

FERYAL E. SALEM, Ph.D.

fsalem@aicusa.edu

Employment

Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, American Islamic College (2018–Present)

- Director, Master of Divinity in Islamic Studies and Muslim Chaplaincy Program

Assistant Professor of Islamic Scriptures and Law, Hartford International University (2013–2018)

- Co-Director, Islamic Chaplaincy Program
- Associate Editor, *Muslim World*
- Core faculty member of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations

Education

Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

- Dissertation: “Abdallāh b. al-Mubārak Between *Ḥadīth*, *Jihād*, and *Zuhd*: An Expression of Early Sunni Identity in the Formative Period”
- Major: Islamic Thought
- Minor: History of the Modern Middle East
- Dissertation Advisor: Fred Donner

M.A., Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago

- Thesis: “The Educational Reform of Sultan Abdülhamid II: A Study of Its Impact on the Ottoman Governorate of Greater Syria”
- Thesis Advisor: Rashid Khalidi

B.A., Anthropology, Wayne State University

Clinical Pastoral Education, Stanford University Hospitals

Publications

Monographs

- **The Isagoge: al-Abhari’s Introduction on Logic (Translation and Critical Commentary).** Chicago: Blue Mountain Press, 2022.
- **The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunnī Scholasticism: ‘Abdallāh b. al-Mubārak and the Formation of Sunnī Identity in the Second Islamic Century.** Leiden: *Brill*, 2016.

Translations

- **Gatherings of Illumination: On Sending Blessings upon the Best of Creation.** Translation from Arabic with introduction. Chicago: Nur Publications, 2012.

Edited Volumes

- **The Opportunities and Challenges of Teaching Islamic Studies in Theological Seminaries.** Special issue of *The Muslim World*, April 2018 (Guest Editor).
- **Reframing Reason and Philosophy in Post-Classical *Kalām*: The Formation of a Tradition from al-Ghazālī to the Ottomans.** *Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Science: Texts and Studies* series. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming (Editor).

Articles and Book Chapters

- “Does Islam Have Its Own Tradition of Spiritual Care? The Twelve Principles of Spiritual Care in the Muhammadan Model.” *Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice* 6, no. 1.
- “Prophetology and Islamic Spiritual Care: The Spiritual Teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as a Model for Spiritual Formation and Caring for Souls.” In *Divine Revelation and Communication: Contemporary Muslim Theological Approaches*. Gerlach Press, 2025.
- “Sunni–Shia Discussions on the Issue of *Imāma* Among Post-Classical Speculative Theologians: Shams al-Dīn al-Iṣfahānī’s Response to Naṣīr al-Ṭūsī in his *Tasdīd al-Qawā’id*.” In *Al-Ghazālī’s Expansion of the Doors of Reason: Themes in Post-Classical Ash‘arī and Late Māturīdī Philosophical Theology (Kalām)*, ed. Feryal Salem. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.
- “The Greatest Generation: American Islam after the 1960s and the Impact of the Great Migration.” In *Barzinji Felicitations Volume*. Shenandoah Press, 2023.
- “Women in Ḥadīth Literature.” In *Oxford Handbook of Women in Islam*, ed. Asma Afsaruddin. Oxford University Press, 2023.
- “The Ethics of Aḍud al-Dīn al-Ījī and Some Notes on Its Commentaries.” In *Mysticism and Ethics in Islam*, eds. Atif Khalil, Bilal Orfali, and Mohammed Rustom. Beirut: American University of Beirut Press, 2022.
- “The Challenges and Opportunities in Training Muslim Chaplaincy Students for a Burgeoning New Field.” *Journal of Pastoral Theology* 32, no. 1 (2022): 47–54.
- “Ṭaşköprüzāde Ahmed Efendi’s Commentary on the Ethical Philosophy of Aḍud al-Dīn al-Ījī: Theory and Praxis of Muslim Philosophical Ethics in the Sixteenth Century.” *Journal of Islamic Ethics* 5 (2021): 1–37.
- “The Praiseworthy.” In *Routledge Handbook to the Qur’an*, eds. George Archer, Maria Dakake, and Daniel Madigan. New York: Routledge, 2021.

