

Curriculum Vitae
Michael Cooperson

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D	1994	Harvard University (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations)
A.M.	1991	Harvard University (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations)
Certificate	1988	American University in Cairo (Center for Arabic Study Abroad)
A.B.	1987	Harvard College (Middle Eastern Studies)

EMPLOYMENT

Senior Research Fellow Library of Arabic Literature New York University Abu Dhabi	2015-2017
Visiting Professor <i>(autumn and winter quarters)</i> Stanford University	2009-10
Professor of Arabic University of California, Los Angeles	2004-present
Associate Professor of Arabic University of California, Los Angeles	2001-2004
Assistant Professor of Arabic University of California, Los Angeles	1995-2001
Visiting Assistant Professor of Arabic Dartmouth College	1994-1995
Instructor <i>(elementary, intermediate, and graduate program)</i> Middlebury School of Arabic	1991, 1994, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2019
Teaching Fellow in Arabic Harvard College	1990-1994

CLASSES RECENTLY TAUGHT

Seminar in pre-modern Arabic literature. Topics have included a survey of writings from the *jahiliyyah* to the *nahdah* (2018-20) and the Arabic literature of sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian subcontinent (2023).

Classical Arabic Texts. Designed to help students make the transition from third-year modern standard Arabic to the language and genres of pre-modern writing.

Pre-modern Arabic literature in translation. Focuses on the early Abbasid period, with readings in history, topography, religion, science, sexuality, and other topics.

Arabic-to-English translation. Trains students to translate historical, literary, and media texts from Arabic into accurate and idiomatic English.

Arabic subtitling. Combines independent study and group work to produce English captions for the UCLA Subtitle Project.

al-Hadārah al-‘abbāsiyyah (Abbasid civilization). Surveys Abbasid writing, sampling history, biography, medicine, mathematics, mechanics, poetry, and other genres, taught in Arabic for the graduate program at the Middlebury School of Arabic.

Maltese. Students familiar with Arabic learned to read Maltese in ten weeks.

Global time travel (GE course first taught in Spring 2020). A study of time-travel fiction from Mercier's *L'An 2440* (1776) to the present, with texts from the United States, China, Russia, Egypt, Iran, South Korea, France, Spain, and elsewhere, along with critical studies of how the genre interacts with history, narrative, and visuality.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Classical Arabic Biography: The Heirs of the Prophet in the Age of al-Ma'mūn. Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Reviewed in *Al-‘Arabiyya* 33 (2000): 107-110 (Muhammad Qasim Zaman); *Rivista degli Studi Orientali* 74/2000 (2001): 218-219 (Biancamaria Scarcia Amoretti); *Biography* 24.3 (Summer 2001): 609-613 (Tayeb El-Hibri); *Journal of Islamic Studies* 12: 3 (2001): 322-324 (A.H. Johns); *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 70:1 (March 2002): 203-208 (John Renard); *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 65: 3 (2002): 572-574 (Jawid Mojaddedi); *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 122: 3 (2002): 648-649 (Paul Cobb); *Islamic Law and Society* 9 (2002) 3: 417-420 (Jonathan Berkey); *Oriens Christianus* 86 (2002): 295-296 (Franz-Christoph Muth); *Copenhagen* 64 (2003): 261-262 (Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila); *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 14 (2003): 488 (Andras Kaplony).

Arabic translation: *Fann al-tarājim fi l-‘arabiyyah.* Tr. Mahmud Muhammad Makki. Cairo: Supreme Council on Culture, 2005.

Al Ma'mun. Oxford: OneWorld Books, 2005.

Reviewed (along with other titles in the “Makers of Islam” series) in *The Times Literary Supplement*, 14 July 2006 (David Morgan).

CO-AUTHORED BOOK

Interpreting the self: autobiography in the Arabic literary tradition. Ed. Dwight F. Reynolds. Coauthored by Kristen E. Brustad, Michael Cooperson, Jamal Elias, Nuha Khouri, Joseph Lowry, Nasser Rabbat, Dwight F. Reynolds, Devin Stewart, and Shawkat M. Toorawa. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Reviewed in *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London, Vol. 65, No. 3 (2002), pp. 574-576 (Wen-chin Ouyang); *Speculum*, Vol. 79, No. 1 (Jan., 2004), pp. 259-260 (Andras Hamori); *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Nov., 2004), pp. 273-274 (Hilary Kilpatrick).

Arabic translation: *Tarjamat al-nafs. Al-sirah al-dhatiyyah fi l-adab al-arabi.* Tr. Sa'īd al-Ghānimī. Abu Dhabi: Hay'at Abu Dhabi li-l-Thaqafah wa l-Turath, 2009.

CO-EDITED BOOKS

The Dictionary of Literary Biography: Arabic Literary Culture, 500-915. Ed. Michael Cooperson and Shawkat M. Toorawa. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2005.

