrabad.” *Iranian Studies* 27:1-4 (1994), Special Issue on Religion and Statecraft in Pre-Modern Iran.
- “A Kubrawī Treatise on Mystical Visions: The Risāla-yi nūriyya of ‘Alā’ ad-dawla as-Simnānī.” *Muslim World* 83 (Jan. 1993).
- “Female and Feminine in Islamic Mysticism.” *Muslim World* 78 (July - October 1988).

Publications in encyclopedias, magazines and non-refereed works

- "Afghanistan's war rug industry distorts the reality of everyday trauma.: *The Conversation* (September 21, 2021).
- “Why there’s opposition to images of Muhammad.” *The Conversation* (January 23, 2015).
- “Sufism.” In *The Oxford Companion to Pakistani History*. Ed. by Ayesha Jalal. Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- “Sultan Bahu.” In *The Oxford Companion to Pakistani History*. Ed. by Ayesha Jalal. Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- “Truck Calligraphy in Pakistan/Lastwagen-Kalligraphie in Pakistan.” In Jürgen W. Frembgen, ed., *The Aura of the Alif: The Art of Calligraphy and Writing in Islam/ Die Aura des Alif: Schriftkunst im Islam*. Munich: Prestel, 2010: 211-224.
- “What do we want the other to teach about Islam?” In David L. Coppola, ed., *What do We want the Other to Teach about Us?* Fairfield, Connecticut: Sacred Heart University Press, 2006.
- “On Wings of Diesel: The Decorated Trucks of Pakistan.” *Amberst Magazine* (Spring 2005).
- “Throne of God.” *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2005, vol. 5, pp. 276-278.
- “Mysticism: Islamic Mysticism in Asia.” *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*. New York: Scribner’s, 2004, pp. 1550a-1552b.
- “Light.” *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2003, vol. 3, pp. 186-188.
- “Lamp.” *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2003, vol. 3, pp. 107-108.

“Road Queens: Pakistan’s Trucks.” *Art India* (July 2002).

“Face of God.” *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2002, vol. 2, pp. 159-161.

“Secularization, Laicization, and Challenges to Feminist Reform in the Islamic World.”
Curricular Crossings: Women’s Studies and Area Studies, A Web Anthology for the College Classroom from the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center
 (<http://womencrossing.org/elias.html>).

“Ghaznavid,” “Il-Khān,” “Layla and Majnūn,” “Nawrūz,” “Rubaiyāt,” “Rūmī,” “Shāh,”
 “Sharī‘atī,” “Ali,” “Sūfism,” “Timur (Tamarlane).” *The Dictionary of Global Culture*, ed. K.A.
 Appiah and H.L. Gates. New York: Knopf, 1996.

“Ölüm: bize korkunç, bize gerekli (Death: Awful and Unavoidable).” *Fol* (Istanbul) 4 (1996).

“Mawlawiyah.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, ed. John L. Esposito et
 al. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

“Shattariyah.” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, ed. John L. Esposito et
 al. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

“Persian and Arabic Literature (c. A.D. 600-1400).” *Prentice Hall Literature, World
 Masterpieces*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1991.

“Women’s Rights and the Interpretation of Law.” *The American Muslim* (May - June 1991).

Book reviews published in *American Historical Review*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Iranian
 Studies*, *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, *Muslim World*, and *Religious Studies Review*.

Poetry published in Japan, Pakistan and the United States.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book length project on the history of the Mevlevi (Mawlawiyya) Sufi order from the death of its
 eponymous founder, Mawlana Jalal’uddin Rumi in the 13th until its consolidation in Istanbul as
 an urban, elite Ottoman Sufi order in the beginning of the 17th century.

Edited volume entitled *Beyond the Rose and the Nightingale: What Makes Islamic Literature Islamic?* To be
 submitted to University of Pennsylvania Press.

First English translation of the most famous Pashto romance, *Adam Khan Durkhanay* (with Jawan
 Shir Rasikh).

LANGUAGES

	Reading	Speaking	Writing
Arabic	Excellent	Good	Fair
Chaghatay Turkish	Good	N/A	N/A
French	Excellent	Good	Fair
German	Good	Poor	Poor
Ottoman Turkish	Excellent	N/A	N/A
Pashto	Good	Good	Fair
Persian	Excellent	Good	Good
Punjabi	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Spanish	Good	Good	Fair
Turkish	Excellent	Good	Fair
Urdu/Hindi	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

PAPERS READ (Selected)

Invited Lectures

"Images, Emotions and Outrage: Struggles in Self-Representation and Meaning Making." *Plenary Lecture, Islam and Contested Visual Culture*, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, February, 2023.

"Dictionaries as Devotional Texts: Ibrahim Şahidi's *Tuhfe* in Context." *Sakıp Sabancı Center for Turkish Studies*, Columbia University, New York, February, 2023.

"Glimpsing History through Literature's Window: Religious Sentiments, Emotional Styles, Punjabi Poets," *Plenary Lecture, 10th Annual Pakistan Conference*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April, 2021.