- **“Paradigm Shifts and Transformative Scholarship: The Expansion of Women’s Scholarly Works in Damascus in the Late Twentieth Century.”** In *Routledge Handbook to Islam and Gender*, ed. Justine Howe. New York: Routledge, 2020.
- **“Islam and Pluralism: A Framework for Inclusivity.”** *MUIS Academy Occasional Papers*, no. 16 (2020).
- **“A Muslim Response to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment.”** *Dialog* (2019): 1–2.
- **“125 Years of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary.”** *The Muslim World* 108, no. 2 (2018): 254–288.
- **“Fulfilling the Need for Muslim Chaplains.”** In Spotlight for Theological Education, special issue on “Teaching Islamic Studies in Theological Seminaries,” *Religious Studies News* (American Academy of Religion), 2014: 11–12.
- **“A Comparison Between the Concepts of Freewill, Qadar, and Kasb in Ḥasan al-Baṣrī’s Epistle to ‘Abd al-Malik: An Analysis of the Letter’s Theological Discourse.”** *The Muslim World* 104, nos. 1–2 (2014): 198–219.

Encyclopedia Entries

- **“Aṣl and Far‘.”** In *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World: Digital Collection*, ed. John L. Esposito. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- **“Zinā.”** In *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World: Digital Collection*, ed. John L. Esposito. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- **“Mahr.”** In *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd ed., ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2016.
- **“Dhikr.”** In *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd ed., ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2016.
- **“Khirqa.”** In *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd ed., ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2016.
- **“Khānqāh.”** In *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd ed., ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2016.
- **“Qibla.”** In *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd ed., ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2016.
- **“‘Abdallāh b. al-Mubārak.”** In *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd edition (forthcoming).

Book Reviews

- **Review of Ahmed El Shamsy, *The Canonization of Islamic Law: A Social and Intellectual History*.** *The Muslim World* 107, no. 3 (2017).

Fellowships and Grants

- **Scholar:** Georgetown University Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Christian-Muslim Understanding (ACMCU), “Train the Trainers” Program for Curriculum Design and Outreach (January 2019–present)
- **Visiting Scholar:** MUIS Academy (Muslim Religious Council of Singapore) (January 2018).
- **Scholar-in-Residence:** Turkish Centre for Islamic Studies in Istanbul, ISAM (January–April 2017).
- **Sabbatical Travel Grant to India:** International Institute of Islamic Thought Research Grant on Muslim-Hindu Relations (March 2017).
- **Pillars Fund:** Grant Recipient (Islamic Chaplaincy Program Educational Programming) (2017).
- **Pillars Fund:** Grant Recipient (Islamic Chaplaincy Program Educational Programming) (2016).
- **International Institute of Islamic Thought:** Monograph Publication Grant (2015)

Conferences & Presentations

Invited Keynotes & Main Speakers

- **Does Islam Have Its Own Tradition of Spiritual Care,** Jadal Summit 2026, Doha, Qatar, February 2026 (Presenter)
- **Salvation in Islam and Christianity: Eschatology, Christology, and the Question of Religious Pluralism,** Catholic-Muslim Scholars Dialogue, John Carroll University, Cleveland, October 2025 (Main Speaker).
- **What is Sunni Islam?** Sunni-Shia Dialogue, Zahra Women’s Academy, Qom, May 2023 (Keynote Speaker).
- **Attributes of God in Islamic Theology: Definitions, Problems, and Debates Among Muslim Theologians,** Centre for Christian-Muslim Understanding and Partnership, All Saints Cathedral Complex, Cairo, December 2022 (Invited Main Speaker).
- **12 Principles of Muhammadan Spiritual Care,** Association of Muslim Chaplains Annual Conference, February 2022 (Invited Speaker).
- **Athīr al-Dīn al-Abharī and His Role in the Development of Arabic Logic,** Association of Islamic Philosophy and Theology Annual Conference, Harvard University, December 2021 (Invited Speaker).
- **Christian-Muslim Engagement in Chicago: Past, Present, Future,** Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, September 2019 (Keynote Speaker).

- **Centering Women in Interpretations of Islamic Scriptures in Light of Sunni and Shia Jurisprudence**, Family and Gender Research Center, Qom, June 2019 (Keynote Speaker).
- **Spiritual Care: Importance of Muslim Chaplains**, Pantai Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, August 2018 (Keynote Speaker).
- **Islam and Diversity: Faith Communities of the Future**, Muslim Religious Council of Singapore, January 2018 (Keynote Speaker).
- **Closing Dialogue: Certificate for Islam in Context**, Harmony Center, Singapore, January 2018 (Keynote Speaker).
- **MAS-ICNA Interfaith Symposium**, Chicago, December 2016 (Main Speaker/Panelist).

