

Ahmed El Shamsy

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
5828 South University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637
elshamsy@uchicago.edu

Updated January 2020

EMPLOYMENT

- 2010–present **The University of Chicago**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Associate Professor of Islamic Thought with tenure (2017–)
Assistant Professor of Islamic Thought (2010–2017)
- 2009–2010 **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, History
Assistant Professor of History (tenure-track)
- 2005–2006 **Northeastern University**, History
Lecturer (part-time)

EDUCATION

- 2003–2009 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA
PhD, History and Middle Eastern Studies
- 2001–2002 **London School of Economics and Political Science**, London
MSc, International Relations
- 2000–2001 **Al-Azhar Institute**, Damanhur, Egypt
Ijāza (certificate) in Shāfiʿī Islamic law (through private study)
- 1996–2000 **School of Oriental and African Studies**, London
BA, Arabic and Politics (Honours)

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Rediscovering the Islamic Classics: How Editors and Print Culture Transformed an Intellectual Tradition
Forthcoming in February 2020 from Princeton University Press.

The Canonization of Islamic Law: A Social and Intellectual History
New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013; paperback edition 2015. (262 pp.)
Arabic translation forthcoming from Jadawel Press (Beirut).

Reviews:

- *Muslim World* 107, no. 3 (2017): 601–4 (Feryal Salem)
- *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 79, no. 1 (2016): 176–78 (Scott Lucas)
- *Bulletin critique des Annales islamologiques* 31 (2016): 31–32 (Pascal Held)
- *SCTIW Review*, August 9, 2016 (Tarek R. Dika)
- *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135, no. 4 (2015): 843–46 (Devin Stewart)
- *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 26, no. 2 (2015): 256–58 (David Vishanoff)
- *Religious Studies Review* 40, no. 2 (2014): 115–16 (James Riggan)

Articles

“The Curious Case of Early Muslim Hair Dyeing”

In *Islam Anno 250: Studies in Intellectual and Historical Developments in Memory of G. H. A. Juynboll*, edited by Camilla Adang, Léon Buskens, and Petra Sijpesteijn. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

“Bridging the Gap: Two Early Texts on Islamic Legal Theory”

Journal of the American Oriental Society 137, no. 3 (2017): 505–36.

“The Logic of Excluding Testimony in Early Islam”

In *Justice and Leadership in Early Islamic Courts*, edited by Intisar A. Rabb and Abigail Krasner Balbale, 3–15. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017.

“The Classical Period: Scripture, Origins, and Early Development,” with Mariam Sheibani and Amir Toft

In *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Law*, edited by Anver M. Emon and Rumeel Ahmed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Oxford Handbooks Online, 2017.

“Debates on Prayer in Second/Eighth-Century Islam: Some Remarks on Sijpesteijn’s Papyrus”

Journal of Near Eastern Studies 75, no. 2 (2016): 335–37.

“Islamic Book Culture through the Lens of Two Private Libraries, 1850–1940”

Intellectual History of the Islamic World 4 (2016): 61–81.

“Returning to God through His Names: Cosmology and *Dhikr* in a Fourteenth-Century Sufi Treatise”

In *Essays in Islamic Philology, History, and Philosophy*, edited by Alireza Korangy, Wheeler M. Thackston, Roy P. Mottahedeh, and William Granara, 204–28. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016.

“Al-Ghazālī’s Teleology and the Galenic Tradition”

In *Islam and Rationality: The Impact of al-Ghazālī*, vol. 2, edited by Frank Griffel, 90–112. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

“Shame, Sin, and Virtue: Islamic Notions of Privacy”

In *Public and Private in Ancient Mediterranean Law and Religion*, edited by Clifford Ando and Jörg Rüpke, 237–49. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015.

“The Wisdom of God’s Law: Two Theories”

In *Islamic Law in Theory: Studies on Jurisprudence in Honor of Bernard Weiss*, edited by A. Kevin Reinhart and Robert Gleave, 19–37. Leiden: Brill, 2014.

