

ABDALLAH M. SOUFAN

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EDUCATION

PhD in Arabic, Georgetown University (May 2019)

Dissertation: “Tradition and Its Boundaries: A Diachronic Study of the Concept of *Bid‘ah* (Religious Innovation) in Early Islam;” advising committee: Professor Felicitas Opwis (advisor), Professor Jonathan A.C. Brown, and Professor Emma Gannagé

Comprehensive Examinations (with distinction): Early Arabic Poetry; Classical Muslim Theology; and Metaphor in Arabic and Islamic Thought (2013)

Research Assistant, Leiden University (2004-2006)

[Working with late Professor Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid].

MA in Arabic, American University of Beirut (2004)

Thesis (in Arabic): “Banū ‘Iḡl fī al-ḡāhiliyyah wa-l-Islām”; advising committee: Professor Saleh Said Agha (advisor), Professor Ramzi Baalbaki, and Professor Tarif Khalidi

BA in Arabic Language and Literature, American University of Beirut (2000)

BS in Mathematics, American University of Beirut (1996)

PUBLICATIONS

Hamdani, Abbas, and Abdallah Soufan (eds. & trans.). *The Call to God: An Arabic Critical Edition and English Translation of Epistle 48*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Hamdani, Abbas, and Abdallah Soufan. “The Imām Speaks about His *Shi‘a* in an Epistle of the *Rasā’il Ikhwān al-Ṣafā’*.” In “Labor limae: Atti in onore di Carmela Bafioni,” edited by Antonella Straface, Carlo De Angelo, and Andrea Manzo. Special issue, *Studi Magrebini* 12-13, no. 1 (2014-2015): 319-336.

Soufan, Abdallah. “On the Interpretation of Quran 57:27” (submitted to an academic journal)

———. “On the Meaning of Ḥadaṭ and Iḥdāt” (submitted to an academic journal)

Sumi, Akikū Mūtūyūshi [Akiko Motoyoshi Sumi]. “Al-Mubārāh ṭaqsan iḥṭifāliyyā.” Translated by ‘Abd Allāh Ṣūfan [Abdallah Soufan]. *Al-Abḥāth* 51 (2002-2003): 95-144.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

September 2019-to date, Orient-Institut Beirut

Research Associate

Fall 2019, University of Saint Joseph

Part-time Lecturer: Arabic Linguistic Thought

Fall 2019, Lebanese American University

Part-time Lecturer: Arabic Rhetoric

Summers of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, Spring 2017-Fall 2018, Georgetown University

Instructor (“Teaching Associate”): Arabic as a Foreign Language (intensive courses)

Fall 2010-May 2014, Georgetown University

Teaching Assistant: Arabic as a Foreign Language (intensive courses)

Summer 2012, American University of Beirut

Instructor: Modern Arabic Texts (ARAB 201B: service course)

September 2006-August 2010, American University of Beirut

Full-time Instructor: Classical Arabic Thought (ARAB 101-102: service courses), Introductory Arabic Grammar (ARAB 201A: service Course), Modern Arabic Texts (ARAB 201B: service course), Greek Impact on Classical Islam (ARAB 229), Islamic Theology and Sects (ARAB 244), Modern Arab Thought (ARAB 245-246)

Summers of 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, & 2007, American University of Beirut

Instructor: Arabic as a Foreign Language

March 2004-August 2006

Freelancer: translating (UN reports from English into Arabic) and editing (Arabic journalistic articles)

September 2000-February 2004, American University of Beirut

Graduate Assistant: my job included, among other things, helping in preparing a camera-ready-copy of S. S. Agha's dissertation, which was published in 2004 by Brill under the title *The Revolution Which Toppled the Umayyads*.

September 1997-August 2000

Freelancer: tutoring Arabic and mathematics

September 1996-August 1997, Choueifat Modern School

Teacher: Mathematics

FELLOWSHIPS

Fall 2015, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding Non-Service Stipend Award

2010-2015, Georgetown TA assistantship and non-service fellowship

2000-2004, AUB GA assistantship

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Ibn Taymiyyah’s Theory of Language and His Theological Project.”

MESA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 25, 2015.

“Revisiting Ġurġānī’s Concept of *Bayān*.”

MESA Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 19, 2016.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dichotomies in classical Islamic thought; theories of *imāmah* in Islam and their relation to Biblical grand narrative; classical Arabic theories of language (across the disciplines of *tafsīr*, theology, jurisprudence, grammar, philology, stylistics, logic, rhetoric, poetics, literary criticism, and philosophy); divine attributes; emergence of Islam and late antiquity studies; tributaries that flows into Islamicate “high” culture (pre-Islamic pagan; Biblical and Qur’ānic; Platonic and Aristotelian) and the ways they interacted

TEACHING INTERESTS

Arabic grammar; Arabic philology; Arabic stylistics and rhetoric; English-Arabic translation; Classical Arabic poetry (especially pre-Islamic and Umayyad); al-Mutanabbī; Greco-Arabic

heritage; *ḥadīth*; literary survey courses; classical Islamic thought; Qur'ānic studies & hermeneutics; Islamic theology and jurisprudence; Islamic sects; history of Arabic linguistic tradition