"Troubling Translations and the Elusive Original: Translating more than Text," *Asian Studies Program and Transaction Zone Humanities Institute Research Workshop*, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, March 2021.

"Images and Intentions: Taking Visual Religion seriously," *Abrahamic Seminar, Faculty of Religion and Theology*, Oxford University, Oxford, U.K., February 2021.

"His Grandfather's Light: Rumi, Arif Chelebi, and the formation of a Religious Community," *Wolf Humanities Center*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2019.

Trico Religion Senior Colloquium Guest Scholar, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, November 2019.

- “Revisiting Rumi’s *Masnawi* as the ‘Persian Qur’an’ through the Lens of Anqarawi,” Keynote Address, *Mysticism and Ethics in Islam*, American University Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, May 2019.
- “Constructing Childhood in West Asian Societies,” East Asia Center, University of California, Santa Barbara, May 2019.
- “Beyond the Narrative: Recovering the Personal and Emotional in History,” Keynote Address, *13th Humanities and Social Sciences Conference*, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan, April 2019.
- “Visual Piety and the Construction of Children in the Modern Islamic World,” *Scripture and the Arts Material Religion Lecture Series*, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, February 2019.
- “Girl-Women: The Gendering of Virtue and Innocence in Popular South Asian Art,” *The Gaylord Lecture in Pacific and Area Studies*, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 2018.
- “The Construction of Childhood in the Modern Islamic World,” *The Ira Wender Annual Lecture*, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, May 2018.
- “Rumi Sufism and the ‘Good Islam’: Constructing Sufism in the Modern World,” *American University Beirut*, Beirut, Lebanon, April 2017.
- “Angels and Monsters: Children, Emotion and Visual Culture in Islamic Societies,” *Sixth Sense Forum*, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan, April 2017.
- “‘Good’ versus ‘Bad’ Islam: Statist and Popular Attitudes towards Sufism in Pakistan and Beyond,” Plenary Lecture, *Representing South Asian Sufism*, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan, April 2017.
- “‘Out of Love for my Mother’: Revisiting the Emotional in Sufi Historical Works,” Plenary Lecture, *Authority in Islam in Muslim Eurasia*, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, April 2017.
- “Images and Emotions: Society and Art Practices in the Islamic World,” Gardner Center for Asian Art and Ideas, *Seattle Art Museum*, Seattle, Washington, February 2017.
- “Alef is for Allah: Children, Cuteness and Society in Pakistan, Iran and Turkey,” *Habib University*, Karachi, Pakistan, September 2016.
- “Iconoclasm and the Claim to Culture: Case Studies in the Islamic Context,” *Amherst College*, Amherst, Massachusetts, April 2016.
- “Sufism and the Poetry of Religious Love,” *Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations*, London, United Kingdom, March 2015.
- “Cuteness and Virtue in Muslim Society,” *Franklin and Marshall College*, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, February 2015.

- “Saints and Superheroes: The Visual Culture of Pakistan,” *Aga Khan Museum*, Toronto, Canada, December 2014.
- “The Prayers of a Child: Piety, Virtue and Cuteness in Muslim Societies,” *Smith College*, Northampton, Massachusetts, November 2015.
- “Heaven is for Children: Childhood Innocence, Piety, and Adult Anxiety,” *The Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences*, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, September 2014.
- “Nation, Religion and Modern Subjectivity in Popular Art Cultures,” Plenary Lecture, *(Re)thinking Global Connectedness: Critical Perspectives on Globalization*, Liberal Arts International Conference, Texas A&M University of Qatar, Doha, Qatar, January 2014.
- “Images of Children and Books of Muslim Moral Education,” *Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations*, London, United Kingdom, January 2014.
- “Entre Diseño Industrial y Arte Popular: Vehículos Motorizados y Culturas del Arte (Between Industrial Design and Popular Art: Motor Vehicles and their Art Cultures).” *Diseño en Sociedad 9*, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Columbia, September 2013.
- “Nación, Clase y Sujeto Moderno: la Sociedad entendida a través del Arte Popular (Nation, Class, and the Modern Subject: Society as Understood through Popular Art).” *Diseño en Sociedad 9*, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Columbia, September 2013.
- “Muslims, Art and Aesthetics.” *Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations*, London, United Kingdom, June 2013.
- “Remembering Rumi: Hagiography and Religion in Medieval Anatolia.” *Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 2013.
- “Decoding the Beholder: The Challenges of Material and Visual Culture in the Pre-Modern World.” Department of Art History, *Yale University*, New Haven, Connecticut, February 2013.
- “Sufism: A Philosophical System, an Artistic Muse, a Way of Life.” *Sufism at the Smithsonian*, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, September 2012.
- “Beauty, Virtue and Wonder: Beyond Aesthetics in Islamic Thought (Güzellik, İyilik ve Hayranlık: İslam Sanatı ve Düşüncesinde Estetik Ötesi).” *Kırkambar Lecture*, Bilim ve Sanat Vakfı (Foundation for Science and Arts), Istanbul, Turkey, July 2012.
- “‘I Long for Endless Sugar’: Beauty and Virtue in Islam.” *Cluster Development Lecture Series*, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, February 2012.
- “Islam and the Strength of Visual Images.” *Lennox Lecture*, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, November 2011.
- “The Lives and Deaths of Images in the Islamic World.” *Bowdoin College*, Brunswick, Maine, March 2011.