Conference Presentations

- **New Books Round Table: Muslim and Catholic Experiences of National Belonging in France and Fraternal Critique: The Politics of Muslim Community in France**, American Academy of Religion, Boston 2025 (Respondent)
- **Catholic–Muslim Dialogue**, American Islamic College, Catholic Theological Union, and the Archdiocese of Chicago, April 2025 (Co-Chair).
- **Scholars in Dialogue Catholic–Muslim Conference**, Providence College, April 2025 (Participant).
- **Professor Yahya Michot’s Contributions to Contemporary Islamic Thought**. Remarks delivered at *Intellectual Heritage and Spiritual Engagement: Tribute to Professor Dr. Yahya Michaud (1952–2025)*, Belgium, April 2025 (Remarks).
- **Mecca Center Annual Interfaith Iftar** with faith leaders around Chicago, Willowbrook, March 2025 (Invited Speaker).
- **Catholic–Muslim Dialogue**, American Islamic College, Catholic Theological Union, and the Archdiocese of Chicago, February 2025 (Co-Chair).
- **Catholic–Muslim Dialogue**, American Islamic College, Catholic Theological Union, and the Archdiocese of Chicago, November 2024 (Co-Chair).
- **Scholars in Dialogue Catholic–Muslim Conference**, Catholic University of America, John Carroll University, October 2024 (Participant).
- **Women’s Formative Leadership in Contemporary Islamic Contexts: Shaykha Munirah Qubaysi (1934–2022)**, Muslim Women in Religious and Civic Leadership, George Mason University Abu Sulayman Center Annual Conference, April 2024 (Presenter).

- **The Ethical Philosophy of Aḍud al-Dīn al-Ījī**, American Society for Islamic Philosophy and Theology (ASIPT) & Harvard University Conference, Boston, December 2023 (Presenter).
- **Women in Interreligious Dialogue: Modesty and Purity Culture**, Benedictine University, Naperville, November 2023 (Presenter).
- **Scholars in Dialogue Catholic–Muslim Conference**, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., March 2023 (Participant).
- **Prophetology and the Modes of Transmission of Islamic Spiritual Care**, International Forum for Muslim Theology Seminar, February 2022 (Presenter).
- **Prayer Rituals in the Islamic Tradition**, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, October 2021.
- **Decolonizing the Field of Christian–Muslim Relations: Historical Frameworks, Premises, and Power Dynamics**, American Academy of Religion Conference, December 2020 (Panelist).
- **K–12 Teacher’s Institute at Dar al-Islam**, Abiquiu, New Mexico, July 2020 (Instructor of Islamic Studies).
- **Foundational Principles of Islamic Ethics Found in the Legal Maxims (*Qawā'id al-fiqhiyya*)**, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., July 2019 (Speaker).
- **Images of Jesus in the Bible and the Qur'an**, Muslim–Presbyterian Dialogue Series, CIOGC, Chicago, March 2019 (Speaker).
- **Images of Mary in the Bible and the Qur'an**, Community Presbyterian Church, Downers Grove, December 2018 (Speaker).
- **Taşköprizade’s Commentary on the Spiritual Ethics of ‘Aḍud al-Dīn al-Ījī**, University of Putra Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, July 2018 (Speaker).
- **The Challenges of Female Scholarship in Islamic Studies**, Muslim Religious Council of Singapore, January 2018 (Speaker).
- **Opportunities and Challenges of Teaching Islamic Studies in Theological Seminaries**, American Academy of Religion Conference, Atlanta, November 2015 (Panelist).
- **Early Islam on Constitutions and Pluralism**, International Institute of Islamic Thought, Herndon, VA, June 2015 (Panelist).
- **How Can Different Religions Work Together to Ensure Rights of Minorities?**, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran, April 2015 (Panelist).
- **The Role of the Believers in Confronting Extremism**, Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, Tehran, April 2015 (Panelist).

- **Muslim Women’s Voices: Looking Back to Look Ahead**, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, February 2015 (Speaker).
- **Reasons for Differences Among the Four Sunni Schools of Islamic Law**, International Institute of Islamic Thought, Fairfax, VA, January 2015 (Speaker).
- **The Nascent Genre of Early Sufi Literature: The *Kutub al-Zuhd* as Books of Islamic Piety**, Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2013 (Presenter).
- **A Fifth-Century Vision of Sunni Orthodoxy: ‘Abd al-Qāhir al-Baghdādi’s Encounter with Early Islamic Sects and His Description of the *Ahl al-Sunna wa-l-Jamā’a* in *Farq bayn al-Firaq***, McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Graduate Symposium, Montreal, May 2013 (Presenter).
- **The Transmission and Production of Scholarship in the Islamic Sciences by Women in the Twentieth Century**, UC Santa Barbara Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, March 2013 (Presenter).
- **Classical Islamic Scholarship in Post-Colonial Syria: The Intellectual Contribution of Women Scholars in the Late Twentieth Century**, Duke–UNC Islamic Studies Conference, Durham, February 2013 (Presenter).
- **Freewill, Determination, and *Kasb* in the Epistle of Ḥasan al-Baṣrī**, Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2012 (Presenter).

