

M. Issam Eido

Assistant Professor of the Practice of Religious Studies
Director of Undergraduate Studies of Islamic Studies
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Education

- May 2010 Damascus University.
PhD, Department of Qur'ānic studies. Dissertation Title: “*Early Ḥadīth Scholars and their Criteria of Ḥadīth Criticism.*”
Thesis Advisor: Nūr al-Dīn ‘Itr.
Major fields: Ḥadīth studies, Islamic Law, Islamic history
- November 2006 Damascus University.
MA, Department of Qur'ānic studies. Concentration in Ḥadīth Criticism
- 2000 Damascus University.
BA, Islamic Studies.

Publications:

Books:

- August 2018 *Early Ḥadīth Scholars and their criteria of Ḥadīth Criticism.* In Arabic, Dār Al-Muqtabas, Beirut. (896 pages)
- November 2015 *On the Origins of Hadith Terminology: the Dividing Line Between Early and Late Hadith Scholars.* In Arabic, Dār Arwiqa, Amman. (351 pages)

Chapters:

- Forthcoming 2021 “Towards the Systematization of the Science of Authentication and Ḥadīth Classification: Authors and Their Works,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Hadith Studies*. ed. Mustafa Shah. Oxford Press. (English)
- Forthcoming 2021 “Sufi Variations: the Ethical Concept in Sufi Writings,” in *Mysticism and Ethics: Conference Proceedings*, ed. Bilal Orfali. (Arabic)
- Forthcoming 2021 “Hadith Criticism and Producing Religious Knowledge: The Mu‘tazilite Epistemological Perspectives” ed. Hamzeh al-Bakri and Ahmad Snober, Ibn Haldun Press, Istanbul. (Arabic)
- 2020 “Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhari’s Criteria: An Epistemological Perspective” ed. Serdar Demirel, Hamzeh Al-Bakri, and Ahmad Snober. Ibn Haldun University Press. (English)
- 2020 “Ḥanafī’s Criteria of Ḥadīth Criticism: the Role of Islamic Legal Maxims,” *The Journal of Islamic Sciences*, Al-Fātiḥ University. (Arabic)
- 2020 “Confession in the Public Sphere: A Trusteeship Criticism of Foucault’s Concepts of Confession and Power,” in *The Theory of Trusteeship of Taha Abdulrahman*, Brill. (Arabic)
- 2018 “The Rise of Syrian Salafism: From Denial to Recognition,” in *The Syrian Uprising* eds. Raymond Hinnebusch and Omar Imady, Routledge. (English)