Classical Arabic Humanities in Their Own Terms. Festschrift for Wolhart Heinrichs on 65th Birthday Presented by his Students and Colleagues. Ed. Beatrice Gruendler with the assistance of Michael Cooperson. Brill: Leiden and Boston, 2008.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN EDITED WORKS

"Al-Khiṭāb niyābatan 'an al-ākhar" ("Speaking for the other"). *Majallat al-Qahirah* 124 (1993): 58-65.

"The Monstrous Births of Aladdin." *The Harvard Review of Middle Eastern and Islamic Affairs* 1:1 (1994): 67-86. Republished in *The Arabian Nights Reader*, ed. Ulrich Marzolph. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2006: 265-282.

"Baghdad in Rhetoric and Narrative." *Muqarnas* 13 (1996): 99-113.

"The purported autobiography of Hunayn b. Ishaq." *Edebiyat* 7:2 (1996): 235-49.

"Aḥmad Ibn Ḥanbal and Bisr al-Ḥāfi. A case study in biographical traditions." *Studia Islamica* 86 (1997/2): 71-101.

"Remembering the Future: Arabic Time Travel Literature." *Edebiyat* 8 (1998): 171-189.

"Classical Arabic Biography." In *Understanding Near Eastern Literatures: A Spectrum of Interdisciplinary Approaches.* Ed. Beatrice Gruendler and Verena Klemm. Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2000: 177-87.

"Texts without illustrations: The visual imagination in classical Arabic biography." *Princeton Papers. Interdisciplinary Journal of Middle Eastern Studies VIII* (2001): 7-20. Also published in *Islamic Art and Literature.* Ed. Oleg Grabar and Cynthia Robinson. Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2001: 7-20.

"Two Abbasid trials: Ahmad Ibn Hanbal and Hunayn b. Ishaq." *Al-Qantara. Revista de estudios árabes.* XXII, 2 (2001): 375-393.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN EDITED WORKS (continued)

“The tomb of al-Ma’mūn in Tarsus: A preliminary report.” In *Occasional Papers of the School of ‘Abbāsīd Studies*, Cambridge 6-10 July 2002. Leuven: Peeters, 2004: 47-60.

“Probability, Plausibility, and ‘Spiritual Communication’ in Classical Arabic Biography.” In *On Fiction and Adab in Medieval Arabic Literature*. Ed. Philip F. Kennedy. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005: 69-83.

“*Safar*. The Early History of Time Travel Literature: Al-Muwayliḥī’s Ḥadīth ‘Īsā b. Hishām and Its Antecedents.” In *Classical Arabic Humanities in Their Own Terms. Festschrift for Wolfhart Heinrichs on 65th Birthday Presented by his Students and Colleagues*. Ed. Beatrice Gruendler with the assistance of Michael Cooperson. Brill: Leiden and Boston, 2008: 419-446.

“Al-Jāḥiẓ, the Misers, and the Proto-Sunnī Ascetics.” In *Al-Jāḥiẓ: A Muslim Humanist for our Time*. Ed. Arnim Heinemann, John L. Meloy, Tarif Khalidi, and Manfred Kropp. Beirut: Orient-Institut, 2009: 197-219.

“Culture.” In *Key Themes for the Study of Islam*. Ed. Jamal J. Elias. Oxford: OneWorld, 2010: 104-122.

“Al-Ma’mūn, the Pyramids, and the Hieroglyphs.” In *‘Abbāsīd Studies II. Occasional Papers of the School of ‘Abbāsīd Studies. Leuven, 28 June – 1 July, 2004*. Ed. John Nawas. Leuven: Peeters, 2010: 165-190.

“The Reception of Pharaonic Egypt in Islamic Egypt.” In *A Companion to Ancient Egypt*. Ed. Alan B. Lloyd. Chichester: Blackwell, 2010. 2:1109-1128.

“Biographical Literature.” *The New Cambridge History of Islam. Volume 4: Islamic Cultures and Societies to the End of the Eighteenth Century*. Ed. Robert Irwin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010: 458-473.

“Al-Ma’mūn and ‘Alī al-Rida (Emam Reza) on Iranian Television.” In *The Rhetoric of Biography: Studies in Arabic, Persian and Turkish Narratives of Lives*. Ed. Louise Marlow. Washington, DC: Ilex, 2011: 140-164.

“Jurji Zaidan and Modern Historical Representation.” In *Jurji Zaidan’s Contributions to Modern Arab Thought and Literature*. Ed. George C. Zaidan and Thomas Philipp. Washington, DC: The Zaidan Foundation, 2013. Pp. 217-30.

“Early Abbasid Antiquarianism: al-Ma’mūn and the Pyramid of Cheops.” In *Traces, Collections, and Ruins: Towards a Comparative History of Antiquarianism*. Ed. Alain Schnapp. Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2014: 210-211.