Presider & Discussant Roles

- **Nostra Aetate at 60**, American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2025 (Presider).
- **The Weaponization of the Freedom of Religion**, American Academy of Religion, Boston 2025, (Presider).
- **Reimagining Religious Pluralism: Ethics, Literacy, and Civil Responsibility: Interactive Workshop**, American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2025 (Facilitator)
- **Advancing Interreligious Studies: Christian–Muslim Relations After “A Common Word,”** American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2023 (Discussant).
- **Three Chaplains: The Work of Muslim Chaplains in the US Armed Forces**, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2023 (Presider).
- **The Triple-Edged Sword of Inclusion: Retelling History, Weaponizing Interfaith, and Analyzing its Power to Exclude**, American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 2022 (Presider).

- **Foundations of Islamic Metaphysics and Epistemology**, Oxford University, St. Anne's College, United Kingdom, August 2022 (Discussant).
- **The Ḥanafī School: Texts, Authorities, and Practitioners**, International University of Sarajevo, June 2022 (Respondent).
- **The Politicization of Interfaith Dialogue**, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, November 2021 (Presider).
- **Analysis from the Point of View of Islamic Law and Ethics**, Hurma Project Research Conference, Chicago, January 2020 (Presider).
- **Pedagogies of Interreligious Studies Workshop**, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2019 (Facilitator/Speaker).

Book Talks

- *The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunni Scholasticism*, Diyanet Center of America, Maryland, April 2019 (Speaker).
- *The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunni Scholasticism*, American Islamic College, Chicago, February 2019 (Speaker).
- *The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunni Scholasticism*, Turkish Center for Islamic Studies (Islam Araştırmaları Merkezi), Istanbul, March 2017 (Speaker).
- *The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunni Scholasticism*, Hartford Seminary, December 2016 (Speaker).
- *The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunni Scholasticism*, International Institute of Islamic Thought, Fairfax, VA, November 2016 (Speaker).

Participant Roles

- **Scholars in Dialogue Catholic–Muslim Conference**, Catholic University of America, Providence College, April 2025.
- **Catholic–Muslim Dialogue**, American Islamic College, Catholic Theological Union, and the Archdiocese of Chicago, February 2025 (Co-Chair).
- **Catholic–Muslim Dialogue**, American Islamic College, Catholic Theological Union, and the Archdiocese of Chicago, November 2024 (Co-Chair).
- **Scholars in Dialogue Catholic–Muslim Conference**, Catholic University of America, John Carroll University, October 2024.
- **Scholars in Dialogue Catholic–Muslim Conference**, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., March 2023.

- **Concordia Forum**, Lisbon, September 2021.
- **Concordia Forum**, Toronto, October 2019.
- **International Islamic Manuscript Workshop**, Istanbul Center for Islamic Studies, January–February 2016.
- **Building Bridges Muslim–Christian Relations Conference**, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., May 2016.
- **Building Bridges Muslim–Christian Conference**, Doha, May 2015.
- **Hartford Seminary Travel Seminar** to Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, October 2016 (Faculty Representative).
- **Hartford Seminary Travel Seminar** to Iran, April 2015 (Faculty Representative).
- **Building Bridges Muslim–Christian Conference**, Washington, D.C., May 2014.
- **Middle East History and Theory Workshop**, University of Chicago, 2010–2011 (Conference Organizer).

Public Scholarship & Community Outreach

Study Tours (tour leader and scholar unless noted)

- *Central Asia Muslim Heritage Tour: Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan*, June 2025.
- *Experience the Cradle of Civilization: Iraq*, December 2024.
- *Muslim Balkans: Six-Country Tour*, July 2024.
- *Discover the Treasures of Iran*, May–June 2023.
- *Zanzibar Spice Adventure*, January 2023.
- *Eastern Anatolia Immersion*, June 2022.
- *Explore Uzbekistan*, March 2022.
- Sisterhood of Salaam–Shalom Summer Trip to Berlin and Poland, June–July 2019 (Participant/Co-Leader).
- Muslim–Jewish Women’s Joint Memorial Service at Auschwitz II, July 2019 (Co-Leader).