“The *Hāshiya* in Islamic Law: A Sketch of the Shāfi‘ī Literature”

Oriens 41, no. 3–4 (2013): 289–315.

“Al-Shāfi‘ī’s Written Corpus: A Source-Critical Study”

Journal of the American Oriental Society 132, no. 2 (2012): 199–220.

“Al-Buwayṭī’s Abridgment of al-Shāfi‘ī’s *Risāla*: Edition and Translation,” with Aron Zysow

Islamic Law and Society 19, no. 4 (2012): 327–55.

“The Social Construction of Orthodoxy”

In *The Cambridge Companion to Classical Islamic Theology*, edited by Timothy J. Winter, 97–117. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Reprinted in *Orthodoxy and Heresy in Islam*, edited by Maribel Fierro, vol. 1, 257–74. London: Routledge, 2013.

“Rethinking *Taqlīd* in the Early Shāfi‘ī School”

Journal of the American Oriental Society 128, no. 1 (2008): 1–24.

“The First Shāfi‘ī: The Traditionalist Legal Thought of Abū Ya‘qūb al-Buwayṭī (d. 231/846)”

Islamic Law and Society 14, no. 3 (2007): 301–41.

Encyclopedia articles

“Muḥammad ibn Idrīs al-Shāfi‘ī,” “al-Rabī‘ ibn Sulaymān al-Murādī,” and “Ibn ‘Abd al-Ḥakam”

In *Biographical Dictionary of Islamic Civilization*, edited by Muhammad Abdel Haleem and Mustafa Shah. London: I. B. Tauris, forthcoming.

“Shariah” and fourteen other entries

In *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com, 2018. [revisions of existing entries]

“Fiqh, faqīh, fuqahā”

In *Encyclopaedia of Islam, Three*, edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, and Everett Rowson. Leiden: Brill Online, 2015.

“Nawawī, Muḥyī al-Dīn al-”

In *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, edited by John Esposito et al. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. [online resource]

“Shāfi‘īs” (annotated bibliography)

In *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Islamic Studies*, edited by Tamara Sonn. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. [online resource]

“Ijtihād bi-al-ra’y” and “Fiqh al-Sunnah”

In *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*, edited by John L. Esposito. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

“The Shāfi‘ī School,” “al-Muzanī,” “Ibn Surayj,” “al-Juwaynī,” and “al-Shīrāzī”

In *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*, edited by Stanley N. Katz. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Book reviews

Review of *The Dialectical Forge: Juridical Disputation and the Evolution of Islamic Law*, by Walter Edward Young

Journal of the American Oriental Society, forthcoming.

Review of *Populäre religiöse Literatur und Buchkultur im Osmanischen Reich*, by Tobias Heinzelmann

Orientalistische Literaturzeitung 113, no. 1 (2018): 72–74.

Review of *al-Aṣl* by Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan al-Shaybānī, edited by Mehmet Boynukalın

Journal of Near Eastern Studies 75, no. 1 (2016): 194–96.

Review of *The Written Word in the Medieval Arabic Lands*, by Konrad Hirschler

Journal of the American Oriental Society 135, no. 2 (2015): 399–401.

Review of *Islam and Literalism: Literal Meaning and Interpretation in Islamic Legal Theory*, by Robert Gleave

Islamic Law and Society 22, no. 1–2 (2015): 148–52.

Review of *Mālik and Medina: Islamic Legal Reasoning in the Formative Period*, by Umar F. Abd-Allah Wymann-Landgraf

Ilahiyat 5, no. 1 (2014): 126–31.

Review of *The Formation of Islamic Hermeneutics: How Sunni Legal Theorists Imagined a Revealed Law*, by David Vishanoff

Journal of the American Oriental Society 134, no. 1 (2014): 168–71.

Review of *The Epistle of the Eloquent Clarification by al-Qāḍī al-Nu‘mān b. Muḥammad*, ed. Avraham Hakim

Journal of Islamic Studies 25, no. 2 (2014): 207–209.