“Ḥarsa ġdida lejn ir-rakkont tal-Ḥimjari dwar Malta.” In *Il-Malti. Rivista tal-Akkademja tal-Malti* 87 (2014): 39-49.

“Bandits.” In *Violence in Islamic Thought From the Qur’an to the Mongols*. Edited by Istvan Kristo-Nagy and Robert Gleave. Edinburgh, 2015. Pp. 191-99.

“Arabs and Iranians: The Uses of Ethnicity in the Early Abbasid Period.” In *Islamic Cultures, Islamic Contexts. Essays in Honor of Professor Patricia Crone*. Leiden: Brill, 2015. Pp. 364-387.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN EDITED WORKS (continued)

“Al-Ḥimyarī’s Account of Medieval Malta. A Reconsideration.” In *Fuzzy Boundaries. Festschrift für Antonio Loprieno*. Hamburg: Widmaier, 2015: 347-351.

“An Early Conversion Story: The Case of al-Faḍl ibn Sahl.” In *Oceanus Paedagogicus. A Festschrift in Celebration and Honor of Professor Ahmad Mahdavi Damghani’s 90th Birthday*. Edited by Alireza Korangy, Roy P. Mottahedeh, and William Granara. Berlin: De Gruyter 2016: 386-399.

“The Abbasid ‘Golden Age’: An Excavation.” *Al-Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā* 25 (2017): 41-65.

“Daily Life in Baghdad.” In *Baghdad at the Centre of a World, 8th-13th Century. An introductory textbook*. Edited by Emily Selove. Fargo, ND: Theran Press, 2019: 23-32.

“Mercier’s Carriages: Time Travel’s Primal Scene.” *The Eighteenth-Century. Theory and Interpretation* 60:2 (Summer 2019): 207-20.

“*Nashr al-‘arabiyyah fī l-wilāyāt al-‘amrikiyyah: nazrah ‘āmmah wa-waṣf mashrū‘ayn ‘alā ṣa‘ūd al-turāth*.” (“Promoting Arabic in the United States: an overview and an account of two Classical-Arabic based projects.”) *Kayf nushirat al-‘arabiyyah? Tajārib li-a‘lām min al-mukhtaṣṣin al-nātiqīn bi-ghayrihā fī Aṣyā wa-Ustūrāliyyā wa-Amrikā*. Edited by Badr ibn Nāṣir al-Jabr. Riyadh: King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Int’l Center for The Arabic Language, 2019, pp. 298-309.

“Three Accounts of Zoroastrian Conversion to Islam.” In *Conversion to Islam: A Sourcebook*. Edited by Nimrod Hurwitz, Christian Sahner, and Luke Yarbrough. Oakland: University of California Press, 2020: 109-113.

“al-Ḥariri, a master storyteller.” *Harvard Magazine*, May-June 2021: 36-37.

“On (not) drinking: al-Ḥariri’s *Maqāmah* 48.” In “*Passed around by a Crescent*”: *Wine Poetry in the Literary Traditions of the Islamic World*. Edited by Kirill Dmitriev and Christine van Ruymbeke. Beirut: Orient Institut Beirut, 2022: 15-26.

“Fictionalities in medieval Arabic texts: A roundtable.” Co-authored with Hussein Fancy, Michelle Karnes, and Maurice A. Pomerantz. *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies* (2022).

“900 Years of Trickery: al-Ḥariri from Leiden to Los Angeles.” *Journal of Abbasid Studies* (2023): 1-25.

TEXTS EDITED

Ibn al-Jawzī, *Manāqib al-īmām Ahmad ibn Hanbal*. Volume 1. New York University Press, 2013. Volume 2. New York University Press, 2015.

al-Ḥariri, *Maqāmāt Abī Zayd al-Sarūjī*. New York University Press, 2020.

TRANSLATIONS

Abdelfattah Kilito, "Speaking to Princes: Al-Yusi and Mawlay Ismail." In *In the Shadow of the Sultan*. Ed. Rahma Bourqia and Susan Gilson Miller. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1999: 30-46. Translation of Abdelfattah Kilito, "Parler au prince: Al-Yousi et Moulay Ismail."

Abdelfattah Kilito, *The Author and His Doubles: Essays on Classical Arabic Culture*. Syracuse University Press, 2001. Translation of Abdelfattah Kilito, *L'Auteur et ses doubles. Essais sur la culture arabe classique*. Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1985.

Khayri Shalaby, *The Time-Travels of the Man Who Sold Pickles and Sweets. A Modern Arabic Novel*. Cairo and New York: The American University in Cairo Press, 2010. Reprinted Cairo: Hoopoe, 2016. Translation of Khayrī Shalabī, *Rihlāt al-Ṭurshagī al-Ḥalwagī*. Cairo: Madbūlī, 1991.

Jurji Zaidan, *Brothers At War*. Washington, DC: Zaidan Foundation, 2012. Translation of Jurjī Zaydān, *Al-Amīn wa l-Ma'mūn*. Cairo: Dār al-Hilāl, 1907.

