

LIYAKATALI TAKIM

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Place of Birth: Zanzibar, Tanzania

EDUCATION

- 1990 Ph.D. History of Religions, Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
 Ph.D. Dissertation: “The *Rijal* of the Shi'i Imams as Depicted in Imami Biographical Literature”
- 1983-85 Qum Seminary, Qum, Iran
 Extended research work in Islamic jurisprudence, biographical and *hadith* literature, Qur’anic exegesis, Arabic, and principles of extrapolating Islamic law.
- 1983 M.A. History of Religions, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
 M.A. Thesis: “A Study of the Doctrine of Messianism in Islam”
- 1978 B.Sc., Economics, Dept. of Economics, City University, London

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2009 - Present Professor, Sharjah Chair in Global Islam, McMaster University, Canada
- 2005 - 2009 Associate Professor, University of Denver
- 2001-2004 Assistant Professor, University of Denver
- 1999–2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Miami
- 1999–2000 Sessional Lecturer, University of Toronto
- 1998–2000 Sessional Lecturer, Queen’s University and McMaster University
- 1996–1997 Visiting Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University
- 1990–1996 Director of Religious Studies, Toronto

COURSES TAUGHT

Sunni-Shi'i Encounters	Qur'an in a Global Context
Global Islam	The Varieties of Islamic Experience
Introduction to Islamic Civilizations	Islam in Modern Times
Islam in the American Mosaic	Islamic Fundamentalism
Judaism, Christianity & Islam	Christian-Muslim Fundamentalisms Classical
Islam	Islamic Mysticism
Qur'an and <i>Hadith</i> Literature	Jewish-Muslim Encounters
Clash of Civilizations	The Sacred Quest
Islam in the Medieval Era	World Religions
Classical Arabic	

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

"Shi'ism Revisited: Ijtihad and Reformation in Contemporary Times" (Submitted for publication consideration)

Shi'ism in America. New York: New York University Press, 2009.

Shi'i Islam in North America: United States of America and Canada. Dix Hills: 2012.

The Heirs of the Prophet: Charisma and Religious Authority in Shi'ite Islam. Albany: State University of New York, 2006.

Translation of *Ziyarat Guide: Selected Supplications*. Toronto: MEBS, 2000.

Translation of *Pilgrims' Guide: Selected Supplications*. Toronto: Hydery Press, 1998.

Translation of *Questions of Jurisprudence: A Comparative Study of Muslim Ritual Practices*, by Sharaf al-Din al-Musawi. Toronto: Hydery Press, 1996.

Translation of *Ask Those Who Know: An Exposition of the Shi'ite Creed*, by Muhammad al-Tijani al-Samawi. Toronto: Hydery Press, 1995.

Current Research

"Shi'i Exegetical Literature: Origins and Contemporary Manifestations" (working title)

Journal Articles:

"Islamic Sectarianism" *Routledge Handbook of Islam in the West*, 2nd ed. ed. Roberto Tottoli (forthcoming 2021)

"Islamic Law and the Neoijtihadist Phenomenon" *Religions*, 12, no. 6. (2021). Special Issue on "The Many Faces of Contemporary Post-Islamism"

“From Partial to Complete: Juristic Authority in Twelver Shi‘ism,” *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 4, (2020): 6-27.

“Integration or Isolation: Black Shi'ism in the American Diaspora” *Journal of the Contemporary Study of Islam*, vol. 1, No. 2 (2020): 128-141.

“The Early History of the American Shia Community” *Tarikhe-e Tashayyu‘ (Shia History)* (Special ed. dedicated to Farhad Daftary): 2, no.1, 2019 127-145.

“Black or White? The Turbanization of Shi‘i Islam” *The Muslim World*, 108, no. 3 (2018): 548-563

“Customary Law as a Source of Legislation for Shi‘i Law” *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* vol. 47, no. 4, (2018): 481-499.

“Shi‘ism in the American Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities” in *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 38, no. 1, (2018): 73-86.