Review of *A Scholar in the Shadow: Essays in the Legal and Theological Thought of Ibn Qayyim al-Ġawziyyah*, ed. Caterina Bori and Livnat Holtzman

Journal of Qur’anic Studies 16, no. 1 (2014): 157–59.

Review of *Routes and Realms: The Power of Place in the Early Islamic World*, by Zayde Antrim

American Historical Review 119, no. 1 (2014): 281.

Review of *The Logic of Law Making in Islam: Women and Prayer in the Legal Tradition*, by Behnam Sadeghi

Marginalia, January 27, 2014, <http://themarginaliareview.com/archives/5283>.

Review of *Ibn Hajar*, by R. Kevin Jaques

Journal of the American Oriental Society 132, no. 1 (2012): 145–46.

Review of *Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy in the Medieval and Modern World*, by Jonathan Brown
International Journal of Middle East Studies 44, no. 1 (2012): 181–83.

Review of *Analysing Muslim Traditions*, by Harald Motzki et al.
Islamic Law and Society 18, no. 3/4 (2011): 440–43.

Review of *Die Entstehung der juristischen Hermeneutik (uṣūl al-fiqh) im frühen Islam*, by Hans-Thomas Tillschneider
Journal of the American Oriental Society 129, no. 3 (2009): 522–25.

Review of *Early Islamic Legal Theory*, by Joseph E. Lowry
Journal of the American Oriental Society 128, no. 1 (2008): 185–87.

Review of *The Origins and Evolution of Islamic Law*, by Wael B. Hallaq
Journal of Religion 87, no. 1 (2007): 145–46.

Other publications

“Teaching Islamic Law through Primary Sources”; “Different Genres, Different Approaches”; “Fatwas: Diverse in Form, Diverse in Reach”; “Comparative Law, the Role of the Judge, and the Law Theorized” (series of guest blog posts)
Islamic Law Blog, December 5–26, 2019, <https://islamiclaw.blog/>.

“*Muwattaʾ* Roundtable: Al-Shāfiʿī’s Recension of Mālik’s *Muwattaʾ*”
Islamic Law Blog, December 6, 2019, <https://islamiclaw.blog/2019/12/06/>.

“Islamic Law in Social Context: The Case of Early Islamic Egypt”
Maydan, February 9, 2017, <http://www.themaydan.com/2017/02/islamic-law-social-context-case-early-islamic-egypt/>.

“Sisi, Nasser, and the Great Egyptian Novel”
Muftah, October 15, 2013, <http://muftah.org/sisi-nasser-the-great-egyptian-novel/>.

“The Madrasa in Mamluk Egypt” (review of Robert Moore’s PhD dissertation, “The Role of the Madrasah and the Structure of Islamic Legal Education in Mamluk Egypt”)
Dissertation Reviews, February 19, 2013, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/2464>.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2017–2018 Senior Scholar Fellowship at the Program in Islamic Law, Harvard Law School

2014–2015 Volkswagen Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities (held at Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

2010–2011 American Council of Learned Societies Recent Doctoral Recipients Fellowship

2010–2011 Social Science Research Council Book Fellowship

- Nov. 2009 Middle East Studies Association's Malcolm H. Kerr Award for the best Middle East-related dissertation in the humanities
- 2008–2009 American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2007–2009 Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School Visiting Fellowship
- 2007–2008 Harvard University Merit Fellowship (declined)
- 2006–2007 Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2006–2007 Harvard University Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship
- Spring 2007 American Research Institute in Turkey Fellowship
- Spring 2007 Center for Islamic Studies (Turkey) Visiting Scholarship
- Summer 2006 Princeton University Library Research Grant
- Spring 2006 Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School Grant
- Spring 2003 Muslim Academic Trust (UK) Grant
- 2001–2002 Economic and Social Research Council (UK) Advanced Studentship
- Summer 1999 School of Oriental and African Studies Independent Research Grant

