

# SYED RIZWAN ZAMIR

Page | 1

## EDUCATION

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- Aug 2004–Aug 2011    PhD in Religious Studies (University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia)
- ✚ Program: Islamic Scriptural Interpretation & Practice (SIP).
  - ✚ Dissertation: *Rethinking, Reconfiguring and Popularizing Islam: Religious Thought of a Contemporary Indian Shi'ite Scholar*
  - ✚ Advisors: Dr. Abdulaziz A. Sachedina & Dr. Peter W. Ochs
  - ✚ Completion Date: August 10, 2011.
- Jan 2002–Dec 2003    Bachelor of Arts (James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia)
- ✚ Major: Philosophy & Religion (Philosophy concentration)
  - ✚ Minors: English, Translation Studies
- Aug 1997–Aug 1999    Bachelor of Arts (University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan)
- ✚ Majors: Philosophy, Economics
  - ✚ Minor: Persian

## TEACHING (COURSES & STUDIES)

### New Courses only

- Associate Professor** of Religious Studies at Davidson College:
- Spring 2022    ✚ Designing Life in the Middle Ages (with Prof. Kabala)
- Fall 2021    ✚ REL 379: From Taj Mahal to Taliban
- ✚ Jesus & Muhammad (with Prof. Foley)
- ✚ WRITING 101: “Why Write? Why Share?”
- Spring 2021    ✚ REL 137: The Bible & the Qur'an (with Prof. Snyder)
- Fall 2020    ✚ REL 279: Nature and Ecology in Islam
- Spring 2020    ✚ REL 278: Empires & Cities (Islamic City reimagined)
- Spring 2019    ✚ REL 273: Catholicism and Shi'i Islam (with Prof. Lustig)
- Fall 2018    ✚ REL 279/177: What is a Good Life? (Islamic Ethics totally reimagined)
- Spring 2018    ✚ REL 176: Nostalgic Islam: Annals of Muslim Memory and Heritage
- ✚ REL 110: Aliens, Strangers and Zombies (with Prof. Trent Foley)
- YEAR 2017-2018    ✚ Davidson's Humanities Program (full year 2017-2018); THEME: “Revolution”
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- Assistant Professor** of Religion at Davidson College:
- Aug 2012 till 2017    ✚ REL 165: Muslim-Americans (co-taught with Prof. Anne Wills)
- ✚ REL 278: Islamic City: Muslim Society, Institutions and Culture
- ✚ REL 496: Independent Study (C.S. Lewis)
- ✚ REL 433: Art, Media, Technology & Religion (Seminar)
- ✚ REL 401: Senior Colloquium
- ✚ REL 272: Introduction to Islam (Reimagined as a fresh course)
- ✚ REL 301: Perspectives in the Study of Religion

- ✚ REL 476/176: Classics of Islamic Literature (Seminar)/ Literature of the Muslim World
- ✚ REL 277: Islamic Mysticism (not to be confused with REL 377: Sufism)
- ✚ REL 378: Islam in the Modern Age: Tradition, Fundamentalism & Reform
- ✚ REL 375: the END./Islamic Visions of the End/Islamic Eschatology
- ✚ REL 376/279: Islamic Ethics (Reimagined as a fresh course)

Aug 2010-2012 **Visiting** Instructor & Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Davidson College:

- ✚ REL 272: Introduction to Islam
- ✚ REL 376: Islamic Ethics
- ✚ REL 276: Sunni and Shiite Islam
- ✚ REL 377: Sufism

Independent  
Studies &  
THESES

Independent Studies and Theses Supervised

- ✚ Independent Studies: **God and Grief** (Spring 2021), **CS Lewis** (Spring 2017); **Pakistan** (Fall 2018); **CS Lewis** (Spring 2019); **God & Grief** (Spring 2021)
- ✚ Directed four undergraduate honors' theses and a reader to at least five.

Summer 2007 Teaching experience as a graduate student

- ✚ Undergraduate course "Islam in the Modern Age" at the University of Virginia.
- ✚ Teaching Assistant for 8 courses at the University of Virginia.



## PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

### Publications:

- 2022
  - ✚ **Chapter** in an edited volume: "Dogs have left you in the dust!" Mockery in Panjabi Sufi Poetry" in Bilal Orfali, Atif Khalil, and Mohammed Rustom (eds.). *Mysticism and Ethics in Islam* (Beirut: American University of Beirut Press), 2022.
  - ✚ **Foreword** (in Urdu) to *Hikmat-i Sadra*, an introductory textbook (in Urdu) on Islamic philosophy. Published by the *Hast-o-Neest Institute* based in Lahore.
  - ✚ **Preface** to *Purposeful Sacrifice and Enduring Message of Imam Husayn (a) for Humanity*, a book authored by Dr. Bashir A. Datto (Message of Peace Inc., 2022)
- 2021
  - ✚ Book Review: *Islam in Pakistan: A History* by Qasim Zaman for *Bloomsbury Pakistan* <https://bloomsburypakistan.org/book-review-islam-in-pakistan-a-history/> (July 30, 2021)
- 2020
  - ✚ Translation of a primary text "'Ilm al-Ghayb" originally from my dissertation (pp. 307-311) now revised and updated. Published in Jamal Malik, *Islam in South Asia*, Brill, 2020 (pp.511-514)
  - ✚ Book Review: "In a Pure Muslim Land: Shi'ism between Pakistan and the Middle East" by Simon Wolfgang Fuchs, 2019 in *Religious Studies Review*, 46 (3), 2020
  - ✚ **Ω** Journal Article (11200 words): "A Contemporary Retelling of Islam's Sacred Story (Part I & II) in *Al-Sidrah* [Web Journal of Ahl al-Bayt Seminary, IL] <https://bit.ly/2W2LJ9r> [**Ω** Geared toward a book manuscript – see below]
- 2018
  - ✚ Translation: "Qur'anic Ta'wil: Comparing the Views of Ibn 'Arabi and Allamah Tabatabai" <https://bit.ly/2tLjX2t>

- 2017  **Ω** Translation: “Qur’anic Biography of Imam Husayn: A Translation of Sayyidul ‘Ulama’s Husayn and the Qur’an” <https://bit.ly/2KqW22D> [**Ω** Geared toward a book manuscript – see below]
- 2016  Encyclopedia Entries: “Ayatullah ‘Ali Naqī Naqī” and “Shi’ism” the Islam Section (ed. Dr. Zayn Kassam) of the *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions*.
-  Peer-reviewed Journal Article (13200 words): "Rethinking the Academic Study of the 'Ulama Tradition" *Islamic Studies* Vol. 53, No. 3/4 (Autumn-Winter 2014), pp. 145-174.
-  Book Chapter (13000 words): “Islam in South Asia” in *The Religions of India: A Microcosm of World’s Religions*, ed. Tazim Kassam. New Delhi: Manohar Publishers & Distributors, pp. 127-168.
- 2015  Book Review: *The Night Journey and Ascension in Islam: The Reception of Religious Narrative in Sunni, Shi’i and Western Culture* by R.P. Buckley *Islamic Studies* 52, no. 2 (Summer 2013/1434): 221-226.
-  Book review: *Between Heaven and Hell: Islam, Salvation and the Fate of Other* ed. Muhammad Hasan Khalil, *Review of Middle East Studies*, 49, no.1 (Summer 2015): 90-91.
- 2014  “Shi’ism.” In *Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Religious Practices*, edited by Thomas Riggs. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2014. (6000 words)
- 2013  “Shi’ite Studies.” In *Bloomsbury Companion to Islamic Studies*, edited by Dr. Clinton Bennett, 135-162. New York: Bloomsbury, 2013.
-  Review of *Meaning of Mecca: The Politics of Pilgrimage in Early Islam*, by M. E. McMillan. *Review of Middle East Studies* 47, no. 1 (Summer 2013): 74-75.
- 2012  “Guilds.” *Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought* edited by Gerhard Böwering et al., 209-210. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.
- 2011  “Tafisr al-Qur’an bi’l Qur’an: The Hermeneutics of Imitation and Adab in ‘Ibn ‘Arabi’s Qur’anic Exegesis.” *Islamic Studies* 50, no. 1 (Spring 2011): 5-23.
- 2010  “Descartes and Al-Ghazali: Doubt, Certitude and Light.” *Islamic Studies* 49, no. 2 (Summer 2010): 219-251.
- 2009  Book Review: *On the Boundaries of Theological Tolerance*, by Sherman A. Jackson. *Islamic Studies* 48, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 122-129.
-  “Educational Institutions.” In *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*, edited by John L. Esposito. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
-  Numerous book reviews for *Virginia Quarterly Review* (VQR) including *Medieval Religion: New Approaches*, *Sufism: The Formative Period*, and *The Path of Muhammad: A Book on Islamic Morals & Ethics* by Imam Birgivi
- 2008  Seminar Report: *Muhammad Iqbal – A Contemporary* (An International Seminar to Commemorate Centenary of Iqbal’s Stay in Europe (1905-08), University of Cambridge, UK, June 19-20, 2008.