- “Shifting Signs in a National Scopic Regime.” *Faculty Seminar in Material and Visual Culture*, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, April 2010.
- “Truck Decoration, Religion and Politics in Pakistan.” *South Asian Bar Association-Philadelphia*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2009.
- “Dreaming, Alchemy, and the Double Consciousness of Perception.” *Amherst College*, Amherst, Massachusetts, April 2009.
- “Islam and the Defense of History.” *Swarthmore College*, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, April 2008.
- “Wheels of Change: Religion, Politics and Vehicle Decoration in Pakistan.” *Publics Beyond Print: Technologies of Circulation in South Asia*, Occasional Series, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 2008.
- “Between the Eye and the Mind: Islam, Images and Iconoclasm.” *Philomathean Society*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2007.
- “Islam, Mis/Representation, and the Defenders of God.” *The Willis D. Wood Distinguished Lectures in Islam*, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, April 2007.
- “Jews, and Christians, and Muslims, Oh My! Revisiting the Concept of ‘People of the Book’.” *The Willis D. Wood Distinguished Lectures in Islam*, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, March 2007.
- “Must God be Rational? (The Pope and) Ethical Constraints in Islam.” *The Willis D. Wood Distinguished Lectures in Islam*, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, March 2007.
- “Images of Christians and Jews under the Seljuks and Mongols.” *Center for Advanced Judaic Studies*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 2006.
- “Sufism, Ethics, and Muslim Piety.” *Sewanee University of the South*, Sewanee, Tennessee, November 2006.
- “Religious Art and the Nature of Perception in an Islamic Context.” *Institute of Islamic Studies*, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, February 2006.
- “Visual Images and Religious Pedagogy in Islam: *Du‘ā* Girl and the Comic Book.” *Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies*, New York University, New York, New York, October 2005.
- “Sufi Tafsīr Literature and the Concept of Esoteric Commentary on the Qur’ān.” *York University*, Toronto, Canada, October 2005.
- “The Qur’ān and the Muslim Obligation of Compassion.” *Noor Centre for Islamic Culture*, Toronto, Canada, October 2005.

- “So... is there really another dimension? (Taking Sufi ontological claims seriously).” *Cross-Cultural Mysticism Workshop*, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, February 2005.
- “Vernacular Religion and Modern Identity in Pakistan.” *Carleton College*, Northfield, Minnesota, May 2004.
- “On Wings of Diesel: Truck Decoration in Pakistan.” *Macalester College*, St. Paul, Minnesota, May 2004.
- “When is Writing not Writing? Qur’anic Calligraphy on Public Buildings.” *Stanford University*, Stanford, California, January 2004.
- “Seeing versus Reading: Qur’anic Calligraphy as Visual Dhikr.” *Noor Centre for Islamic Culture*, Toronto, Canada, October 2003.
- “How does One measure Progress along the Sufi Path? Mystical Sensation and Perception in the ‘Golden Order’.” *York University*, Toronto, Canada, October 2003.
- “Vehicular Decoration: Vernacular Religion and Modern Identity in Pakistan.” *Williams College*, Williamstown, Massachusetts, May 2003.
- “Religious Art and the Nature of Perception in an Islamic Context.” *Stanford University*, Stanford, California, April 2003.
- “Reading Sufi Texts.” *Emory University*, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2001.
- “Vehicle Decoration: Nostalgia and Religious Representation in Pakistan and the Indus Valley.” *Cornell University*, Ithaca, New York, March 2001.
- “On Wings of Diesel: Spiritual Space and Religious Imagination in Pakistani Truck Decoration.” *Colgate University*, Hamilton, New York, March 2001.
- “Covered/uncovered, Open/closed: The Politics of Veiling in Turkey.” *Five College Women’s Research Center*, South Hadley, Massachusetts, November 1999.
- “Ma‘rifat awr taṣavvufi zindagī kī bunyādī ḥaqīqat (Mystical knowledge and the true meaning of the Sufi life).” *Madrasab-e Hamadaniyya*, Skardu, Pakistan, July 1999.
- “How do You Make a Sufi Master? The Problem of Written Instruction in Islamic Mystical Education.” *Hartford Seminary Faculty Seminar*, Hartford, Connecticut, February 1997.
- “The Sufi Lords of Bahrabad, Juvayn.” *University of Pennsylvania Middle East Seminar*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 1994.
- “God’s Face Through the Looking Glass: The Relationship between God and the Universe in 8th/14th century Sufi Thought.” *American Research Institute in Turkey*, Istanbul, Turkey, May 1993.