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Al-Shāfiʿī’s Recension of Mālik’s *Muwattaʿa*,” invited symposium presentation, “*Muwattaʿa*’ Symposium,” Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School, December 9, 2019.
- “Muslims and Jews in Early Islamic Law and Legal Theory,” invited workshop presentation, “Islamic Legal Theory: Intellectual History and *Uṣūl al-Fiqh*,” Istanbul University, October 17, 2019.
- “Philology, Forgery, and Superstition: The Fierce Debate over the Shrine of Sayyida Zaynab in Early Twentieth-Century Egypt,” invited symposium presentation, “Antiquarianism in Islam,” Bard Graduate Center, May 10, 2019.
- “Modernist Appropriations of Sufi Ethics,” invited conference presentation, “Mysticism and Ethics in Islam,” American University of Beirut, May 3, 2019.
- 2018 “What Is—and Isn’t—Religion? Two Fourteenth-Century Muslim Answers,” invited symposium presentation, “Torah, Shariʿa, and Lex: Medieval Discourses on Religion,” Brown University, December 10, 2018.
- “Concepts and Their Consequences: Revisiting Hodgson’s Islam/Islamicate Distinction,” invited symposium presentation, “Marshall Hodgson and the Contested Idea of a Discernible Islamic Civilization,” Abdallah S. Kamel Center for the Study of Islamic Law and Civilization at Yale Law School, November 9, 2018.

“Islamic Reform and Print, 1880–1920,” invited lecture, Middle East Studies Program, University of Wisconsin at Madison, April 30, 2018.

“Hair and Identity in Islamic and Jewish Law: Uncovering an Unlikely Link,” lecture, Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, March 20, 2018.

“The Place of Ethics in Islamic Law,” invited lecture, Law and Religion Lecture Series, Harvard Law School, March 6, 2018.

“Arabic Book Culture from Manuscript to Print,” invited lecture, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, February 26, 2018.

“Historical Perspectives: Theorizing Justice across Premodern Near Eastern Contexts,” invited conference panel presentation, “Conceptualizing Justice in Comparative Perspective,” Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, February 2, 2018.

2017 “Editing Classics of Islamic Philosophy, Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries,” conference presentation, Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 21, 2017.

“Resurrecting the Ancient Jurists in Print,” lecture, Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, October 23, 2017.

“Anti-Philology in the Arabo-Islamic Tradition in the Sixteenth to Nineteenth Centuries,” invited conference presentation, “What Was Philology in Arabic?,” Freie Universität Berlin, July 13, 2017.

“Iconoclasm, ISIS, and Heritage Management,” invited conference panel presentation, “The State of Islamic Heritage,” University of Chicago, May 26, 2017.

“Ibn Khaldūn’s *Muqaddima* (Bulaq, 1857),” invited lecture, University of Toronto, April 13, 2017.

2016 “Carlo Landberg and the Business of Arabic Manuscripts,” invited lecture, Yale University, November 8, 2016.

“Warum Scharia? Debatten im 10. Jahrhundert über die Rechtfertigung des göttlichen Gesetzes,” invited lecture, University of Zürich, September 22, 2016.

“The Rediscovery of Mamluk Encyclopedias in Modern Egypt,” conference presentation, School of Mamlūk Studies, Chicago, June 24, 2016.

“The Logic of Excluding Testimony in Early Islam,” invited conference presentation, “Courts and Judicial Procedure in Early Islamic Law,” Harvard Law School, May 6, 2016.

“Missing Links: Two Early Texts of Islamic Legal Theory,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, Boston, March 18, 2016.

