

Elias G. Saba

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Curriculum Vitae | September 8, 2022

Education

- 2017 PhD, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania.
Awarded British Association for Islamic Studies—De Gruyter Prize 2018 and the Roger MA. Allen Dissertation Prize in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.
- 2013 MA, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2010-11 Center for Arabic Study Abroad (Damascus, Syria).
- 2009 Middlebury College Arabic Summer Language School.
- 2008 BA, Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University.

Professional Appointments

2016 "The Art of Not Punishing" a review of Intisar Rabb, *Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law in Books & Ideas*, 7 December, 2017. <http://www.booksandideas.net/The-Art-of-Not-Punishing.html>.

Encyclopedia Entries

2018- "al- umayd , Abdallah b al-Zubayr," "al-Jz," "al-Kalwadh n , Ab al-Kha b" and "al-Kar b s , Ab Al al- usayn," in *Encyclopaedia of Islam, THREE* Edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, Everett Rowson, et. al. Leiden: Brill, 2008-.

"Wills (7th- 16th c.)," in *The Routledge Medieval Encyclopedia Online, Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. Edited by Jo Van Steenberg. New York: Routledge, forthcoming

Fellowships and Prizes

External

2018 British Association for Islamic Studies – De Gruyter 2018 Prize in the Study of Islam and the Muslim World
2015 SSRC-Mellon Mays, Preparing for the Professoriate Seminar Grant.
2015 Dissertation Completion Grant, SSRC-Mellon Mays.
2014 Council of American Overseas Research Centers Fellowship, American Center for Oriental Research.
2013 Pre-doctoral Research Development Grant, SSRC-Mellon Mays.
2013 SSRC-Mellon Mays Proposal Writing and Dissertation Development Seminar Grant.
2012 Graduate Enhancement Grant, SSRC-Mellon Mays.
2011 Graduate Enhancement Grant, SSRC-Mellon Mays.
2010- 11 Center for Arabic Study Abroad, Full-Year Fellowship.

Internal

2017 Roger M. A. Allen Dissertation Prize in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania.
2016 Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Departmental Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.
2014- 15 Communication Within the Curriculum (CWIC) Critical Speaking Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.
2014 Training Grant, Digital Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania.
2013 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Academic Year Fellowship (Arabic) (declined).

2012
2012

Janet Lee Stevens Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania.

- 2017 “The Unlimits of Language: The Teleology of Lexicographical Distinctions.” *Philology as Literature – Literature as Philology: Critical and Aesthetical Interactions in Arab Culture and Beyond*, Bamf, Scotland (July 9-12).
- 2017 “An Unknown Text of Legal Distinctions: The Implications of a New Discovery.” 227th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Los Angeles, CA (March 17-20).
- 2016 “Riddles, Questions, and Performance: A Social Life of Islamic Legal Knowledge.” American Association of Religion, San Antonio, TX (Nov. 19-22).
- 2016 “Forms of Law: Ritual Purity in the Works of Jamāl al-Dīn al-Asnaw.” Third Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies, Chicago, IL (June 23-25).
- 2016 “Disputation and Objection: The Rise of Legal Distinctions.” 226th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, MA (March 18-21).
- 2014 “Evolving Difference: Legal Distinctions in the Shāfi‘ī Tradition.” Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington D.C. (November 22-25).
- 2013 “Illuminating Differences and Creating Differences: The Shifting Conceptions of a Legal Distinction (*al-Farq al-Fiqh*).” *Rethinking Classical Islamic Law: Can Fiqh Be Applied Law?* Rabat, Morocco (November 13-15).
- 2013 “Explanation or Innovation? An Analysis of the *Farq Fiqh*.” Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, LA (October 10-13).
- 2013 “Explaining, Interpreting, and Clarifying the Qur’an: The ‘Commentary’ on NEP-27.” *Toward a ‘Biography’ of a Manuscript: A Copy of the Qur’an from 12th c. Iran: A Project in the History of the Book*, Philadelphia, PA (February 22-23).
- 2010 “Heroes, History, and Fiction: Rereading and Rewriting History in Ba’thist Iraq.” Graduate Humanities Conference, Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, PA (February 19).