Ibn al-Jawzī, *Virtues of the Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal*. Arabic edition and English translation of Ibn al-Jawzī, *Manāqib al-imām Ahmad ibn Hanbal*. Volume 1. New York University Press, 2013. Volume 2. New York University Press, 2015.

Reviewed in: Christopher Melchert, *Journal of Islamic Studies* 25:3 (September 2014): 354–355; Tasi Perkins, "[Hagiography and Hanbalism](#)," *Marginalia: Los Angeles Review of Books*, August 18, 2015; Aaron Hagler, *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* ([2018](#)).

The Life of Ibn Hanbal. New York University Press, 2016. (Revised English-only paperback edition of preceding item.)

"The Mosul Stand-up, or a Riff on a Stiff: al-Hamadhānī's Maqāma of Mosul." Translated by Michael Cooperson based on a new edition of the text by Bilal Orfali. In *Arabic Humanities, Islamic Thought: Essays in Honor of Everett K. Rowson*. Edited by Joseph E. Lowry & Shawkat M. Toorawa. Leiden: Brill, 2017: 271-75.

Impostures. (English translation of *Maqāmāt al-Ḥarīrī*.) New York University Press, 2020.

Reviewed in: Matthew Chovanec, "[Learning the proper posture to be an Internet impostor while reading Impostures](#)," *Mada*, June 3, 2020; Sam Sacks, "[Fiction: Fifty Approaches to an Antic Arabic Masterpiece](#)," *Wall Street Journal*, June 26, 2020; Drew Gallagher, "[The Impostures' a brilliant work of translation, wordplay](#)," *Free-Lance Star*, July 4, 2020; Taste of Texts, "[Review of Impostures](#)," on youtube; David Chaffetz, *Asian Review of Books*, [22 July 2020](#); Jean Franco, [TranslationExch blog](#), The Queen's College: University of Oxford; Bruce Fudge, "[Al-Harīrī's Fifty Tales: The Tongues of God and Man](#)," *Marginalia*, December 18, 2020; Eric Ormsby, "[Fifty twists of the tongue: a remarkable version of a remarkable Arabic classic](#)," *Times Literary Supplement*, January 8, 2021; Rachel Schine, *Journal of Arabic Literature* 52 (2021): [288-93](#).

TRANSLATIONS EDITED

Enrique Gaspar, *The Anacronopete*. Tr. Leyla Rouhi. CreateSpace, 2012. Translation of Enrique Gaspar, *El Anacronópete*. Barcelona: Cortezo, 1887.

Aḥmad Fāris al-Shidyāq, *al-Sāq ‘alā s-Sāq* | Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq, *Leg Over Leg*. Edited and translated by Humphrey Davies. Volumes 1-4. New York University Press, 2013-14.

Kitāb al-Wuṣlah ilā l-ḥabīb | *Scents and Flavors. A Syrian Cookbook*. Edited and translated by Charles Perry. New York University Press, 2017.

Ibn Qutaybah, *Faḍl al-‘Arab* | Ibn Qutaybah, *The excellence of the Arabs*. Edited and translated by Sarah Bowen Savant and Peter Webb. New York University Press, 2017.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

“Adab,” “algebra,” “Ibn al-Haytham,” “al-Ghazzali,” and “Ibn Rushd.” *The Dictionary of Global Culture*. Ed. Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr. New York: Knopf, 1997.

“Ḥunayn b. Ishāq”; “Translation, Medieval.” *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature*. Ed. Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey. London: Routledge, 1998.

“al-Shanfarā,” “Ibn al-Muqaffa’,” and “Ibn Sa’d.” *The Dictionary of Literary Biography: Arabic Literary Culture, 500-915*. Ed. Michael Cooperson and Shawkat M. Toorawa. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2005.

“Ibn Sa’d,” “Ibn al-Muqaffa’,” “Autobiographical Writings.” *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. London: Routledge, 2005, 2006.

“Ibn al-Muqaffa’.” *The Biographical Encyclopedia of Islamic Philosophy*. Ed. Oliver Leaman. London: Thoemmes Continuum, 2006.

“Jāḥeẓ.” *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. New York: Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation, 2008. XIV: 4: 386-389.

“Alā’ al-Dīn al-Ghuzūlī.” In *Essays in Arabic Literary Biography: 1350-1850*. Ed. Joseph E. Lowry and Devin J. Stewart. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2009: 107-117.

“[al-Amīn, Muḥammad](#),” “[Abū l-Salt al-Harawī](#),” and “[Bishr al-Hāfi](#).” In *Encyclopaedia of Islam 3*. Ed. Gudrun Krämer et al. On line at brillonline.

“[Ibn Hanbal, Ahmad](#).” *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*. Oxford Islamic Studies Online.