- “Continuity and Rupture in Fourth/Tenth-Century Legal Theory,” invited conference presentation, “Reformulation and Hermeneutics: Researching the History of Islamic Legal Theory,” Istanbul, February 23, 2016.
- “Classical Islamic Law and the Modern Quest for Authority,” invited lecture, Abdallah S. Kamel Lecture Series, Yale Law School, January 26, 2016.
- 2015 “Two Hitherto Unknown Texts on the Formation of Legal Theory,” inaugural workshop, series on Islamic law, Middle East Institute, Columbia University, December 15, 2015.
- “The Curious Case of Early Muslim Hair Dyeing: A Reconsideration,” invited conference presentation, “Islam at 250,” Leiden University, December 3, 2015.
- “The Epistemology of the Miraculous,” invited lecture, Islamic Studies Lecture Series, Georgetown University, September 30, 2015.
- “Galenic Elements in Muslim Theology,” invited conference presentation, “Échanges culturels entre est et ouest, de l’époque hellénistique à l’époque byzantine,” Collège de France, September 18, 2015.
- “The Editions and Philology of ‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Mu‘allimī (d. 1966),” workshop presentation, “Print Culture and Islamic Thought, 1850–1950,” Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, May 9, 2015 (also served as workshop organizer).
- “Al-Kinānī’s *Buch der Abweichung* – über die Möglichkeiten der Rekonstruktion eines frühen theologischen Textes,” invited workshop presentation, “Islamische Tradition: Vom Autor zu Leser,” University of Tübingen, April 28, 2015.
- “Wer darf gegen wen aussagen? Gruppenanimositäten im islamischen Beweisrecht,” invited conference presentation, “Westliche und islamische Jurisprudenz des Mittelalters,” Munich, April 10, 2015.
- “Islamic Book Culture through the Lens of Private Libraries, 1850–1940,” invited conference presentation, “Histories of Books in the Islamic World,” Madrid, March 9, 2015.
- “Al-Shāfi‘ī and the Problem of Tradition,” invited lecture, Oxford University, February 25, 2015.
- 2014 “Islamic Law in Social Context: The Case of Early Islamic Egypt,” invited lecture, George Mason University, November 20, 2014.
- “*Hāshiyah* und Auswirkungen des Buchdrucks,” invited workshop presentation, “Fiqh im Wandel,” University of Osnabrück, November 16, 2014.
- “Arab Editors, Islamic Classics, and Orientalism in the Early Twentieth Century,” invited conference presentation, “The Idea of Islam Today: Towards Non-Orientalist Genealogies,” American University in Beirut, September 26, 2014.

“The Effect of the Printing Press on Islamic Thought,” invited lecture, Center for Islamic Studies (ISAM), Istanbul, June 4, 2014.

“Qur’an and Hadith as Sources of Early Islamic Law,” invited lecture, Istanbul University, May 30, 2014.

“The Classics of Islamic Thought, Then and Now,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, Phoenix, March 16, 2014.

“Reconfiguring the Classics of Islamic Thought in Early Twentieth-Century Egypt,” invited lecture, Western Michigan University, January 30, 2014.

2013 “Teaching Islamic Law in an Age of Sensation,” invited lecture, Islamic Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, November 14, 2013.

“On Libraries,” panel presentation, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, November 13, 2013.

“Buchkultur zwischen Handschrift und Druckerpresse,” work-in-progress presentation, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, July 9, 2013.

“Sin, Virtue, and Privacy in Islamic Thought,” invited conference presentation, “Public and Private in Ancient Mediterranean Law and Religion,” Max Weber Centre, University of Erfurt, July 4, 2013.

“Wahrheit und Wahrscheinlichkeit: *Ḥadīth* im späten 2./8. Jahrhundert,” invited lecture, University of Tübingen, January 15, 2013.

“Das islamische Recht und die Logik der Notwendigkeit,” invited lecture, University of Osnabrück, January 11, 2013.

“Quran und Hadith als Quellen des frühen islamischen Rechtes,” invited workshop presentation, “Islamisches Recht in Theorie und Praxis,” University of Osnabrück, January 11, 2013.

2012 “The Legal *Ḥāshiyā* as a Carrier of Scholastic Authority in the Nineteenth Century,” invited conference presentation, “The *Ḥashiyah* and Islamic Intellectual History,” University of California at Berkeley, October 13, 2012.