#### IN PROGRESS

-  **BOOK MANUSCRIPT:** *Guarding Religion in Modernity* (Dissertation → BOOK) **Ω**
-  **Ω Journal Article** (8000 words, currently revised post peer-review): “Shi’i Quranic Elucidations in 20<sup>th</sup> Century South Asia: The Case of Sayyidul ‘Ulama (d.1988)”, journal *Reorient* Ed. Tehseen Thaver (Proceedings from the Conference On Quranic Studies At Princeton). [**Ω** Part of the book manuscript]

- ✚ **Journal Article** (7774 words): “Sufi Reconciliation of the Sunni-Shi’i Divide: Two Contemporary South Asian Articulations” (Requires one last round of writing, editing and preparation for publication.)
- ✚ **Book Reviews (2):** Mashal Saif, *The ‘Ulama in Pakistan: Contesting and Cultivating Islamic Republic* (2022) [journal: *Shi’i Studies Review*] and *The Presence of the Prophet in Early Modern and Contemporary Islam* ed. Denis Grill et al. (2021) [journal: *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*]
- ✚ **BOOK CHAPTERS** for *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Islamic Ethics* edited by Mohammad Jafar Amir Mahallati:
  - ❖ “Does Worshipping God have Ethical Implications? Intersections of Liturgy, Rites and Virtue within Islamic Context” (8400 words, copyedits submitted)
  - ❖ ““Surely in Their Stories is an Instruction for Those Who Possess Intellect”: A Contemporary Retelling of Story of Islamic Narrative Ethics” (12500 words, copyedits submitted)
  - ❖ “A Manual for Living Together: The [Ādāb-] Rule of Maulana Ashraf Ali Thānawī” (9760 words, copyedits submitted)
- ✚ **BOOK MANUSCRIPT:** *Islamic Ethics: An Overview* (ONGOING)
  - a. Proposal, chapter 1 and introduction submitted to Bloomsbury Academic in early February 2019. Received reviewers’ feedback.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Conferences &

### Lectures

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| 2021 | ✚ Presentation: “Shi’i Quranic Elucidations In 20 <sup>th</sup> Century South Asia: The Case Of Sayyidul ‘Ulama (D.1988)” at the <i>Symposium on the Qur’an</i> at Princeton University organized by Prof. Thaver (April 9-10)   |
| 2020 | ✚ Chairing a panel at the conference on “Occult Sciences in Islam” at University of South Carolina, SC– Cancelled due to COVID (March 27)  |
| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Discussant on Simon Fuchs new book <i>In a Pure Muslim Land</i> at the annual meeting of South Asian Studies Conference (Wisconsin, MI)</li> <li>✚ Guest scholar and lecturer for the Collegium Institute’s “Genealogies of Modernity Summer Seminar” at University of Pennsylvania (June 17-21). See <a href="http://collegiuminstitute.org/genmod/">http://collegiuminstitute.org/genmod/</a></li> <li>✚ Invited Public Lecture and Workshop on Muslim <i>Adab</i> at University of Bamberg, Germany (May 29-30) – cancelled because of visa issues</li> <li>✚ “<i>Dogs are Better than You!</i> Mockery in Punjabi Sufi Poetry” at “Mysticism and Ethics International Conference” (May 2-3, American University of Beirut) – because the visa was declined my paper was read <i>in absentia</i>.</li> </ul> |
| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✚ Chaired two Islam panels at the AAR-SE meeting at Eastern Carolina University.</li> <li>✚ Participant, presenter and discussant at the pre-workshop “‘Ulamā’ of Muslim South Asia” at the Annual South Asian Studies Conference, Madison, WI.</li> <li>✚ “Shiite Political Theology in the Era of Messianic Expectation” at the Annual South Asian Studies Conference</li> </ul>  |