Numerous lectures to community and religious groups, schools and secondary school teachers.

Invitational Conference Papers

“Baba, Baji and Baby: Constructing Charisma in South Asian Religious Posters,” *Unstable Archives: A Workshop on Gender and Digital Humanities in South Asia*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 2018.

Plenary respondent, *Muslim Masculinities: Gender, Religion, and the Everyday*, Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 2018.

“Of Imaginary Books and Their Commentaries: Thoughts on Isma‘il Anqaravi and the *Masnawi* of Jalaluddin Rumi,” *The Real in Islam: Histories of Physicality and Spirituality from South Asia and Beyond*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 2018.

“Religion, the Establishment, and Unlikely Mediants,” *Digital Media and Social Change: A Transnational Public Sphere*, Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2016.

“The Affective Turn in Religious Studies: A Conversation,” Plenary participant, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, April 2016.

“Images, Heritage and the Battle for History: The Question of Islam and Iconoclasm,” *Reimagining Muslim Pasts*, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University and Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey, March 2016.

“Sufis and Their Representations: Emotions and Tropes in Texts, Paintings, and Photographs,” *Religious Materiality in the Indian Ocean World*, Sawyer Seminar, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, October 2015.

“Martyred Innocence: Children, Sacrifice and the Rationalization of War in Modern Iran,” *Politics of Time, Material Culture and Islamic Religiosity*, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, April 2015.

“Taking Religion Seriously,” *Steven Allen Kaplan Memorial Panel*, History Department, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2015.

“Girl Brides and Boy Soldiers: Ahistoricity and Impossible Questions,” *Muslim Exceptionalism: Islam, the Academy and the Global Public*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2014.

“Constructing Islamic Bioethics in a Global Context,” *Bioethics in the Muslim and Developing Worlds*, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University, London, U.K., October 2014.

“Exploring Muslim Contexts,” *Workshop*, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, The Aga Khan University, London, U.K., May 2014.

- “Sufis, Tropes and Paintings: The Case of the Mevlevis in the Ottoman Empire,” *Emotion and Subjectivity in the Art and Architecture of the Early Modern Muslim Empires*, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, May 2014.
- “Understanding Pakistani Society and Modernity through the Window of a Truck,” *Sixth Sense Forum*, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan, March 2014.
- “Bursali İsmâ‘il Hakkı as Commentator: An Examination of the *Tefsîr Rûbû‘l-beyân* and the *Rûbû‘l-Mesnevî*,” *Second International Symposium on Isma‘il Haqqi Bursavî*, Bursa, Turkey, November 2013.
- “Commentary as Method vs Genre: An Analysis of Isma‘il Haqqi Bursawi’s Commentaries on the Qur’an and the *Masnavî-yi m‘anavî*,” *Crossing Boundaries: Mystical and Philosophical Conceptualizations of the dunyâ/âkhira Relationship*, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, July 2013.
- “Mevlevis Imagining and Imagined: Rumi and His Order in Pre-Modern Anatolia.” *Image as Imagination: Mysticism, Magic, and Poetry in Byzantine Christian and Islamic Religious Experience*, Stanford University, Stanford, California, May 2013.
- “The Road as Social Stage: Transportation, Travel, and the Construction of Class in Pakistan.” *The Makings and Uses of Motor Roads*, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth, Germany, June 2012.
- “Sufi *tafsir* and the Qur’an as a non-linear text.” *The Qur’an: Text, Society and Culture*, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, U.K., November 2011.
- “Iconoclasm.” *AHRC Workshop*, Tate Museums, London, U.K., October 2011.
- “The hyphenated artist between the nation and the world stage.” *Beyond Security: Democratic Contestations in Bangladesh and Pakistan*, Columbia University, New York, New York, October 2011.
- “For my Spiritual Son: Sufi Bonds in the Medieval Persianate World.” *The History and Culture of Friendship in Premodern South Asia*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 2011.
- “Exploring the Meaning of Identity through Pushtun and Punjabi Truck Decoration.” *Popular Cultures and Alternate Histories: Voices from Beyond the Security State in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 2011.
- “Charisma.” *Sufism Seminar*, Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, February 2011.
- “Sufi *tafsîr* and the Qur’an as a Colony Text.” *Tafsîr: The Evolution of a Genre in the Framework of Islamic Intellectual History*, Free University, Berlin, Germany, September 2010.
- “Textual Descriptions of the Practice of *Dhikr* in the Early Kubrawiyya,” *Cultural Histories of Meditation*, University of Norway, Oslo, Norway, May 2010.