“Law and the Qur’an in the Second Islamic Century,” invited capstone lecture, Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium, Princeton University, April 19, 2012.

“Galen’s Influence on Islamic Theology,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, Boston, March 17, 2012.

“From Manuscript to Print: The Creation of the Classical Islamic Canon,” invited lecture, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Madrid, February 16, 2012.

“The Lives of Books in the Ninth Century,” conference presentation, American Historical Association, Chicago, January 7, 2012.

- 2011 “Al-Ghazālī’s Empiricist Ethics: Reading ‘The Wisdom in God’s Creations,’” invited conference presentation, “Al-Ghazālī and His Influence,” Yale University, December 9, 2011.
- “Negotiating Tradition via Edition: The Editing Projects of Aḥmad Shākir,” conference presentation, Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, December 1, 2011.
- “The Islamic Tradition in the Gutenberg Galaxy,” lecture, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, November 11, 2011.
- “Islamic Tradition and the Printing Press,” invited keynote lecture, Islamic Studies Program, University of Indiana at Bloomington, September 1, 2011.
- “On Orality and Writing in Islam,” invited lecture, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, April 27, 2011.
- “Al-Shāfi‘ī’s Debates with the Iraqis,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 14, 2011.
- 2010 “The Legal Humanism of Shihāb al-Dīn al-Ḥusaynī (1854–1914),” invited workshop presentation, “The Contours of Late Sunni Traditionalism,” Duke University, April 29, 2010.
- “Print Humanism in Modern Egyptian Legal Reform,” faculty lunch colloquium presentation, Department of History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 19, 2010.
- “Did Medieval Muslim Jurists Write Doctoral Dissertations?,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, St. Louis, March 13, 2010.
- 2009 “Orthodoxy and Deviance in Premodern Muslim Societies,” invited lecture, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, September 10, 2009.
- “Codifying Custom into Law: Mālik’s *Muwatta’* and the Practice (*‘Amal*) of Medina,” conference presentation, VI International Conference on Islamic Legal Studies, Exeter, July 13, 2009.
- “The Written Culture of Early Islamic Law,” lecture, Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, February 18, 2009.
- “Legal School Affiliation among Competing Social Actors in Ninth-Century Egypt,” conference presentation, American Historical Association, New York, January 3, 2009.
- 2008 “The Origins of Crypto-Shāfi‘ism among Mālikīs,” conference presentation, Middle East Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 23, 2008.
- “When Shāfi‘is Were Mu‘tazilis: Theology and Dialectics in Early Shāfi‘ī *Uṣūl al-Fiqh*,” invited conference presentation, Conference in Honor of Bernard Weiss, Alta, UT, September 26, 2008.

- “Law as Tradition in the Ancient Legal Schools,” workshop presentation, “Joseph Schacht Revisited,” Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, April 5, 2008 (also served as workshop organizer).
- “Were There Regional Schools of Law in Medina and Kufa?,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 16, 2008.
- “Between Blind Following and Critical Engagement: Early Shāfi‘ī Conceptions of *Taqlid*,” lecture, Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, March 6, 2008.
- 2007 “An Alternative Approach to Twentieth-Century Islamic Legal Reform: The Forgotten Magnum Opus of Shihāb al-Dīn al-Ḥusaynī,” conference presentation, Middle East Studies Association, Montréal, November 20, 2007.
- “Frühe Rechtstheorie (*uṣūl al-fiqh*) in den Schriften des Ḥakīm al-Tirmidhī,” conference presentation, Deutscher Orientalistentag, Freiburg, September 25, 2007.
- “The Role of Abū Ya‘qūb al-Buwayṭī in the Formation of the Shāfi‘ī *Madhhab*,” institute lecture, Center for Islamic Studies (ISAM), Istanbul, June 22, 2007.
- “A Textual History of al-Shāfi‘ī’s *Kitāb al-Umm* and *Risālah*,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, San Antonio, March 16, 2007.
- 2006 “Necessary Violence: Killing Civilians in Traditional and Jihadi Legal Theory,” conference presentation, V International Conference on Islamic Legal Studies, Cambridge, MA, September 10, 2006.
- “The Role of Legal Maxims in the Development of Islamic Law,” brown bag talk, Firestone Library, Princeton University, September 5, 2006.
- “Who—and What—Were the Early Shāfi‘īs? Mapping the *Terra Incognita* of the Ninth Century,” invited lecture, Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, May 23, 2006.
- “The Legacy of al-Shāfi‘ī: Evidence from al-Buwayṭī’s *Mukhtaṣar*,” conference presentation, American Oriental Society, Seattle, March 18, 2006.

NONACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2019 Panel participant, *Muwatta’* book launch, Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School, December 9, 2019.
- 2018 “The Mamluks: From Slaves to Sultans,” lecture, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, September 17, 2018.
- 2017 Panel participant, “Difficult Subjects: Strategies for Public Engagement and Pedagogy,” Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago, May 15, 2017.

- “Islam and the Enlightenment,” Explore Islam Week presentation, Muslim Students Association, University of Chicago, April 4, 2017.
- 2016 “How Printing Remade the Islamic Tradition,” Humanities Day presentation, University of Chicago, October 15, 2016.
- 2015 “Mekka einst und heute,” one-day seminar, Zürcher Lehrhaus, Zürich, Switzerland, April 29, 2015.
- 2014 Panel participant, “Paris-Chicago and Chicago-Paris: A Global Metropolis for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East,” University of Chicago Center in Paris, September 5, 2014.
- 2013 “Islamic Education between Madrasa and University,” public lecture, American Islamic College, Chicago, September 5, 2013.
- Panel participant, “Shari’ah Demystified: Understanding Islam’s Sacred Law,” Muslim Students’ Association, University of Chicago, April 23, 2013
- 2012 “Al-ṣawā’iq al-nūrāniyya fi l-sīra al-Shamsiyya: Kayfa waqa‘tu fi l-dirāsāt al-islāmiyya” (“Lightning Bolts to Illumine the Shamsian Odyssey: How I Fell into Islamic Studies”), invited lecture in Arabic, Arabic Circle at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, May 25, 2012.
- Panel participant, “Arab Spring: Unfoldings Refoldings,” Renaissance Society, Chicago, April 16, 2012.
- 2011 “Islamic Law,” lecture as part of series “Order from Chaos: Law in the Ancient Near East,” Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, October 29, 2011.
- Panel participant, “Reflections on 9/11: Ten Years Later,” International House, University of Chicago, September 23, 2011.
- “Islam: Discourses, Practices, Communities, and Institutions,” lecture for K–12 educators as part of series “Perspectives on Islamic Civilization and the Modern Middle East,” Center for International Studies, University of Chicago, February 8, 2011.
- Panel participant, “Egypt—Inertia, Regime Change, or Revolution?,” International House, University of Chicago, February 7, 2011.
- 2010 “The Legacy of Timbuktu,” opening lecture for an exhibition on Timbuktu, Cameron Village Regional Library, Raleigh, NC, January 24, 2010.

COURSES TAUGHT

The University of Chicago, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Islamic Thought and Literature I: The Early Period (Autumn 2016)

Islamic Thought and Literature III: The Middle Period (Winter 2019)

Islamic Thought and Literature III: The Modern Period (Spring 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019)

Al-Ghazālī (Winter 2019)
 Early Islamic Texts (Fall 2018)
 Introduction to Islamic and Jewish Law, with Evyatar Marienberg of UNC (Winter 2017)
 Readings in Islamic Thought I: 800–1200 (Autumn 2016)
 Readings in Islamic Thought II: 1200–1600 (Spring 2017)
 Critical Arabic Philology (Autumn 2015)
 Reason and Revelation in Islamic Thought (Winter 2014)
 Islamic Classics and the Printing Press (Autumn 2013)
 Sciences of the Qur'an (Spring 2013)
 Readings in Islamic Law (Autumn 2012 and 2019)
 The Medieval Muslim Curriculum (Spring 2012 and 2016)
 Readings in Islamic Theology and Hermeneutics (Autumn 2011)
 Introduction to Islamic Law (Autumn 2011)