- 2017
- ✚ Faculty Seminar on “Academic Life and its Challenges” at the International Islamic University, Islamabad (Dec)
  - ✚ “Sufi Mediation of Sunni-Shiite Divide: Two Articulations from Contemporary South Asia” at Annual South Asian Studies Conference, Madison, Wisconsin
  - ✚ “Ethics of Socialization as the Missing Religion: The Art of Living Together in the Religious Thought of Ashraf Ali Thānvī” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME), New Orleans, Jan 2017.
- 2015
- ✚ Invited respondent to the “Performing Sufism” panel at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Atlanta, November 2015.
  - ✚ ““Surely in their Stories is a Lesson for People of Deep Intellect”: A Case for Islamic Narrative Ethics” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME), Chicago, Jan 2015.
  - ✚ Panel: “Teaching Islamic/Abrahamic Ethics” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME), Chicago, Jan 2015.
  - ✚ Public Lecture: “Can Religion and Science Co-Exist? An Islamic Perspective” at Temple Beth El, Charlotte (March 10, 2015)
- 2014
- ✚ Public Lecture: “Reliving Karbala: Memory, Remembrance and Commemoration” at the 2014 *Imam Hussain Day Conference* at a Shiite Center in New Jersey (Nov 9, 2014)
  - ✚ Skype Lecture “Sayyidul 'Ulama and the Modern Crisis of Religion” at the Grand International Seminar on Sayyidul 'Ulama Ayatullah Ali Naqi Naqvi, Lucknow, India (April 2014)
  - ✚ “The Academic Study of the ‘Ulama Tradition: A Critical Survey” at the *Islamicate Studies Symposium*, University of Chicago, October 2014.
- 2013
- ✚ “The Shī‘ī Intellectual Tradition of South Asia” at the 2013 Annual Conference of the *Ahl al-Bayt Forum*, venue Baitul ‘Ilm, Chicago, Aug 29-31.
  - ✚ “Reviving a Lost Tradition of Islamic Ethical Reflection: The Case for Islamic Narrative Ethics” Panel: *The Use (and Abuse) of Texts for Ethics: A Comparative Conversation* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Baltimore, MD, Nov 2013.
  - ✚ “Rethinking, Reconfiguring and Popularizing Islamic Tradition: Religious Career of a Contemporary South Asian Shī‘ī Mujtahid” at the panel *Grounded Voices: The ‘Ulama and their Discourses in South Asia* (32nd German Oriental Studies Conference [Deutscher Orientalistentag] Münster, Germany Sep 23-28, 2013)
- 2012
- ✚ “The Missing Religion: Social Ethics in the Thought of Maulana Ashraf ‘Ali Thanvi” panel on *Islamic Philosophy, Theology and Ethics* (SECSOR Regional AAR, Atlanta, March 2-4, 2012)
  - ✚ Panelist and session leader for “Scriptural Reasoning (Theme: *Idolatry*)” (AAR Mid-Atlantic Region Meeting, New Jersey, March 15–16, 2012)
- 2011
- ✚ “Reforming Religious Preaching, Preaching Religious Reform: A Contemporary Shi‘ite Scholar’s Appropriation of the Karbala-Paradigm” (Panel on *Pious Publics/Critical Publics: Theologies of Self and State in Contemporary Islam* at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nov 2011)
- 2010
- ✚ Panel presenter: “Teaching Islam and Reliving Karbala: Ayatollah Naqvi’s appropriation of Karbala Symbolism” (Panel on *Islamic Preaching* at the Middle Eastern Studies Association’s Annual meeting, Nov 2010)
  - ✚ “Toward an Islamic Liturgical Theology”, 5<sup>th</sup> UVA-Duke Colloquium, Feb 2010
- 2009
- ✚ “Western Scholarship on Contemporary Islamic Intellectual History: A Critical Survey” (Islamic Research Institute, Islamabad, Dec 2009)

- 2008
  - ✚ Public lecture: “The Politicization of Muslim Women in the Muslim World: Competing Conceptions of Freedom and Justice” (Lahore: Seminar on Religion and Culture, Aug 2009)
  - ✚ “Social Relevance of Sufism: Writings of a Sufi-Scholar” accepted for the *AAR Islam section* for the annual meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Atlanta, GA, Mar 2008) – was unable to attend due to family reasons
  - ✚ “Interpreting Karbala: The Relationship between Doctrinal Shi’ism and Shi’ite Mourning Rituals” accepted for presentation at the *AAR Islamic Studies Section* of the 2008 WECSOR conference at the Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, Mar, 2008) – was unable to attend due to family reasons
- 2006
  - ✚ International Conference: “The Realism-Antirealism Debate in the Philosophy of Science and the Question of the Unity of Knowledge” (Tehran: *First International Congress on the Dialogue Between Religion and Science*, May 2006)

### Seminars & Workshops

- 2016
  - ✚ The Berlin Study Trip- The Holocaust and Representation led by Scott Denham and Roman Utkin (Feb 26-March 5)
- 2015
  - ✚ Participant in “The Thailand Seminar” through the ASIANETWORK (Thailand, June 11-July 3, 2015)
- 2013
  - ✚ AAR Workshop: *Teaching Islam* at the Annual Meeting (Baltimore 2013)
  - ✚ ACS Teaching Workshop Trinity University (San Antonio June 3-8, 2013)
- 2012
  - ✚ Chair for the panel *Islam and Muslim Spaces* (SECSOR Regional AAR, Atlanta March 2-4, 2012)
  - ✚ Teaching and Learning Conference at Elon University (August 2012)
  - ✚ Attended “The Humanities and Technology Camp Piedmont (THATCamp)” hosted by Davidson College (May 5, 2012).
  - ✚ Attended the Seminar on Reformed Theology at Davidson College (May 22-24, 2012 – presenters Dr. Doug Ottati and Rev. Rob Spach)
- 2010
  - ✚ AAR Workshop: *Rethinking Islamic Studies* (Atlanta, GA 2010)