Organizer

- 2019 “Mamluk Scholarship and the Transmission of Knowledge.” Sixth Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies, Tokyo, Japan (June 15-17).
- 2019 “Legal Systematization among Muslims and Jews in the Medieval Islamic World.” 94th Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Philadelphia, PA (March 7-9).
- 2016 “Aesthetics and Performance of Knowledge: The Social and Courtly Roles of Scholarship in Mamluk Cairo.” Third Conference of the School of Mamluk Studies, Chicago, IL (June 23-25).
- 2014 “Infinite Data, Finite Results: Organizing and Classifying Knowledge in Medieval Islamic Law.” Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington D.C. (November 22-25).
- 2013 “Action, Innovation and Change – Assessing the Efficacy of Islamic Legal Concepts.” Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, LA (October 10-13).
- 2012 “Documenting the Revolution: The Print Culture of Tahrir Square.” Forty-Sixth

Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO (November 17-20).

Invited Talks

- 2022 20 Minutes @ 11, *Reverent Ornament: Art from the Islamic World: September 27–December 10 2022*, Falconer Gallery, Grinnell, IA (April 24).
- 2022 “Make it Different: Islamic Law and Education in the Middle Ages,” Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Senior Graduation Dinner, Grinnell, IA (May 21).
- 2021 “Fur q as a Tool for Understanding Relationships between Theory and Practice in Islamic Law,” Genre as a Tool for Understanding Relationships between Theory and Practice (u l and fur): Internal Perspectives, University of Münster and Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA (December 21) [via videoconference].
- 2021 “Islamicizing Greek Knowledge: Al-Ghazali and Logic,” Series on Islamic Intellectual Traditions, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT (March 10) [via videoconference].
- 2020 “Harmonizing Similarities,” Program in Islamic Law Book Talk Series, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA (November 17) [via videoconference].
- 2019 “On Legal Distinctions: Concept and Genre,” Near Eastern Studies Colloquium, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (September 23).
- 2018 20 Minutes @ 11, *Making Life Visible: Art, Biology, and Visualization, February 2–June 10 2018*, Falconer Gallery, Grinnell, IA (April 24).
- 2016 “Establishing Legal Genres: The Case of Riddles and Distinctions,” Beyond Circulation: Non-Western Universalisms and Global Histories of Science, Graduate Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY (October 7–8).
- 2015 “Tahrir Documents: Reflections on Building a Digital Archive” (with Alexander Winder), University of Pennsylvania, WORD LAB Digital Humanities Discussion Group Philadelphia, PA (March 17).
- 2015 “Systems and Taxonomies in Islamic Legal Thinking: Comments onanaf Distinctions (*Fur q*) Literature,” Middle Eastern History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (March 10).
- 2014 “aa aa Discussing Paronomasia in West Africa,” Middle East Center Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (November 3).
- 2014 “Digital Humanities Skills for Research,” Roundtable, Digital Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (October 29).
- 2014 “Thinking through Distinctions: Language, Law, and Teleology,” ACOR Fellow’s Talk, American Center for Oriental Research, Amman, Jordan (May 7).

Teaching

- 2015 Certificate in College and University Teaching, University of Pennsylvania.

Instructor of Record: Grinnell College

- 2017-
“The Crusades in the Middle East,” History Department and Religious Studies Department.
“Farm-to-Table\`Table-to-Farm,” Tutorial Course for First-Year Students.
“The Life of the Qur’an,” Religious Studies Department.
“Introduction to Historical Inquiry: The Prophet Muhammad,” History Department.
“Islam and Gender,” History Department and Religious Studies Department.
“Islamic Empires,” History Department.
“Islamic Law in Theory and Practice,” Humanities Division and Social Sciences Division.
“Slaying Dragons, Depicting Saints: The Life and Legacy of Saint George,” Tutorial Course for First-Year Students.
“Studying Religion: The Middle East,” Religious Studies Department.
“Theory and Method in the Study of Religion,” Religious Studies Department.
“Traditions of Islam,” Religious Studies Department.

Instructor of Record, Liberal Arts in Prison Program Grinnell College

- 2018 “Traditions of Islam,” Religious Studies Department (Fall).

Instructor of Record, University of Pennsylvania

- 2015 “Arab Voices of Dissent: From Muhammad to Tahrir,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Teaching Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

- 2009-12 “The Islamic Intellectual Tradition,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.
“The Mongol Experience,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.
“The Middle East through Many Lenses,” Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Service

- 2021 NEH Peer Review Panelist
2016- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Program Assistant, Grinnell College.
2017- Reviewer for *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; Islamic Law and Society*; Brill Publishing
2011-17 Freelance indexer. Prepared indices for books from the following presses: Brill, Lockwood (Resources in Arabic and Islamic Studies), and New York University (Library of Arabic Literature).
2011-14 Co-Founder, Translator and Editor (2011-2014), *Tahrir Documents* archive.

Academic Workshops

2018