Community Talks & Interfaith Events

- **Scholar Website:** silkroadmusings.com (active).
- **Shining the Light Forward: Annual Convert Conference**, MECCA Center, April 2025 (Invited Speaker).
- **Unity in Diversity: Annual Interfaith Iftar**, MECCA Center, March 2025 (Keynote Speaker).
- **Blessed Are the Peacemakers**, Catholic Theological Union interfaith dinner with Chicago faith leaders, April 2024 (Special Invitation).

- **President’s Luncheon with Chicago Muslim Leaders**, February 2024 (Special Invitation).
- ***Sabn-i-Semān: Classical Text Study***, Istanbul, August 2021.
- **Interfaith Roundtable**, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, August 2018.
- **Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors**, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT, November 2016 (Panelist).
- **Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors**, Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, CT, April 2016 (Panelist).
- **Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors**, First Church UCC, Windsor, CT, March 2016 (Panelist).
- **Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors**, First Church UCC, Middletown, CT, January 2016 (Panelist).
- **Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors**, Temple Sinai, Newington, CT, November 2015 (Panelist).
- **Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors**, First Church of Christ Congregational, New Britain, CT, November 2015 (Panelist).
- **ISNA Statement on the Inclusion of Women** (Signatory, Co-writer, Presentation Participant), ISNA Convention, Chicago, September 2015.
- **International Institute of Islamic Thought Summer Intensive**, Herndon, VA, May–June 2015 (Instructor).
- **Community Discussion on the Oral Transmission of the Qur’an**, Hartford Public Library, November 2013.
- **Overview of Islamic History**, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, October 2013.

Media & Interviews

- **Interview for CNN’s “25 Influential American Muslims,”** May 2018.
- **Interview on Malaysian Television**, Kuala Lumpur, August 2018.
- **WNPR “Where We Live” Radio Show: *What is the Meaning of “Caliphate”?***, February 2016.
- **WNPR “Where We Live” Radio Show: *Discussion with Graeme Wood on “What ISIS Really Wants”***, March 2015.

Additional Leadership & Participation

- **Pillars Fund Leadership Summit**, Chicago, September 2016 (Participant).
- **Muslim Patient Care**, St. Francis Hospital Pastoral Care, December 2014.

- **Muslim–Christian Dialogue: Living Out Our Faiths**, St. Patrick–St. Anthony Church, December 2014.
- **Sunni and Shi’a Dialogue**, Seabury Home Care, November 2014.
- **Muslim Women’s Voices**, WNPR “Where We Live,” October 2014.
- **Women in Islamic Scripture**, Muslim Coalition of Connecticut, April 2014.

Service to the Profession

- American Academy of Religion — *Co-Chair, Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit (Steering Committee)*
- American Academy of Religion — *Steering Committee Member, Chaplaincy Innovation Lab Unit*
- Association of Interreligious and Interfaith Studies—*Board Member*
- Muslim Endorsement Council — *Consultative Committee Member*
- American Society of Islamic Philosophy and Theology (ASIPT) — *Advisory Board Member*
- *The Muslim World* — Associate Editor (2013–2018)
- Zaytuna College — *Board of Trustees Member (2015–2018)*

Professional Affiliations

- American Academy of Religion (Member)
- Middle East Studies Association (Member)
- European Academy of Religion (Member)

Languages

- Arabic (reading, writing, spoken)
- Turkish (reading, writing, spoken)
- French (reading, spoken)
- Persian (reading)
- German (reading)
- Ottoman Turkish (reading)

Courses Taught

Scripture and Methodology

- Women and Gender in Islam
- Foundations of Qur’anic Studies: History, Form, and Application
- Reading and Interpreting the Qur’an
- Hadith Methodology

Law, Theology, and Thought

- Introduction to Islamic Law
- Great Debates in Muslim Theology
- Themes in Critical Theory and Islamic Thought
- Muslim Devotional Law for Chaplains and Imams
- Themes in Muslim and Christian Theology (Co-Taught)

Spirituality and Sufism

- Islamic Spirituality and Ethics
- Islamic Mysticism
- Readings in Sufi Texts
- Muslim Great Books and Thinkers Seminar

Chaplaincy and Interfaith

- Central Themes in Muslim Chaplaincy and Interfaith Leadership
- Interfaith Dialogue in a World of Difference
- History of Christian–Muslim Relations
- Intra-Faith Dialogue and Understanding
- Spiritual Care and Counseling
- Scriptural Reasoning: Muslims and Christians Reading Scriptures Together (Co-Taught)