### Other Notable Meetings Attended

- ✚ 49th Annual North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS) Conference [Dec 19, 2020]
  - ✚ Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (Chicago, Seattle, Portland, Louisville, Washington DC & Chicago in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020 & 2023)
  - ✚ Annual Meetings of SECSOR (Regional American Academy of Religion) in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2019 & 2020.
  - ✚ Annual Meetings of the “Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar” (SERMEISS, Oct 2012, 2013 & 2016)
- 2015-2019
  - ✚ 44<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia (Madison, WI)
  - ✚ *Festival of Faiths* in Louisville, KY (Theme: “Silence and Compassion”, 2013)

### Other Professional Activities & Service

- 2007-Present
  - ✚ **HAST-O-NEEST Institute** (Lahore, Pakistan): Member of the Board of Trustees (2019-Present) & Advisor (2007–2011 & Dec 2015-Present)

2016- Present	✚ On the International Advisory Board of the journal <i>Islamic Studies</i> published by Islamic Research Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.
2015- Present	✚ On the International Advisory Board of the <i>Islamic Studies Journal</i> (in Urdu) <i>Bayān al-Hikmah</i> published by Institute of Islamic Studies, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Pakistan.
Mar 2020- Mar 2021	✚ President of the American Academy of Religion (Southeast Region). Attended the regional meeting in March and attended board meetings throughout the year.
2020-2021	✚ External reader for three PhD dissertations, two written at the International Islamic University, Islamabad, “The Feminist Interpretations of Religion and Its Theological Assumptions”, “Sacred Feminine in Contemporary Hindu Discourse: An Islamic Appraisal of Female led Hindu Movements and Social Reforms” and the third at University of Management & Technology, Lahore (فریڈرک ولیم نٹشے اور علامہ محمد اقبال کے تصورات کا تقابلی مطالعہ)
2020	✚ Panelist & Evaluator of grants and proposals for National Endowment for Humanities (NEH)’s fellowship for the field of religious studies.
2018-2019	✚ VP-Elect and Program Chair of the American Academy of Religion, Southeast Region (SECSOR <a href="https://secsor.org/aar-se-board">https://secsor.org/aar-se-board</a> )
2017-2020	✚ Nominated and Elected to the Board of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME)
2012-2015	✚ Co-chair of the Study of Islam section of the American Academy of Religion, Southeast Region
2013-2016	✚ On the Steering Committee of the “Sacred Texts and Ethics” (previously “Scriptural and Contextual Ethics”) Group of the American Academy of Religion (appointed)
2014-2016	✚ Elected to the Board of <i>Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar</i> (SERMEISS)
Fall ’09 & Sum ’11	✚ Visiting Research Scholar at the Islamic Research Institute (IRI), Islamabad.
Summer 2006	✚ Visiting Research Scholar at Mofid University, Qom (Iran)
Dec 2004-2011	✚ Organizer and active participant of the Scriptural Reasoning Group (SR) sessions at the American Academy of Religion and the University of Virginia.
Jan-June 2004	✚ Coordinator to the <i>Illuminating Islam</i> Grant Project hosted by the James Madison University (JMU, VA) to raise awareness of Islam and Islamic cultures among JMU, Harrisonburg and Rockingham County’s community.

#### Misc. Professional SERVICES

- ✚ **Manuscript and Article reviews:** A book manuscript (Bloomsbury Academic, 2017), book proposal for Bloomsbury Academic (2020), a book chapter for an edited volume (2010) & journal articles for various academic journals including *Fikr-o-Nazar* (Urdu), *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Islamic Studies*, *Journal for the Society of Christian Ethics*, *Journal for Religious Ethics* and *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*.
- ✚ **Tenure and Promotion Review:** Was an external reviewer of a tenure case of an Islamic studies scholar at a peer liberal arts institution. Also provided a letter for the promotion case of a scholar at another.

#### @HAST-O-NEEST Institute, Pakistan

- ✚ Baytunur Trust & Hast-o-Neest Institute of Traditional Studies and Arts, Lahore–  
[www.hastoneest.com](http://www.hastoneest.com)