- 2017 “Ḥadīth Studies in Syria: Reshaping Ḥadīth Criticism in the 20th Century” In Ḥadīth Studies in the Modern Era ed. Aḥmad al-Jābirī. Nama Center, Saudi Arabia (Arabic)
- 2013 “The Development of Uṣūl al-Ḥadīth During the Seljuk Era,” Selçuklu'da Bilim ve Düşünce Sempozyumu, Konya. (Arabic)
- 2012 “Illumination Philosophy as a Resource for Mutual Understanding: a Study of the Literature of Jalāluddīn Rūmī and Farīduddīn ‘Attār” in *What about the other? A Question for Cross-cultural Education in the 21st Century*, ed. Nayla Tabbara. Lebanon, NDU Publications/Adyan. (English)
- August 2009 “The Efforts of Contemporary Ḥadīth Scholars in Uṣūl al-Ḥadīth: Characteristics of the Modern Era and Its Most Important Books” Scholarly Publications of Damascus University. (Arabic)
- September 2009 “Significant Obstacles to Verifying Ḥadīth in the Contemporary Era” Scholarly Publications of Damascus University. (Arabic)
- August 2006 “The Description of Ḥadīth Science (uṣūl al-ḥadīth) and the Characteristics of its Scholars” Scholarly Publications of Damascus University. (Arabic)
- Book Review:**
- June 2018 “Khadija Musa’s *A Critical Edition of 'Umdat al-Nāzir 'alā al-Ashbāh wa'l-Nazā 'ir*” AAR online Journal.
- October 2016 “Sarah Risha’s *Education and Curricular Perspectives in the Qur’ān*,” *The Journal of Religion* (Vol. 96, no. 4) University of Chicago
- Blog and Newspaper Articles:**
- February 2019 “Al-Buti: al-Fatwa and Revolution” Alaalam Institute (Arabic)
- July 2016 “The Syrian Uprising: Reopening the Theological Question” Alaalam Institute. (Arabic)
- July 2015 “The End of Revisionism: Patricia Crone (1945-2015)” Al-Hayat Newspaper. (Arabic)
- September 2014 “ISIS: the Explosion of Narratives: The Land of Revolution Between Political and Metaphysical Eternities” Jadaliyya. (English and Arabic)
- August 2014 “The Arab Uprising: the Conflict of Values and Fractured Groups” Al-Sharq Newspaper. (Arabic)
- June 2014 “Religious Groups and Scholars of Islam in the Syrian Revolution” *Syrian Comments* website. (English)
- April 2005 “Martin Lings: The Prophet’s Life and Western Islam” Al-Hayat Newspaper. (Arabic)
- Encyclopedia:**
- July 2019 “The Sunnah” in *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Bioethics*, Oxford Islamic Studies Online.
- Translations:**
- Fall 2018 “Geniza for Islamicists, Islamic Geniza, and the New Cairo Geniza” by Mark Cohen, translation into Arabic. Al-Tafahum Journal (No. 62, Fall 2018) Oman
- August 2014 “The Science Behind ISIS Savagery” by Ian Robertson, translation into Arabic, Al-Jumhuriya.

Teaching Experience

- 2021-present Assistant Professor of the Practice of Religious Studies
Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University
- 2015-2021 Senior Lecturer in Arabic Language and Literature
Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University
(Courses taught: Arabic Language all levels; Qur'ānic Arabic and Other Classical Texts, Advanced Seminar in Islamic Tradition, Early Muslim Kalam)
- July 2018 Visiting Scholar for Summer Program
Darul Qasim College, Chicago
(Courses taught: Hadith Criticism, Origin and Evolution; Qur'ānic Studies in Western Academia; Ḥadīth Criticism: early Ḥanafī Criteria and Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukharī; Critical Commentary)
- 2013- 2015 Visiting Scholar of Islamic Studies and Arabic
University of Chicago, Divinity School
(Courses taught: Qur'ānic Arabic; Rhetoric in the Qur'ān; and independent classes with PhD students on ḥadīth criticism and readings in classical texts, *tasawwuf*: readings from Ibn Arabī; Muslim legal maxims and Malikī legal theory.)
- July 2011-September 2012 Lecturer of classical Arabic, Arabic and Islamic studies and Modern Standard Arabic
Qasid Institute-Jordan (an institute for teaching Arabic to non-native speakers).
- 2010-December 2011 Lecturer, Department of Qur'ānic and Ḥadīth Studies
Damascus University
(Courses taught: Ḥadīth criticism; Ḥadīth and Islamic law; *Tafsīr: mufasssirs* and their methodologies)
- 2005-2011 Instructor of Islamic Studies and classical Arabic Islamic Thought
Dalalah Program
A program based in Damascus, Syria concerned with providing training to non-native-students and researchers of Islamic Studies, MSA and classical Arabic language, Levantine dialect, and Near Eastern Studies.
(Selected Courses: early *kalām*: Mu'tazila and other theological schools, legal theory: readings *Jam' al-Jawāmi'*, ḥadīth transmission in Mamlūk era, ḥadīth commentary, ḥadīth criticism, translation in classical texts, *tasawwuf* and poetry: reading from *Turjumān al-Ashwāq*, readings in *tafsīr*, philosophy and *kalām*, Israelites in Muslim exegetical works: reading in al-Tha'labī's '*Ara'is al-Majālis*, Shiites and the awaited Imam: readings in early Shiite texts, Islamic bioethics and *adab*, Andalusian historiography, Islamic philosophy, editing manuscripts: medical manuscripts, vernacular Arabic poetry in the medieval era, and Ḥanafī legal texts)
- 2003-2010 Teaching Assistant, Department of Qur'ānic and Ḥadīth Studies
Damascus University
- January 2003- July 2003 Instructor of MSA (Modern Standard Arabic)
Qasid Institute