“[Mas‘ūdi](#).” *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. New York: Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation.

“Abū l-Ḥasan ‘Alī l-Mas‘ūdi.” *Essays in Arabic Literary Biography: 925-1350*. Ed. Terri DeYoung and Mary St. Germain. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2011: 234-255.

“Baghdad,” “Ma’mun,” “Thousand and One Nights.” *Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*. Ed. Gerhard Böwering et al. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.

“Kasrā.” *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Vol XVI, Fascicle 4. Edited by Elton Daniel. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

REVIEWS

Stefan Sperl, *Mannerism in Medieval Arabic Poetry*. Cambridge, 1989. *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 24:2 (1990): 257-58.

Magda al-Nowayhi, *Ibn Khafāja: A literary analysis*. Leiden: Brill, 1993. *Al-‘Arabiyya* 28 (1995): 129-131.

Ḥasan al-Amīn, *al-Ridā wa l-Ma’mūn wa-wilāyat al-‘ahd wa-ṣafahāt min al-tarīkh al-‘Abbāsī*. Beirut: Dār al-Jadīd, 1995. *al-Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā* 9:2 (1997): 45-46.

Humanism, Culture, and Language in the Near East: Studies in Honor of George Krotkoff. Ed. Asma Afsaruddin and A. H. Mathias Zahniser. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 1997. *Journal of Arabic Literature* 29 (1998): 90-94.

Tradition and Modernity in Arabic Literature. Ed. Issa J. Boullata and Terri DeYoung. University of Arkansas Press, 1997. *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 32 (1998): 178-79.

The Thousand and One Nights in Arabic literature and society. Cambridge, 1997. Ed. Richard C. Hovannisian and Georges Sabagh. *Al-Abhath* XLVII (1999): 85-92.

Roger Allen, *The Arabic Literary Heritage*. Cambridge, 1998. *Al-‘Arabiyya* 32 (1999). Reprinted in *Al-Ahram Weekly* 464 (January 13-19, 2000).

Jaroslav Stetkevych, *Muhammad and the Golden Bough. Reconstructing Arabian Myth*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996. *Al-‘Arabiyya* 33 (2000): 119-121.

Geert Jan van Gelder, *God’s Banquet: Food in Classical Arabic Literature*. Columbia University Press, 2000. *Al-‘Arabiyya* 32 (2001): 129-31.

Nimrod Hurvitz, *The Rise of Hanbalism: Piety into Power*. London: Routledge, 2011. *Islamic Law and Society* 12:1 (2005).

Boaz Shoshan, *The Politics of Islamic Historiography: Deconstructing Ṭabarī’s History*. Leiden: Brill, 2004. *Speculum* 81: 4 (2006): 1255-56.

Shawkat M. Toorawa, *Ibn Abi Tahir Tayfur and Arabic Writerly Culture: A Ninth-Century Bookman in Baghdad*. London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon, 2005. *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (Aug., 2006): 538-540.

Herbert Berg, ed. *Method and Theory in the Study of Islamic Origins*. Leiden: Brill, 2003. *Islamic Law and Society* 15:2 (2008): 268-274.

Writing and Representation in Medieval Islam: Muslim Horizons. Ed. Julia Bray. London: Routledge, 2006. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 129.3 (2009): 529-528.

REVIEWS (continued)

“To translate or not to translate Arabic: Michael Cooperson and Wail Hassan on the criticism of Abdelfattah Kilito.” Review article, with Wail Hassan, of his translation of Abdelfattah Kilito, *Thou Shalt Not Speak My Language* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2008). In *Comparative Literary Studies* 48:4 (2011): 566-575.

Mathieu Tillier, *Les cadis de l'Iraq et l'état abbasside (132/750-334/945)*. Damascus: Institut français du Proche-Orient, 2009. *Islamic Law and Society* 19 (2012): 462-466.

John Turner, *Inquisition in Early Islam*. London, I.B. Tauris, 2013. *Journal of Islamic Studies* 26:3 (September 2015): 334–338.

Matthew Pierce, *Twelve Infallible Men: The Imams and the Making of Shiism*. Harvard, 2016. *Shii Studies Review* 2 (2018): 391-93.

"Adab Hand." Review of Elias Muhanna, *The World in a Book: Al-Nuwayri and the Islamic encyclopedic tradition*. Princeton, 2017. *Times Literary Supplement*, August 1, 2018.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Invisible cities.” Plenary address at the 218th meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 16, 2008.

“An Arabist reading of Digenis Akrites.” Paper delivered at the ninth conference of the School of Abbasid Studies, University of Cambridge, July 7, 2008.

“One day their king will return: Arabs, Persians, and the imperial imaginary in early Islam.” Invited presentation at the Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, November 6, 2008.

“Arabic and Persian historical television dramas.” Invited presentation at the Middle East Center, University of Utah, November 12, 2009.