- 2007 ❖ Organized and Moderated the *Baytunur Colloquium* “Islam and Science: Setting the Terms of the Debate”. Also presented the paper, “Muslim Responses to Modern Science” (Lahore, Summer 2007)
- 2008 ❖ Conceptualized and Organized the Annual *Baytunur Colloquium Series* “The Relationship between Religion and Culture”. Also, presented the paper, “Politicization of Muslim Women in Islamic Societies: Competing Notions of Freedom and Justice”.
- 2009 -2010 ❖ Member of the core team that conceptualized a biographical documentary “*Kā al-Ya‘qūt*” on the Prophet of Islam
- 2016-Present ❖ Member of the core team that helped set up branches of the Institute in provincial and state capitals, Karachi and Islamabad.
- ❖ Regular lectures, advising, collaborations, programing and brainstorming initiatives, for example, symposiums events, lecture series and single lectures, religious programs, collaborations with other institutions, e.g., Lok Virsa Pakistan, designing curriculum for two and one-year certificate study titled “*Nisab-Hast-o-Neest*”, and organizing and hosting study circles.
- 2016 ❖ Member of the core team that envisioned and setup *Hast-o-Neest’s* publication house and its editorial team for reviewing manuscripts.
- ❖ Helped instituting the process to initiate the Institute’s Newsletter
- ❖ Sufi Mediation of the Sunni-Shiite Divide (Karachi)
- ❖ Open Discussion and Q & A session on Sunni-Shiite Divide (Lahore)
- ❖ Text-Study of *Ādāb al-mu‘āsharat* (Islamabad & Lahore)
- 2019 ❖ Conceptualized, coordinated and occasionally lectured for Two-Year-Program (4 semesters long) – we are into the second semester.
- ❖ 2-day *Mukalama* on Baluchistan & Sindh in collaboration with Lok Virsa Pakistan.
- 2020-2021 ❖ Envisioned, coordinated, and advised on the core year-long diploma studies program for the year 2023-2024. It began on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- 2022 ❖ Advised and reviewed numerous programming throughout the year, and other institute activities such as consideration of new manuscripts for publication etc.










### CAMPUS VISITS & Class Guest Lectures

- 2022 🚩 Guest lecturer for Appalachian State University’s undergraduate religious studies club. The lecture title was “What is Madrasa?” (March, 2022)
- 2021 🚩 ASIANetwork Invited Speaker for a public lecture and two class guest Lectures at Warren-Wilson College (Oct 27-28)
  - ❖ “Islam and the Challenge of Modernity” (Public Lec.)
  - ❖ Nature and Ecology in Islam (Class)
  - ❖ Unity and Diversity in Islam (Class)
- 2020 🚩 Oct 23: "Jesus in Islam" Class Guest Lecture (Zoom) at Trinity Christian College
- 2019 🚩 ASIANetwork Invited Speaker for a public lecture and three class guest Lectures at William and Smith Colleges (March 24-26)
  - ❖ “the END.: Death, Apocalypse and the World-to-Come” (Public Lec.)
  - ❖ Migrants, Guests and Strangers: Muslim Reflections (Class)

- ❖ Terrorism: How Worthy is the Term/Concept? (Class)
- ❖ Muslim Negotiations of Western Modernity (Class)
- 2018
  - ✚ Shiite (and Sunni) Islam [on Skype – Guilford College]
  - ✚ “Whence comes the song of the Friend! Rumi and His Interpreters” [Franklin and Marshall College, April 16, 2018]
- 2016
  - ✚ “Islam the Religion: What do They Believe?” Winthrop University (Feb 2016)
- 2015
  - ✚ Introduction to Islam [on Skype – Trinity Christian College, IL]
  - ✚ Campus Visit (Nov 10): Monmouth College, Illinois for the *Vocation* series. The visit involved a public lecture, “Curiosity and Vocation” in front of the complete Freshman class, conversation with the chaplain office and Religious Studies faculty regarding vocation in non-Christian contexts, and open discussion with students and faculty on pluralism, multiculturalism and religion.
- 2014
  - ✚ Class Guest Lecture: “Islam from a Shiite Point of View” (Guilford College)
  - ✚ Campus Visit (Spring 2014): Centenary College, Louisiana for the *Religion Matters* series. The visit involved a public lecture, “Idolatry, Multiculturalism and Pluralism: A Qur'anic Reading”, three class guest-lectures and scheduled meetings with student groups
- 2012
  - ✚ Public Lecture “Idolatry, Multiculturalism and Pluralism” at Warren-Wilson College (Oct 2012)
  - ✚ Class Guest Lectures “Typology of Islamic Spirituality” Warren-Wilson College (Oct 2012)
  - ✚ “Who May Rule? Ayatullah ‘Ali Naqi Naqvi and Contemporary Shi‘ite Political Thought” and “Ecology in Contemporary Islamic Thought: A Survey” (Warren-Wilson College, Feb 2012)
  - ✚ “The Islamic Myth: Islamic Theology and Prophetic History” (University of Dayton, Jan 2012)
  - ✚ “Detached Cooperation: A Contemporary Indian Shi‘ite Scholar’s Political Thought and its Relevance Today” (University of Dayton, Jan 2012)
- 2010
  - ✚ Guest Lecture: “Conceptions of War and Peace in Islamic Thought” (College of William and Mary, Mar 15, 2010)
  - ✚ Public Lecture: “Contours of Sacred Space and Sacred Time within the Islamic Cosmos” (Towson University, Feb 2010)
  - ✚ Guest Lecture: “Islamic Conceptions of the Relationship between Individual and Community” (UVA, Business Ethics Course Feb 2010)
- 2008
  - ✚ Public lecture: “Muslims Responses to Western Science and Technology” (University of Texas, Austin, Nov 2008)
  - ✚ Guest Lecture: “Issues in Qur’anic Hermeneutics: Ancient and Modern” (University of Texas, Austin, Oct 2008)
  - ✚ Guest Lecture: “Religion and Politics in Pakistan: An Historical Overview” (UVA, Introduction to Islam course, 2008)
- 2006
  - ✚ Guest Lecture: “Gender Relations in the Light of Sufi Metaphysics and Cosmology” (UVA, Women in Islam course, Mar 2006)
- 2005
  - ✚ Public Presentation: “The Wisdom Tradition in Urdu Poetry” on Pakistan Day Celebrations (James Madison University, Fall 2005)
- 2004
  - ✚ “Foundations of Islamic Art and Spirituality” (James Madison University, Spring 2004)
- 2003
  - ✚ “Translations of Qur’an into English: A Historical Overview” (James Madison University) – Spring 2003