Interview:

- 2021 “Issam Eido on Hadith Epistemology in Past and present” with Status Magazine.
- 2020 “Scholars in Context” an interview with Jadaliyya.
- 2015 “The Future of Orientalism and Qur’ānic Studies” with Karīm Muḥammad, Nama Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
<http://nama-center.com/DialogueDatials.aspx?id=43>

Conference Presentations and Workshops

- April 2021 “Usul Al-Qiyas vs. Usul Al-Kalam: Hadith Criticism in Early History of Islam” Hadith and Hanafism Panel, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Chicago
- February 2021 “Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī’s Criteria: An Epistemological Perspective” Sharia Workshop, Middle East Institute, Columbia University
- December 2020 “Usūl al-Qīyās: The Hanafī Approach to Hadith Criticism” Hadith, Sunna & Hanafīs. Online panel, Irshad Classes
- July 2020 “The Mu‘tazilite and Modernist Approaches to Ḥadīth Criticism” International symposium on Hadith Criticism and Muslim Legal Perspectives (online), Ibn Haldun University.
- November 2019 “Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī’s Criteria: An Epistemological Perspective” International Sahih al-Bukhari Symposium, Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul.
- May 2019 “Sufi Variegations: the Ethical Concept in Sufi Writings” at Mysticism and Ethics, AUB, Lebanon.
- November 2016 “Yujādilunā fī Qawm Lūṭ” Q 11:74 The Significance of Abrahamic Argument in Biblical and Qur’ānic Texts” at the annual conference of The American Academy Religion, San Antonio.
- November 2016 “The Qur’ān as a Violent Text. Roundtable discussion” at the annual conference of International Qur’anic Studies Association and the AAR. San Antonio.
- March 2016 “The Mu‘tazilite Approach to Ḥadīth Criticism: Origin and Evolution” at the annual conference of The American Oriental Society, Boston.
- May 2015 “The Question of Authenticity and Shaping the Authoritative Islamic Texts” at the annual Middle East History and Theory conference, University of Chicago.
- March 2015 “The Role of the Moral Probity of Transmitters and Shaping the Authoritative Islamic Texts” at the annual conference of The American Oriental Society, New Orleans.
- August 2014 “Islamic Bioethics from *Fiqh* to *Tasawwuf*: Mapping Out an Islamic Bioethics: An Intensive Workshop” at The Initiative on Islam and Medicine, University of Chicago.
- May 2013 “Forming the Enemy: Wrath and Human Erring” Workshop at EUME a research program at Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin.
- October 2011 “The Development of *Uṣūl al-Ḥadīth* During the Seljuk Era” Seljukids University Conference on Science and Thought in the Seljuk Era, Turkey.

- July 2011 “Iftā’ in Syria: A Study of the Unofficial Media Effect During the Last Two Decades,” at Iftā’ on Screens: Satellite Television, the Internet and Religious Authority in the Arab World, Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies.
- June 2011 “Illumination Philosophy as a Resource for Mutual Understanding: a Study in the Literature of Jalāluddīn Rūmī and Farīduddīn ‘Aṭṭār” at Cross Cultural Education, Adyan Foundation and Notre Dame University, Lebanon.
- May 2009 “The Awaited Mahdī in the Works and Thought of Sunni Mystics: The Case of Ibn ‘Arabi” at Roads to Paradise, Gottingen University, Germany.

