

ABDUL MANAN BHAT

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EDUCATION

- PhD candidate, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania (2018-).
- Summer Immersive Arabic Program, Saifi Language Institute, Lebanon (2019).
- Research program in International Law, University of Geneva (2016).
- BA Religious Studies (with Honors) and International Affairs, Lafayette College (2014-2018).

LANGUAGES

- Urdu, Kashmiri, and Hindi (Fluent reading, writing, and speaking).
- Persian (Advanced reading, writing, and speaking).
- Arabic (Intermediate reading)
- Pashto and German (Basic reading knowledge).

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- PhD Presidential Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2021-2024.
Three-year Fellowship awarded to PhD students with “exceptional academic promise” across nine schools at the University of Pennsylvania.
- SASGOV Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania, 2021.
Awarded to a research project that demonstrates multidisciplinary promise across the arts and sciences.
- Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2018-2023.
Five Year Fellowship awarded to incoming graduate students in the Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Geo L. Harrison Graduate Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 2018-2019.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Ibn Sina Prize for Graduate Writing in Islamic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2023.
- Religious Studies Graduate Student Prize, University of Pennsylvania, 2021.
- *Finalist*, University Wide Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students 2020-2021.
- Lyman Coleman Prize, Lafayette College (2018).

- Benjamin F Barge Oratorical Prize for Best Thesis Presentation in the Humanities, Lafayette College (2018).
- David Fowler Atkins Jr. Prize in Religious Studies, Lafayette College (2017).
- Reverend J.W and R.S Porter Bible Prize, Lafayette College (2016).
- Thomas & Lula M. Shepard Memorial Scholarship (for Religious Studies), Lafayette College (2016).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Classical and Contemporary Sufi Thought
- Islam in the Persianate world
- Islamic Literary Practice
- Material Religion
- Religion in Modern Urdu and Persian Literature.
- Methods in Religious Studies.
- Performance Studies

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- Introduction to Islam (Spring 2023), University of Pennsylvania

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Religion and Sports (Fall 2019)
- From Jesus to Muhammad (Spring 2020)
- Religion of Anime (Fall 2020)
- Satan (Spring 2021)

INVITED TALKS

- “Performance as Hermeneutics: Words, Bodies, Spaces in the Urdu *Mushāi‘rah*.” Invited Talk at Architectural Association School of Architecture, London, July 20, 2022.
- “Gabriel’s Passion: Islam and Urdu Poetry in the Twentieth Century.” Invited Talk at Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir, September 10, 2021.
- “Be Something!: Muḥammad Iqbal’s Notions of Guidance.” Invited Talk. Jashn-e Iqbal, London Urdu Voice, Nov 8, 2020 (talk delivered in Urdu).
- “Visions of Contemporaneity in 20th century Urdu Poetry.” Invited Talk. Festival of Ideas, School of Oriental and African Studies, Oct 22, 2020.
- “Imagination in Occupation” at Lafayette College, February 2020.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “Terrains of Tradition: Shared Landscapes in the poetry of Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Khalilullah Khalili,” Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, Yerevan, 2023.
- “Technology of Congregation: Connecting Ghazals across Persian, Urdu and Kashmiri.” Conference paper presented at Kashmir in the Global Humanities, Cornell University, September 10, 2022.
- “Listening as Performance: The Islamic *Adab* of Mushā‘irah in the Twentieth Century.” Conference paper at American Comparative Literature Association, Taipei, June 21, 2022.
- “Sufi Shrines and Grammars of Redressal.” Author-meets-critic roundtable for *Resisting Disappearances: Military Occupation and Women’s Activism in Kashmir*. Annual South Asia Conference, University of Madison-Wisconsin, October 22, 2021.
- “Prophethood in Poetic Wisdom: Adab, Beginnings and Muhammad Iqbal.” Conference paper presented at Premodern Islamic Multilingualisms, University of Oxford, July 24, 2021.
- “Poetics of Precarity in the Persianate Ghazal.” Panelist, Spatial Precarity in Literature and Art, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, Feb 11, 2021.
- “Kashmiris on Kashmir: A conversation.” University of Pennsylvania, February 2020.
- “Kashmir teach-in: Imagination, Literature and Occupation” Philadelphia Socialists Collective, November 2019.
- “Metapoeticity in 20th century Urdu Ghazal: the Case of Firaq Gorakhpuri”, *Adiban* Conference, University of Indiana Bloomington, September 2019. A revised version was presented at the Urdu symposium, Annual South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- “Future’s Moving Terrains: Persianate Ghazal and Islamic Futures” *English Language Notes*, 61 (2) (Forthcoming Fall 2023).
- “Touched by Gabriel’s Wing: Metapoetics, Islamic Revelatory Ecosystem, and Muḥammad Iqbāl” in *Premodern Islamic Multilingualisms* (ed. Huda Fakhreddine, David Larsen and Hany Rashwan), Oxford University Press (Forthcoming).
- “Mushaira: Islam, Poetry and South Asia.” Review of Ali Khan Mahmudabad’s *Poetry of Belonging*. *Marginalia*, Los Angeles Review of Books, November 20, 2020.