The University of Chicago, Study Abroad

Egypt in Ottoman and Modern Times (Winter 2020, in Cairo, Egypt)
 Education and Knowledge in Muslim North Africa (Winter 2012 and 2016, in Rabat, Morocco)
 Ottoman History (Spring 2014, in Istanbul, Turkey)
 Education and Knowledge in Egypt (Winter 2013, in Cairo, Egypt)

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History

The History of Islamic Law (Spring 2010)
 Race and Slavery in North Africa (Spring 2010)
 The History of Muslim Societies to 1500 (Fall 2009)
 The Peoples of North Africa, 600–1900 (Fall 2009)

Northeastern University (Boston, MA), Department of History

Introduction to the Modern Middle East (Spring 2006)
 Introduction to Middle Eastern History (Fall 2005)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (SELECTED)

Boards, committees, and appointments

- Section editor for law, *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, third edition (October 2019 to present)
- Member of the Islamic Near East section committee of the American Oriental Society (March 2015 to present)
- Member of the Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, University of Chicago (January 2014 to present)

- Member of the advisory board of *Islamic Law and Society* (September 2011 to present)
- Member of the editorial board of *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* (December 2016 to present)
- Member of the advisory board of *Journal of the Faculty of Divinity of Ankara University (Ankara Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi Dergisi)* (February 2019 to present)
- Member of the advisory board of the Berkeley Series in Post-Classical Islamic Scholarship, University of California Press (April 2014 to present)
- Member of the editorial board of *Sapientia Islamica: Studies in Islamic Theology, Philosophy and Mysticism*, Mohr Siebeck (August 2015 to present)
- Book review editor for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (2012–19)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago (2012–14, 2015–17)

Review and evaluation

- Applications reviewer for Social Science Research Council's International Dissertation Research Fellowship competition (2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019)
- Member of the prize committee for the Classical Islamic World Book Prize, Gorgias Press (2017, 2018)
- Applications reviewer for Qatar National Research Fund's Undergraduate Research Experience Program competition (2016)
- Member of Mercator Foundation's evaluation committee for a cross-institutional graduate program in Islamic theology at seven German universities (2015)
- Peer reviewer of book manuscripts for Brill, Cambridge University Press, Library of Arabic Literature at New York University Press, Middle Eastern Texts Initiative at Brigham Young University, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Syracuse University Press, and Wiley Blackwell
- Peer reviewer of article manuscripts for *Arabian Humanities*, *Arabica*, *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte*, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, *Islamic Law and Society*, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*, and *Oriens*

Event organizing

- Organizer of an international workshop, "Print Culture and Islamic Thought, 1850–1950," Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (May 2015)

- Organizer of a conference panel in honor of Roy Mottahedeh, American Oriental Society (March 2012)
- Organizer of a conference panel, “Twentieth-Century Muslim Thinkers in Conversation with Tradition,” Middle East Studies Association (November 2011)
- Organizer of a conference panel, “Social Divisions and Cultural Transformations in Early Islamic History,” American Historical Association (January 2009)
- Organizer of a workshop, “Joseph Schacht Revisited,” Harvard Law School (April 2008)

Student supervision (UChicago NELC unless otherwise indicated)

- Primary PhD advisor of fifteen doctoral students
- Dissertation committee member/external examiner of twenty-three further doctoral students, including four at the Divinity School, two in the Department of History, and eight at other universities
- MA thesis advisor of eighteen Master’s students (UChicago CMES and Graham School)
- BA paper advisor of thirteen undergraduate majors, including one in the Department of History