“‘Arab’ and ‘Persian’ in early Abbasid society: the musician (and bandit?) Ibrāhīm al-Mawṣilī.” Invited presentation at the Middle Eastern and Islamic studies luncheon series, University of California, Berkeley, February 8, 2010.

“Friendship and alliance in the ninth-century caliphate.” Invited presentation at Dumbarton Oaks colloquium on “The Boundaries of Friendship,” March 6, 2010.

“Al-Ma'mūn, the pyramids, and the hieroglyphs.” Invited presentation at “Traces, Collections, Ruins: Towards a Comparative History of Antiquarianism,” organized by the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme and the Getty Research Institute, June 3, 2010.

“Ibrahim al-Mawsili and the problem of affiliation in early Abbasid society.” Paper delivered at the tenth conference of the School of Abbasid Studies, Catholic University, Leuven, July 7, 2010.

“Bandits, demons, and singers in early Abbasid Iraq.” Paper delivered at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, July 14, 2010.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (continued)

“Al-musalsalāt al-ta’rikhiyyah fi l-sharq al-awsaṭ” (“Historical television series in the Middle East”). Presentation at the Middlebury School of Arabic, July 21, 2010.

“Bandits.” Invited presentation at the second conference of the LIVIT (Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Early Islamic Thought) project, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, UK, September 6, 2011.

Keynote address for second annual Jil Jadīd conference, Department of and Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin, February 23, 2012.

“Post-Islamic Historical Fantasies.” Invited presentation at the Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Williams College, April 23, 2012.

Keynote address for “Sanctified Indulgence: Exploring Excessiveness in Religion,” a graduate student conference organized at Stanford University, May 25, 2012.

“Zaidan and modern historical representation.” Invited presentation at symposium entitled “Jurji Zaydan: His Contribution to Modern Arab Thought and Literature,” Library of Congress, Washington, DC, June 5, 2012.

“Mālṭah wa l-lughah l-mālṭiyya” (“Malta and Maltese”). Presentation for the Arabic lecture series, NELC, UCLA, October 12, 2013.

“Excessive performances: Asceticism and Debauchery in Abbasid Iraq.” Invited presentation at Princeton University, January 8, 2013.

“Deceduti and the Haunting of the Secular.” Paper delivered at “Secularization, Mysticism, and Religious Hybridities in the Mediterranean,” a symposium held at the University of Malta, February 9, 2013.

“Television, the Uncanny, and Religion in Malta.” Presentation at the Center for the Study of Religion, UCLA, February 26, 2013.

“‘Arabs’ and ‘Persians’: the uses of ethnicity in the early Abbasid period.” Invited presentation at “Civilizational Formation: The Carolingian and Abbasid Eras,” University of Notre Dame, April 15, 2013.

“Ethnicity in the Early Abbasid Period.” Paper delivered at the Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, May 16, 2013.

“Al-Shidyāq, Maltese, and the Invention of Modern Standard Arabic.” Paper delivered at the Fourth International Conference on Maltese Linguistics, University of Lyon 2, June 18, 2013.

“The Empirical Strikes Back: Zuhd and Mujūn Revisited.” Invited presentation at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, The American University in Beirut, December 13, 2013.

“Jurji Zaydan and the Televised Abbasids.” Invited presentation at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, The American University in Beirut, December 16, 2013.

“X’hemm ġdid fil-Ħimjari” (“What’s New In al-Ħimjari”) Invited presentation for l-Akkademja tal-Malti at Dar l-Ewropa, Valletta, May 15, 2014.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (continued)

“Haunting the Secular: Language, Nation, and Religion on Maltese Television” and “Getting it Wrong: Poetry and Narrative in Ninth-Century Baghdad.” Invited presentations for the Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto, March 24 and 25, 2015.

“Maltese living and dead: a study of Deceduti.” Paper delivered at the Fifth International Conference on Maltese Linguistics, University of Turin, June 24, 2015.

“The Representation of History in Maltese TV Series.” Keynote address for the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities conference "Fluid Nature, Fluid Cultures: Malta and the Mediterranean," University of Malta, September 13, 2015.

“Mercier's Carriages: Time Travel's Primal Scene Replayed in English, Arabic, Spanish, Persian, and Turkish.” Invited presentation for Eighteenth-Century Futures, Indiana Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies annual workshop, University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN, May 11, 2016.

“The Turath in English” and “Teaching Translation at the University Level.” Workshops given at the Dubai Translation Conference, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, October 21 and 22, 2016.

"Desert Stanzas." Poetry reading (with Zeina Hashem Beck, Zainab AlBlooshi, Kei Miller, and Adnan Alaoda), Emirates Lit Fest, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, March 29, 2017.

"On (not) drinking: al-Hariri's Maqamah No. 48." Keynote lecture delivered May 4, 2017, at Khamriyya as a World Poetic Genre: Comparative Perspectives on Wine Poetry in Near and Middle Eastern Literatures, a European Research Council conference held at the American University of Beirut, May 3-7, 2017.