- “Icons and Idols in the Islamic Past: Seeing the Religious Image in Historical Accounts,” *History and Material Culture in Asian Religions*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2010.
- “Identity, Modernity and Meaning in Pushtun and Punjabi Truck Decoration,” *Alienated Nations, Fractured States: Afghanistan and Pakistan*, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, December 2009.
- “Sufi *tafsīr* Reconsidered: Exploring the Development of a Genre,” *The Qur’an: Text, History and Culture*, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, U.K., November 2009.
- Respondent for four panels, *Qur’an Commentaries: Sources, Methods and Hermeneutics*, The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, U.K., October 2009.
- “Representing Monolatry: Iconoclasm between Religion and Politics in the Islamic World”, *Contesting Images: Byzantine and Other Iconoclasm*s, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 2009.
- “An Economy of Signs in the Decoration of Vehicles in Pakistan,” *Informalization and Representation in South Asia*, Institute for Comparative Modernities, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, May 2008.
- “Prophecy, Power and Propriety: The Encounter of Sulaymān and the Queen of Sabā’,” *Biennial Qur’an Conference*, Centre for Islamic Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, U.K., November 2007.
- “Jewish, Christian and Muslim Bureaucrats in Mongol Iran (13th and 14th Centuries),” *Children of Abraham: A Dialogue of Civilizations*, Whitehead Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 2007.
- “Un/Making Idolatry: From Mecca to Bamiyan.” *Deux (e)X Historia: A Conference Exploring Divinity and Reason in the Production of Knowledge*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 2007.
- “Ala’ al-Dawla al-Simnānī and the Methodological Limits of Tafsīr.” *The Esoteric Interpretation of the Qur’an*, European Science Foundation Exploratory Workshop, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K., July 2006.
- “Nation, Religion and Emplacement: Modernity and Identity Expressed through the Pakistani Truck.” *Secularism, Religious Nationalism and the State: Visual Practices and Public Subjects*, American University, Beirut, Lebanon, April 2005.
- “On Seeing: Relationships of Resemblance in Premodern Islamic Thought.” *Majalis ul-usbaq: Portrait, Poetry and Biography in the Iranian World*, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, October 2004.
- “On Wings of Diesel: Spiritual Space and Religious Imagination in Pakistani Truck Decoration.” *Exploring the Frontiers of Islamic Art and Architecture*, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 2001.

“Zikr and Semâ in the Mevleviye during the Ottoman Period.” *Osmanlı 700: International Congress on Learning and Education in the Ottoman World*, Istanbul, Turkey, April 1999.

“Certificates, Suits and Sets of Rules: Masters and Disciples in Medieval Sufism.” *20th Annual Meeting of the Muhiyuddin Ibn Arabi Society*, Berkeley, California, October 1997.

“Experiences Purported, Experiences Reported: The Tensions of Text and Experience in Sunni Sufi Instruction.” Colloquium entitled *Conveying the Indescribable: Sufi Texts and Sufi Lives in the Formative Period (9th to 13th centuries)*, University of California, Los Angeles, March 1997.

Conference Papers and Participation

"Preserving Persian in the Ottoman World: Shahidi, Anqaravi and the Mevlevis," *Biennial Conference, Association of Iranian Studies*, Salamanca, Spain, August-September 2022.

Discussant, “Intersections of Sufism and Law in the Maghreb and Mashreq,” *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America*, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 2019.

Discussant, *The Primacy of Form*, Islam and the Humanities Conference, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, October 2019.

Moderator, *Islamic Bioethics*, Panel Discussion organized by the Middle East Center and Penn Forum for Global Islamic Studies, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 2019.

Discussant, Invitational workshop entitled “The Islamic Multiverse,” *New York University*, Abu Dhabi, May 2017.

“Pictures of Praying Children: Moral Education in the Islamic World,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Baltimore, Maryland, November 2013.

“Muğlâlî İbrahim Shahidi, Divane Mehmed, and the Evolution of Mawlana Rumi and the Mevlevis.” *Biennial Meeting of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies*, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, September 2013.

“The Tension between Inclusive and Exclusionary Identity Formation in Sufi Literature,” *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Toronto, Canada, March 2012.

Discussant, “Iconic Brands: Commodification, Circulation and Reproduction in Modern South Asian Religion,” *American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting*, Montreal, Canada, November 2009.

“The Guidance of Citizens, Sufis and Kings in Religious Manuals of the Kubraviyya Silsila.” *Association for the Study of Persianate Societies*, Biennial Meeting, Lahore, Pakistan, March 2009.

Leader, Roundtable Discussion on the Qur’an. *American Academy of Religion*, Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2008.