## Public Engagements






2002-Present

- 2019 (Fall)  DavidsonLearns: Taught five weekly sessions on “Art of Islam”
- 2018 (Fall)  DavidsonLearns: Taught five weekly sessions on “Islamic Ethics”
- 2017  DavidsonLearns: Taught five weekly sessions on “Islamic Mysticism”
- 2016  “Islam in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” at Baileys Glen Adult Community (November 16, 2016)
- 2015  Lunch discussion on Islam with retired pastors at the Davidson College Presbyterian Church (DCPC, July 27, 2015)
- 2014  Lecture “Sacred History of Islam” at the United Methodist Church in Davidson (March).
- 2012  Three-part lecture series on Sunni and Shi’ite Islam at Davidson College Presbyterian Church (Apr-May 2012)
-  Six-lecture series on Introduction to Islam at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Huntersville NC (Jan-Feb 2012)
- 2010  Lecture: “Introduction to Islam” in St. Alban’s Church in Davidson





## @ DAVIDSON COLLEGE

### FACULTY COMMITTEES

- ❖ Religious & Campus Life (2012-2014);
- ❖ Student Conduct Council (2014-2016);
- ❖ International Education Committee (2016-2019)
- ❖ Faculty Executive Committee (July 2020-June 2022)

- 2018-Present  Part of the 4-person Reimagining Team of the Department of Religious Studies.
  - ❖ Re-envisioned the curriculum, and new major and minor;
  - ❖ Re-envisioned the future of the department and its faculty composition in the wake up of upcoming retirements of senior colleagues.
  - ❖ Deliberated and proposed the new position for the department chair in “Religion & Science”
- 2018-2019  Co-convener of the “Breadth Team” (with Prof. Rigger) for Davidson College’s Academic Strategic Plan for the year 2050.
- 2014-2015  Co-Chair of NOAH, Davidson’s “Junior Faculty Network” (with Prof. Totten)
- 2014-2015  Faculty Advisor to the Muslim Students Association (MSA).
- 2014-2015  Advised 8 freshmen advisees & four religion majors.

## Panelist-Speaker on Davidson Campus

-  “Reflections on the Ground Zero Mosque Controversy” for Dean Rusk Breakfast Series (Davidson College, Sep 7, 2010)
-  Decision Davidson Lecture “Sunni and Shiite Islam” April 13, 2013
-  Guest Lecture: “Islamic Perspectives on Higher Education” *Reformed Theology Seminar* (May 2013)
-  *Veritas Forum*: “Can We Coexist?” Co-speaker with David Skeel (Oct 21, 2013)

- ✚ Panelist Humor & ... Series: "It's Funny Because It's True: Humor in Panjabi Theatre and Culture" (Fall 2014)
- ✚ Panelist for Davidson Open House on Islam (Sep 30, 2016)
- ✚ March 2019: Panelist at the First Symposium of the Reformed Tradition
- ✚ March 14 (2020): Lecture *Beauty and Art in Islam* (Reformed Symposium- was cancelled due to COVI-19)
- ✚ May 10, 2020: Talk "Introduction to Islam" to the covenant class of DCPC.
- ✚ Two lectures titled "The Vision and Reality of Prayer in Islam" delivered to Davidson College Presbyterian Church's Covenant Class. (March)