Invited Lectures:

- March 2021 “Early Ḥanafī Approaches to Islamic Legal Interpretation, 3rd/9th – 4th/10th Century” Program in Islamic Law, Harvard University
- March 2021 “Hadith and Hadathah” Samuel England’s class IS 266 Intro to the Middle East, UW-Madison
- October 2020 “Sacred Reading: How We Interpret and Engage Our Religious Texts” Table Talk with Faith and Culture Center, Nashville.
- November 2019 “Sufism and Art in Exile” the Pacific University, Portland, Oregon.
- October 2016 Keynote address, FCC Faith and Culture Center, Goldziher Prize. The Temple, Nashville.
- June 2016 Book Panel Response: Gabriel Said Reynolds’ The Qur’an and its Biblical Subtext, Christian Scholars Conference, Lipscomb University, Nashville.
- October 2015 “The history of Qur’ānic Manuscripts” Ink, Silk and Gold: Early Islamic Art, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville.
- May 2014 “Inside Syria: Faith and Fighting in a Fractured Land” the University of Chicago Institute of Politics (IOP).
- May 2014 “Divine Wrath in Qur’ānic Texts: Different Approaches for Forming the Enemy” Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago.
- April 2014 “The Transitions of the Structure of the Religious Groups Throughout the Syrian Revolution” Center for the Study of Religion, UCLA.
- April 2014 “A Chronological reading of Divine Wrath in Qur’ānic Texts” Center for the Study of Religion, UCLA.
- March 2014 “Scholars of Islamic Law and the Syrian Revolution” Washington and Lee University.
- February 2014 “The Syrian Salafism: Origins and Evolution” The Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.
- March 2013 “The Rise of Syrian Salafism: From Denial to Recognition” the Center for Syrian Studies, St Andrews University, Scotland.
- March 2013 “The Role of the Ulama in the Syrian Uprising” Cambridge Muslim College, London.

Other Relevant Experience

- 2021-present Director of Undergraduate Studies for Islamic Studies, Vanderbilt University.
- 2019-2020 Director of Undergraduate Studies for Religious Studies, Islamic Studies, and Arabic Language.
- June 2018 Intensive Course “Pre-Islamic Arabia” Christian Robin, Princeton University.

2017-2018 One semester course, Effective Teaching Strategies for International Faculty, Vanderbilt University.

2017-2018 Two courses, Biblical Hebrew, Divinity School, Vanderbilt University.

2017-2018 Associate editor of the Journal of International Qur'anic Studies Association (JIQSA).

2016-present Advisor of Middle Eastern Students Association, Vanderbilt University.

2015 Layla and the Majnun, a collaborative show project with the director of Nashville Ballet.

2010-2011 Coordinator for International Partnerships: Islamic Studies Faculty, Damascus University.

2010 Al-Waqfiyya Library, Aleppo, Syria

One-month course in editing manuscripts.

2005-2011 Director of Dalalah Program.

2004 The Encyclopedia of Fiqh-Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt
Participating in the first volume.

Membership:

2020-present Advisory board of Hanafism, Journal for Hanafi Studies

2019-present Member of Middle Eastern Studies Association MESA

2018-2020 American Association of Teachers of Arabic

2017-present Board member of Faith and Culture Center, Nashville, Tennessee

2016-present Member of University Committee on Religious Affairs, Vanderbilt University

2014-2019 Member of AAR and IQSA

2014-2016 Member of American Oriental Society

2012-2013 Member of Leaders for Interreligious Understanding, Adyan Foundation and Danmission, Lebanon & Denmark.

Prizes and Fellowships:

2020-present Fellow of Global Academy Scholar, a program affiliated with Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)

2020-2021 Research Fellow, Program in Islamic Law, Harvard University, affiliated with Global Academy Scholars.

2018-2019 Fellow in Junior Faculty Teaching Fellows Program, Vanderbilt University

2014-Present Senior fellow at Center for Syria Studies, University of St. Andrews

2013-2015 Visiting fellow of Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago

2013-2015 Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowship

2012-2013 Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin

Post-doctoral fellow of Europe in the Middle East-the Middle East in Europe Program, Corpus Coranicum, Forum Transregionale Studien

Concentration on Qur'anic text in late antiquity

1998-2000 State award for top-ranking student at Damascus University (Faculty of Islamic Law)

Languages:

Arabic and English

Biblical Hebrew: intermediate

Syriac: elementary