"A medieval Muslim life in translation." Panel discussion with Jonathan Brown and Matthew Fisher, sponsored by the UCLA Center for the Study of Religion, February 28, 2018.

"The Hebrew, Persian, and German al-Hariri." Paper delivered April 1, 2018, at Theory and Practice of Poetry Translation, panel session held March 30-April 1, 2018, at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, held at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"The *Maqamat* of al-Hariri." Invited presentation for the Graduate Student Workshop Colloquium of the Macmillan Center Council on Middle East Studies, Yale University, April 26, 2018.

"Mālṭa bayn al-shamāl wa l-janūb" (Malta between North and South). Invited presentation at the Middlebury College Arabic Summer School, August 1, 2018.

["The Art of Literary Translation."](#) Panel discussion at Middlebury Language Schools, August 3, 2018.

"Al-Hariri's *Standups* in Translation (into Hebrew, Persian, German, Russian, and mostly English)." Invited presentation delivered October 26, 2018, for the Arabic Flagship Program at the University of Oklahoma.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (continued)

"Talking Translation." Panel discussion at the Emirates Literature Foundation, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, December 11, 2018.

"The Polyglot Bacchanal." Paper delivered March 17, 2019, at the plenary session of the 229th meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 15-18, 2019.

"Beyond Untranslatable: From Classical Arabic to Hebrew, Persian, German, Russian, and English." Invited presentation delivered March 28, 2019, at the University of Southern California.

"From Orthography to Pop Culture: Maltese as a Site of Contestation." Invited presentation delivered April 9, 2019, at Entangled Worlds: Daily Practices, Identity Negotiation, and the City as Border Space, workshop held at the University of Maryland, College Park, April 9-10, 2019.

"Text and performance through the manuscripts of al-Hariri's *Impostures*." Talk delivered May 21, 2019, at Text and Performance An Introduction to Islamic Manuscript Culture, workshop held at UCLA, May 20-22, 2019.

"*Il-Ḥarīrī bita 'Libnān?*" The Rise and Fall of al-Ḥarīrī's *Maqāmāt*." Paper delivered June 18, 2019, at the "Conceptions and Configurations of the Arabic Literary Canon" workshop held June 17-19, 2019, at the Paris Columbia Global Center.

"The Trickster Transformed: Putting classical Arabic into global English." Talk delivered November 8, 2019, at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"900 Years Of Trickery: al-Hariri from Leiden to Los Angeles." Talk delivered February 6, 2020, at the Leiden University Center for the Society of Islam and Society as part of the Leiden Lectures on Arabic Language and Culture.

"Al-Hariri's *Maqamat (Impostures)* as a late-antique text." Talk delivered February 7, 2020, at the University of Groningen.

"The Englishing of al-Ḥarīrī's *Maqāmāt*." Talk delivered September 7, 2020, to the Program in Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University.

"Language learning and social mobility: evidence from Al-Hariri's *Maqamat*." Talk delivered September 22, 2020, for Georgia State University and the Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies.

Respondent to Christopher Melchert on *Before Sufism: Early Islamic Renunciant Piety* (de Gruyter, 2020) at the Oxford Seminar Series, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford University, January 6, 2021.

"Kayf tallam al-ajam al-arabiyyah fi l-asr al-wasit?" Talk delivered at the University of Chicago Arabic Circle, January 29, 2021.

Untitled talk on *Impostures* for the Obermann translation group, University of Iowa, February 12, 2021.

"A (partially) corpus-based approach to matching linguistic registers." Talk delivered June 30, 2021, at the National Archives First Conference on Translation, United Arab Emirates, 29 June -1 July 2021.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (continued)

“Learning Arabic in Pre-Modern Times.” Closing keynote address delivered June 24, 2021, for Pre-modern comparative literary practice in the multilingual Islamic world(s), conference hosted by the Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation Research Centre, University of Oxford, 22-24 July 2021.

“The children of the sun in Digenis Akritas.” Talk delivered online September 17, 2021, at Motifs, influences, and narrative strategies in the epics of the medieval East and West, symposium held at the Swedish Research Institute, Istanbul, September 17-18, 2021.

“How to teach a hegemonic language? Reflections on putting al-Hariri's *Impostures* (published 1111) into fifty different Englishes.” Talk delivered as part of the Convocation Seminars in World Literature and Translation, University of London, October 7, 2021.

“From classical Arabic to global English.” Talk delivered at Florida Atlantic University, October 7, 2021.

““They cannot be imitated in English”: translating the Arabic *Impostures* of al-Hariri (d. 1122).” Talk delivered November 11, 2021, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge.

Untitled talk on writing a new history of Arabic literature, delivered at the Monday Majlis, University of Exeter, January 17, 2022.