- “A Book of Signs over Time: Conversations about the Qur’an with Bruce Lawrence.” *American Academy of Religion*, Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2007.
- Respondent, Conference entitled *The Built Environment: Ornament, Function and Historical Transition in Islamic South Asia*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2007.
- “Wise Servants and Virtuous Kings: Sufi Writings as a Source of Islamic Ethics.” *American Academy of Religion*, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 2005.
- “The Legitimation of Authority and the Perception of Spiritual Influence among Early Kubrawis.” *Middle East Studies Association*, Annual Meeting, Anchorage, Alaska, November 2003.
- “Religious Writing on the Tattooed Truck in Pakistan.” *Sufism and Socioreligious Transformation in the Punjab*, Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, April 2003.
- Discussant, Symposium entitled *Esoteric Knowledge and the Social Imaginary in Medieval Islamic Culture*, New York University, New York, New York, February 2001.
- “Moving Murals: Religion, Sentimentalism and Art in the Decoration of Trucks and Buses in Pakistan.” *American Academy of Religion*, Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, November 1999.
- Respondent, Seminar entitled *The Apocalypse in Modern Societies: Millennial Motifs and Movements*, Yale Center for International and Area Studies, New Haven, Connecticut, September 1998.
- “Robing and Symbols of Investiture in Islamic Spirituality.” *American Academy of Religion*, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, November 1997.
- “Spiritual Guidance in Sufism: The Role of the Handbook,” *Middle East Studies Association*, Annual Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island, November 1996.
- “The Narrator as Subject in Ḥadīth.” *Middle East Studies Association*, Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, November 1994.
- Patriarchs, Magicians and Depilatory Preparations: The Encounter of Sulayman and the Queen of Saba?.” *Five College Near East Seminar*, Northampton, Massachusetts, December 1992.
- “The Four Faces of God: Lāhūt, Jabarūt, Malakūt and Nāsūt in Islamic Thought.” *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society*, Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 1992.
- “Sufism and Orthodoxy in the Central Islamic Lands in the 13th to 15th Centuries.” *Five College Religion Seminar*, Northampton, Massachusetts, February 1990.

CONFERENCES AND PANELS ORGANIZED

Conference entitled, "Beyond the Rose and the Nightingale: What Makes Islamic Literature Islamic?" University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 2022.

Conference entitled, "Race, Rights, Religion," University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 2018.

Workshop entitled "The *Real* in Islam: Histories of Physicality and Spirituality from South Asia and Beyond," co-organized with Terenji Sevea, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 2018.

Conference entitled, "Media in Muslim Contexts," Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University, London, U.K., November 2016.

Conference entitled "Reimagining Muslim Pasts," Aga Khan University and Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey, March 2016.

Conference entitled "Muslim Exceptionalism: Islam, the Academy and the Global Public," University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2014.

Conference entitled "Bioethics in the Muslim and Developing Worlds," Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University, London, U.K., October 2014.

Conference entitled "Majalis ul-ushaq: Portrait, Poetry and Biography in the Iranian World," Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, October 2004.

Conference entitled "Sufism and Socio-religious Transformation in the Punjab," Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, April 2003.

Organizer of Annual Meeting of Sufis and Society Project, Amherst, Massachusetts, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004.

Panel on medieval Sufism at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association Providence, Rhode Island, November 1996.

Director, Teachers' Workshop on Teaching about Islam and the Middle East, Amherst Massachusetts, July 1994.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS

Major Fellowships and Awards

Faculty Fellow, Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania, 2019 to 2020.
John S. Guggenheim Memorial Fellow, 2012 to 2013.

American Council of Learned Societies Fellow, 2012 to 2013.
 Ruth Metzler Fellow, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 2012 to 2013.
 Best Senior Book Prize, American Institute of Pakistan Studies, 2011 to 2012.
 Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Fellow, 2006 to 2007.
 Council of the American Overseas Research Centers Fellow, 2003 to 2004.
 A.M. (honorary), Amherst College, September, 2002.
 Miner D. Crary Fellow, Amherst College, Summer 1995.
 American Research Institute in Turkey Fellow, 1992 to 1993.
 Amherst Trustee-Faculty Fellow, 1992 to 1993.
 Dana Foundation Faculty Fellow, 1989 to 1993.
 Honorable Mention, Dissertation of the Year, Foundation for Iranian Studies, 1991.
 Honorable Mention, Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award, Middle East Studies Association, 1991.

Small Grants and Fellowships

Amherst College Faculty Research Awards Program Fellowship, 2003.
 Amherst College Faculty Research Grant, 1998.
 American Academy of Religion Research Grant, 1997.
 Amherst College Faculty Research Awards Program Fellowship, 1996.
 Five College Curriculum Development Grant, Summer 1995.
 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, Summer 1992.
 American Institute for Maghreb Studies Fellow, Summer 1991.

RELATED EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Editorial Board Member, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023 to present.

Advisory Board Member, *Manuscripts of the Muslim World* (a joint project of cataloging and digitization at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, and the Free Library of Philadelphia), 2018 to 2020.

Member, Academic Oversight Committee, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University, UK, 2013 to 2020.

Series Editor, Islamic Literatures Series, E.J. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands, 2012 to present.

Editorial Board Member, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 2019 to present.

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Comparative Islamic Studies*, 2015 to present.

Editorial Board Member, *Karşılaştırmalı Dini Araştırmalar/Journal of Comparative Religion*, 2016 to present.

Advisory Board Member, *Da'ira-i Ma'arif-i Islamia (Urdu Encyclopaedia of Islam)*, 2nd edition. Lahore, Pakistan, 2013 to present.