CREATIVE WORK (READINGS UPON INVITATION, PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDINGS)

- Profile Piece on Abdul Manan’s Poetry By Samia Bouzid, [InsideArabia](#), Apr 10, 2021
- Poetry Reading, Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia, Feb 26, 2021.
- Poetry Reading, Kelly Writer’s House, University of Pennsylvania, Feb 11, 2021.

- “The Contest in Context: Uyghur and Urdu Poetry Reading and Discussion.” Haverford College, 12 Gates Arts Philadelphia and PEW Center of Arts and Heritage, September 24, 2020.
- “Being Exile,” exhibited in Piccolo Museo Della Poesia (Little Museum of Poetry), Piacenza, Italy. Curated by Anje Stehn and Mamta Sagar. Translated into Italian by Anje Stehn. September 26, 2020.
- “A Talk with Abdul Manan.” Javed Rasool’s Literary Talk Show, Srinagar, Kashmir, September 23, 2020.
- Poetry Reading, PAMPA Literature Festival, Bangalore, India, July 26, 2020.
- “Poetry as Farhad’s Dagger: Semiotics, Translation and Fidelity.” Twelve Gates Arts, April 17, 2020.
- Poetry Reading, Faiz Literature Festival, University of Westminster, London, October 2019.

LITERARY PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL RECORDINGS

- Multiple poems set to music and recorded by professional ghazal singers in Kashmir, namely [Qazi Rafi Ahmed](#), [Shazia Bashir](#), [Muncer Ahmed Mir](#), [Shafi Sopori](#) and [Waheed Jeelani](#).
- “Ghazal.” Adab Nawaz Urdu, November 24, 2020.
- “A moon in your [name](#): Kashmir, poetry and hierarchies of resistance”. Soch, 2020. (Two Urdu poems in this bilingual essay are translated by Partho Chakravarty).
- “Where do I find a new heart?” (Translated by Partho Chakravarty), Saranga Books, 2020.
- “Yaqaen”, *khobar-o nazar*, September 2019. The poem was [re-published](#) by an Indian media house, Quint, August 12, 2019.

SERVICE

- Chief Organizer, “Modern Persianate Poetics: Literary Form, Temporality, (Im)mobility,” Panel Association for the Study of Persianate Societies Biennial Conference, Yerevan, 2023.
- Organizing Committee, “Beyond the Rose and the Nightingale: What Makes Islamic Literature Islamic?” at University of Pennsylvania, April 1-2, 2022.
- Organizing Committee, “Troubling Translations” at University of Pennsylvania, Feb 21-22, 2020.
- Chief Organizer, “The Postcolonial Mind: Urdu Modernism, Mysticism, and Muhammad Hassan Akari” by Mehr Afshan Farooqi, at University of Pennsylvania, April 24, 2019.
- Founder, *Penn Mehfil: Graduate Students Collective for the study of Urdu Literature*.

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)

Abdul Manan Bhat
CV

- Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)