“From al-Hariri's Ludic Arabic to an Englished *OuLiPo*.” Talk delivered March 18, 2022, at the Seminar in Literary Translation, Boston University.

“Rethinking Arabic Literary History” and “Learning Arabic Backwards: Was It Absolutely Frightening?” Talks delivered March 21 and March 23, 2022, as part of the Hamilton A. R. Gibb Lecture Series sponsored by the Center for Near Eastern Studies, Harvard University.

“French Word Games, “Untranslatable” Arabic, and Global English.” Talk delivered May 11, 2022, for the British Centre for Literary Translation, University of East Anglia.

“The children of the sun in Digenis Akritas.” Talk co-delivered remotely with Ani Honarchian on September 21, 2022, at The Ancient Novel: Roads Less Travelled (Sixth International Conference on the Ancient Novel VI), held at the University of Ghent, September 21-24 2022.

“Towards an Arabic Literary History.” Talk delivered January 11, 2023, at Literary history in a Medieval Eurasian environment: Methodological and interpretive approaches, symposium held at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, January 9-11, 2023.

Untitled presentation in “Translation and Creativity,” class taught at State University of New York, Binghamton, April 13, 2023.

“How to learn Arabic in 1400.” Talk delivered June 10, 2023, at Empires of Language in Islamate Eurasia, symposium held at Simon Fraser University, June 9-10, 2023.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNDED RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Member of the editorial board (2010-2019) and consulting member (2019-present) of the [Library of Arabic Literature](#), a project to edit and translate works of classical Arabic literature, supported by a grant from the New York University Abu Dhabi Institute. Over sixty volumes have appeared to date.

Participant, "Integrating the Study of Medieval European Literatures," a workshop organized by the Centre from Medieval Literature, a joint project of the University of Southern Denmark and York University.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES CHAIRED

Natalie Khazaal, *Sectarianism, language, and language education in Lebanese theater, television, and film* (2007).

Leyla Ozgur Alhassen, *Qur'anic Stories: God as Narrator, Revelation as Stories* (2011).

David Bennett, *The spirit of Ahypokeimenonical physics : another side of Kalām natural philosophy* (2011; succeeded the late Prof. Hossein Ziai as chair).

Emily Selove, *The Hikāya of Abū al-Qāsim al-Baghdādī: the comic banquet in Greek, Latin, and Arabic* (2012).

Chris PreJean, *The Hermeneutical Christian in Hanbalī Legal Thought* (2021).

Robert Farley, *Cyber-Orientalisms and the Counterpublic Record: Arabic Digital Archives of Sexual Rights after the 2011 Uprisings* (2022; co-chair with Stephanie Bosch)

RECENT HONORS AND AWARDS

Malta Historical Society Publication Award for Established Authors (2016): for “Harsa ġdida lejn ir-rakkont tal-Ħimjari dwar Malta.” In *Il-Malti. Rivista tal-Akkademja tal-Malti* 87 (2014): 39-49.

Sheikh Hamad Prize for Translation and International Understanding (2016). First prize, Arabic to English, for Virtues of the Imam Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal. Arabic edition and English translation of Ibn al-Jawzī, *Manāqib al-imām Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal*. Volume 1. New York University Press, 2013. Volume 2. New York University Press, 2015.

Shaykh Zayed Book Award, translation category (2021): Winner, for *Impostures*. (English translation of *Maqāmāt al-Ḥarīrī*.) New York University Press, 2020.

American Literary Translators' Association, National Translation Award in Poetry and Prose, 2021 shortlist for prose translation.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Founded the UCLA Subtitle Project, an initiative that trains students to provide English subtitles for culturally significant or newsworthy Arabic-language videos (including videos in standard Arabic as well as the Egyptian, Levantine, Iraqi, Gulf, and Moroccan dialects). Our goals are to train our students to understand and translate spoken language, and to help filmmakers, journalists, and NGOs to reach a broader audience. Our work may be seen [here](#).

Volunteer consultant on communicative language teaching in Modern Greek for K-12, Hellenic Academy, St Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA.

"Baghdad, the navel of the earth." Talk given Friday, June 19, 2020, for *Sites of Encounter: Baghdad and Nishapur*, a workshop for K-12 teachers sponsored by CNES, UCLA.

MEDIA

[Interview in *al-Bayān*](#)

[On the Shaykh Hamad award](#)

[New York Times article on Maltese](#)

[Top of Mind With Julie Rose interview on *Impostures*](#)

[Readings from *Impostures* at Princeton University](#)

[Acceptance of Sheikh Zayed Book Award for translation](#)

[Interview on *Impostures* on Bulaq podcast](#)

[ALTA review of *Impostures*](#)

[Talk for University of London](#)

[Talk for British Centre for Literary Translation](#)

[Talk for Boston University Lecture Series in Literary Translation](#)

[On the 2022 Gibb lectures](#)

[YouTube channel \(subtitled videos in Arabic, Maltese, and French\)](#)