Advisory Board Member, *Islamic Studies*, published by the Islamic Research Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan, 2012 to present.

Advisory Board Member, *Open Islamicate Texts Initiative* (a joint project combining digital humanities initiatives at the Roshan Institute-University of Maryland, Aga Khan University, and Universität Leipzig), 2016 to 2021.

Member, External Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University, April 2022.

Chair, External Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Brown University, January 2020.

Chair, External Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies, Duke University, January 2019.

Member, Review committee for the for the Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2016 to 2019.

Special Advisor to the Provost, Aga Khan University, 2013 to 2018.

Workshop Participant, *Histories of the Unseen*, New York University, New York, February 2016.

External Reviewer, Department of Religion, Vassar College, February 2015.

Workshop Participant, *Asia in Museums: Interaction, Transformation, Constant Change*, American Museum of Natural History, New York, October 2013.

Chair, External Review Committee, Religion Program, Bard College, March 2013.

External Reviewer, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University, May 2012.

External Consultant, Middle East and Islamic Studies Development Project, Haverford College, November 2009.

External Reviewer, Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, April 2009.

External Consultant, Islamic Studies Program, University of California Los Angeles, April 2008.

Member, Albert Hourani Book Prize Committee, Middle East Studies Association, March 2008 to March 2009.

External Reviewer, Department of Religion, Carleton College, February 2008.

Member, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, May 2008 to 2012.

Member, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Pakistan Studies, 2006 to 2010.

Steering Committee Member, Islamic Mysticism Section, American Academy of Religion, November 2003 to 2008.

Chairman, Five College Near East Seminar, Five Colleges Incorporated, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1991 to 1992; 1993 to 1995; 2005 to 2006.

Chairman, Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Awards Committee, Middle East Studies Association, November 2003 to 2004.

Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Awards Committee Member, Middle East Studies Association, November 2002 to 2004.

Advisory Board Member, Duncan Black Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian Muslims Relations, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut, June 1996 to 2003.

History of Religions Committee Member, American Academy of Religion, December 1999 to 2002.

Participant, Talking Toward Techno-Pedagogy, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, June 2001.

Steering Committee Member, Islam Section, American Academy of Religion, November 1997 to 2000.

Section Head, Islam Section, American Academy of Religion, New England Region, May 1990 to May 1992.

Thesis committee service and dissertation reader for theses at Yale University and McGill University.

Manuscript reviewer for Blackwell Publishing, Columbia University Press, E.J. Brill, Harvard University Press, I.B. Taurus, Oneworld Publications, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge, State University of New York Press, University of California Press, University of North Carolina Press, *Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, *Edebiyat*, *International Journal of Communications*, *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of Comparative Islamic Studies*, *Journal of Developing World Bioethics*, *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, *Journal of Persianate Studies*, *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*, *Journal for the Study of Religion*, *Material Religion*, *Muslim World*, *Pakistan Journal of History and Culture*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Word and Image*, and others.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion.

Association for Iranian Studies.

Middle East Studies Association of North America.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

University of Pennsylvania

Director, Wolf Humanities Center, 2021 to present.
 Department Chair, Department of Religious Studies, 2009 to 2014, 2017 to 2020.
 Acting Chair, Graduate Group in Religious Studies, 2018 to 2019.
 Inaugural Director, Penn Forum for Global Islamic Studies, 2018 to present.
 Executive Committee, Middle East Center, October 2006 to present.
 Advisory Committee, South Asia Center, October 2006 to present.
 Member of the Graduate Groups in Ancient History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations,
 and South Asia Regional Studies.
 Fulbright Committee, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2019-20, 2021-22.
 Member of Faculty Planning Group on India, School of Arts and Sciences, 2015-2016.
 Member, Graduate Education Strategic Planning Committee, School of Arts and Sciences, 2013
 to 2015.
 Planning and Priorities Committee, School of Arts and Sciences, 2010 to 2012.
 Committee on Department Chairs, School of Arts and Sciences, 2011 to 2012.
 Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 2009 to 2011.
 Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for the Advanced Study of India, July 2008 to June 2010.
 University Research Foundation Committee, Spring 2010.
 Technology Liaison for Religious Studies, School of Arts and Sciences Computing,
 October 2006 to 2010.
 Member, Ad hoc Committee on "Cross-Cultural Contacts," School of Arts and Sciences and
 University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007 to 2010.
 Interim Department Chair, Department of Religious Studies, 2007 to 2008.
 Interim Department Chair, Department of South Asia Studies, 2007 to 2008.
 Undergraduate Chair, Department of Religious Studies, 2006 to 2007.

Amherst College

Department Chair, Religion Department, 1997 to 1999; 2001 to 2002.
 Committee on Priorities and Resources, 2000 to 2003.
 Chairman, Hamilton Lecture Fund Committee, Amherst College, 2001 to 2006.
 Residential Master Planning Committee, 2000 to 2001.
 Faculty Research Awards Program Committee, 1998 to 2000.
 College Council, 1996 to 1998.
 Orientation Committee, 1990 to 1992, 1993 to 1994.
 Five College Arabic Support Committee, 1999 to 2001.
 Five College Near Eastern Studies Committee, 1993 to 1999; 2003 to 2006.