## Class Guest Lectures

- ✚ "Two Poles of Shiite Femininity" (Women and Gender in Islam – instructor: Dr. Hadia Mubarak) – Fall 2015
- ✚ "Islam in China" for Rachel Pang's Chinese Religions Course (Spring 2015)
- ✚ Humanities Lecture "Islam and the West" (Spring 2014 & Spring 2015) & lead discussion section of Dr. Burkhard Henke (Spring 2015)
- ✚ Catherine Slawy-Sutton's class "Q&A on Islam" (Oct 3 2014)
- ✚ Douglas Ottati's class titled "Ecology in Contemporary Muslim Thought" (Spring 2014)
- ✚ Andrew Lustig's class titled "Islamic Views on Death and Afterlife" (Spring 2014)
- ✚ Rob Spach's Writing Class "Islamic Theology and the Religious Other" (Davidson, Fall 2012 & Fall 2010)

## Events Helped Organize

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2018 | ✚ Co-organizer with Dean Rusk Program, colleagues in South Asian Studies and South Asian Studies Association for the fall 2018 Dean Rusk Focus initiative themed "India and Beyond: Societies and Cultures of South Asia". There are over 16 events planned for the semester. |
| 2017 | ✚ Primary Organizer of Religion Department's annual Otts-Maloney Lecture Series for 2017.   |
| 2015 | ✚ Dr. Samer al-Saber "Dear Albert" (Apr 1, 2015)  |
| 2014 | ✚ Dr. Ebrahim Moosa's visit to Davidson (Fall 2014). He spoke in my class.  |
| 2013 | ✚ Prof. Seyyed H. Nasr "Islam and the Modern World" (Nov 14, 2013)  |
|      | ✚ Prof. Richard Bulliet's visit to Davidson (Spring 2013). He spoke in my class.  |
| 2011 | ✚ Hakim Ilyas Kashani "Traditional Islamic Healing and Practice" (Sep 2011)   |
|      | ✚ Prof. Abdulaziz Sachedina, "Islamic Biomedical Ethics" (Apr 2011)   |
|      | ✚ Dr. Waleed El-Ansary, "Islamic Economics and the Current Financial and Environmental Crisis" (Mar 2011)   |
|      | ✚ Presented and led the workshop "Scriptural Reasoning as a Model for Interfaith Dialogue" (in collaboration with the Chaplain's Office, Fall 2011)   |
| 2010 | ✚ Artist: Latif Bolat, "A Night of Turkish Sufi Mystic Poetry, Music and Images" (Fall 2014 [Humanities program] & Nov 10 <sup>th</sup> 2010).  |

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1997 – 1999	✚ Chartered Accountancy Foundation Part I & II (CA-Intermediate) from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan.
1999 – 2000	✚ Certificate from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, United Kingdom.
Jun 1999 – Aug 2001	✚ Internship at PricewaterhouseCoopers International (A. F. Ferguson & Co.), Pakistan. Worked on audit, tax, accounting and financial management review assignments for more than 15 organizations including public and private sectors, educational institutions, Government offices, and NGOs etc.
Jan 2004 – June 2004	✚ Developed Accounting system and maintained complete accounting records for organizers of International University Teaching Conference (IUT Conference) held in Sweden in June 2003 through the Office of International Programs, James Madison University.

## LANGUAGES

- ✚ Urdu: Native Speaker
- ✚ Punjabi: Native Speaker
- ✚ Arabic: Advanced reader
- ✚ Persian: Advanced reader

## AWARDS RECEIVED

2019	✚ Elected for the Speakers Bureau initiative of the ASIANETWORK for 2019-2021. <a href="http://www.asianetwork.org/programs/speakers-bureau/speakers-list/">http://www.asianetwork.org/programs/speakers-bureau/speakers-list/</a>
2015	✚ Through the ASIANETWORK participated along with 10 other colleagues from various liberal arts college in the US in a Mellon Foundation funded “The Thailand Seminar” (June 11-July 3). Details can be found at: <a href="http://www.asianetwork.org/2014/02/anfep-summer-2015-thailand-overview/">http://www.asianetwork.org/2014/02/anfep-summer-2015-thailand-overview/</a>
2015	✚ Course Development Grant from the <i>Center for Teaching and Learning</i> (CTL), for developing courses “Art, Media, Technology and Religion” and “Islamic City: Muslim Society, Institutions and Culture” (both are offered in 2016-17 academic year).
2012 & 2013	✚ Davidson College Nominee for the NEH Summer Stipend
2012 & 2017	✚ Faculty Study and Research (FS&R) Summer Grant
2005, 2007 & 2009	✚ Summer Fellowship for Language Instruction (SFLI)
2008-09	✚ Bryant Fellowship
2008-09	✚ Marchant Fellowship
2007-08	✚ Kyle Fellowship
2007-08	✚ DuPont Fellowship
2008	✚ Huskey Travel Award
2002 and 2003	✚ Warren W. Hobbie Scholarship, James Madison University Foundation