DISSERTATIONS SUPERVISED

Primary Supervisor

In Process

Abdul Manan Bhat, "Sensing Persianate: Poems, Performance, Islamic Adab in the Twentieth Century," Department of Religious Studies.

Max J. Dugan, "Islamic Authenticity: Halal Consumption, Islamic Tattooing, and Feeling Muslim," Department of Religious Studies.

S. Ali Noori, "Pious Praise Poetry in Islam," Department of Religious Studies.

Christopher Shackelford, "Vibrant Christianity: Material Expressions and Dynamic Worship in Late Antiquity (4th-7th Centuries CE)," Graduate Group in the Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World and Department of Religious Studies.

Completed

Jawan Shir Rasikh, "Early Islamic Ghur, 10th to 12th Centuries C.E.: Rereading the *Tabaqat-i Nasiri*," Department of South Asia Studies, completed July 2019.

Ali Karjoo-Ravary, "Qāḍī Burhān al-Dīn of Sivas: Writing at the Margins (1345-1398 CE)," Department of Religious Studies, completed April 2018.

Christopher Stawski, "The Self Engaged in Prayer: A Micro-Sociological Analysis of Religious Practice in a Catholic and Islamic Movement," Department of Religious Studies, completed May 2017.

Kameliya Atanasova, "Sufism between the Ottoman State and Society: The Life and Works of Isma'īl Haqqī Bursevi," Department of Religious Studies, completed December 2016.

Rose Muravchick, "God is the Best Guardian: Islamic Talismanic Shirts and Armor in the Gunpowder Empires," Department of Religious Studies, completed August 2014.

Ayesha A. Irani, "Bengal's Muḥammad: The Representation of Islam and the Prophet in the *Nabwam̄sa* of Saiyad Sultān," Department of South Asia Regional Studies, completed December 2011.

Secondary Supervisor

In Process

Gianni Sievers, "Sound, Music, and the City: Listening Practices and Performance Spaces in Colonial North India, c. 1800-1930," Department of South Asian Studies.

Ricardo Paredi, “Feeling Sufi: Sadness, Envy and Longing in Early Sufism,” Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, American University Beirut.

Completed

Susanne Kerekes, “Wat Arun and Buddhist Material Culture in Thailand,” Department of Religious Studies, completed October 2018.

Beeta Baghoolizadeh, “From Slave to Citizen: Iranian Identity and the Economy of Race, from 1840-1941,” Department of History, completed April 2018.

Adnan Zulfıqar, “If One Obeys, None Shall Sin: The Development and Function of Fard Kifaya (Communal Obligations) in Islamic Legal Thought,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, completed April 2018.

Elias Saba, “What’s the Difference? *Furūq* and Development in Post-Formative Islamic Law,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, completed Spring 2017.

Carolyn A. Brunelle, “From Text to Law: Islamic Legal Theory and the Practical Hermeneutics of Abū Ja‘far Aḥmad Al-Ṭaḥāwī (d. 321/933),” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, completed December 2016.

Emily Joy Rothchild, “Integration in Action: The Political Efficacy and the Artistic Effects of the Hamburg HipHop Academy, Department of Music, completed Spring 2015.

Aaron M. Hagler, “Sunnī Perspectives, Shī‘ī Stories: Developing Historiographical Interpretations of the Battle of Şıffīn,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, completed Spring 2011.

Sandy Russell Jones, “God’s Law or State’s Law: Authority and Islamic Family Law Reform in Bahrain,” Department of Religious Studies, completed Summer 2010.

Brian L. Coleman, “The Effects of Conversion to Sunni Islam on African American Males: Integration and Masculinity in the Twenty-First Century,” School of Social Policy and Practice, completed Spring 2009.

Sarra Tlili, “From an Ant’s Perspective: The Status and Nature of Animals in the Qur’an,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, completed Spring 2009.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate:

Qur'anic Studies

Islamic Metaphysics

The Persianate Intellectual Tradition

Seeing is Believing: Religion and Visual Culture

Sufi Tafsir Literature
Islam and the Religious Image
Readings and Methods in Early Sufism
Ottoman Sufism
Sufi Thought and Literature

Undergraduate:

Islam in the Modern World
Islamic Ethics
Introduction to Islamic Religion
Sufism
History of Islamic Civilization
Love, Sex and Death
“Reality”, in the Integrated Studies Program
Asian Art, Western Eyes
Muhammad and the Qur’an
The Power of Icons
Introduction to Asia: Heroes and Villains
Women and Islamic Constructions of Gender
Introduction to Religion: Religion and Art
Introduction to Religion: The Body
Introduction to Religion: War
For Every Pharaoh there is a Moses: Islamic Liberation Theology
Comparative Fundamentalism
The Delusion of Reality (First-year seminar program)