“The *Marja‘iyya* and the Juristic Challenges of the Diaspora” in *Australian Journal of Islamic Studies (AJIS)*, 2, no. 3 (2017): 40-54.

“The Methodology of Ayatullah al-Khu‘i in his *Mu‘jam al-Rijal*” in *Islamic Perspective, Journal of the Islamic Studies and Humanities*, 16, (2016): 137-148.

“The Study of Shi‘i Islam in Western Academia” in *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies*, 9, no. 1 (2016): 17-37.

“Western Studies of Shi‘i Islam” *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 33, no. 2 (2016): 133-144.

“The Applicability of the *Shari‘a* in Modern Times” *Asia-Pacific Studies*, 1, no. 1 (2014).

"Giving Voice to the Voiceless: Female Converts to Shi‘ism in the United States and Canada" co-authored with Amina Inloes, *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*, 43, no. 1 (2014): 3-24.

“The Qur'anic Vision: Unity or Uniformity?” *Al-Bayan: Journal of Qur'an and Hadith Studies*, 10, no. 1 (2012): 17-24.

“American Shi‘ism and the Media.” *The Bright Future*, 6 (2011): 23-34.

"The Ground Zero Mosque Controversy: Implications for American Islam." *Religions*, 2 (2011): 132-144.

“Peace and War in the Qur’an and Juridical Literature: A Comparative Perspective.” *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, 28, no. 2 (2011): 137-158.

- "The Indigenization and Politicization of American Islam." *Politics and Religion Journal*, 5, no. 1 (2011): 115-127.
- "The Ten Commandments and the Tablets in Shi'i and Sunni *Tafsir* Literature: A Comparative Perspective." *The Muslim World*, 101, no. 1 (2011): 94-109.
- "Preserving or Extending Boundaries? The Black Shi'is of America." *The Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 30, no. 2 (2010): 237-249.
- "Reinterpretation or Reformation: Shi'i Law in the West." *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies*, 3, no. 2 (2010): 141-165.
- "From Pacifism to Activism: Engaging the Muslim Other in America." *Shi'a Affairs Journal*, 2 (2009): 1-20.
- "A Minority with Diversity: The Shi'i Community in America." *The Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*, 10, no. 3 (2008): 326-341.
- "Revivalism or Reformation: The Reinterpretation of Islamic Law in Modern Times." *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 25, no. 3 (2008): 61-81.
- "Holy Peace or Holy War: Tolerance and Co-existence in the Islamic Juridical Tradition." *Islam and Muslim Societies*, 3, no. 2 (2007): 295-307.
- "The Origins of and Authentications in Shi'i Biographical Literature." *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 24, no. 4 (2007): 26-49.
- "Offering Complete or Shortened Prayers? The Traveler's *Salat* at the Holy Places." *The Muslim World*, 96, no. 3 (2006): 401-422.
- "Charismatic Appeal or Communitas? Visitation to the Shrines of the Imams." *Journal of Ritual Studies* 18, no. 2 (2004): 106-120.
- "From Conversion to Conversation: Interfaith Dialogue in Post-911 America." *The Muslim World* 94, no. 3 (2004): 343-55.
- "Combining the Two Prayers: Sectarian Polemics in the Juridical Literature." *International Journal of Shi'i Studies* 1, no. 2 (2004): 95-129.
- "Authority Construction in Biographical Texts: The Cases of Humran b. A'yan and Mu'min al-Ta'." *International Journal of Shi'i Studies* 1, no. 1 (2003): 125-55.

“Adoration in Islamic Mystical Tradition.” *Prabuddha Bharata* (“Awakened India”) (2002): 43-45.

“From *Bid‘a* to *Sunna*: The *Wilaya* of ‘Ali in the Shi‘i *Adhan*.” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 120, no. 2 (2000): 66-77.

“Foreign Influences on American Shi‘ism.” *The Muslim World* 90 (2000): 459-77.

Book Articles:

“Muhammad Muhsin Fayd Kashani” in *Handbook of Qur’anic Hermeneutics*, ed. Georges Tamer (Walter de Gruyter, forthcoming 2021).

“You can Receive but not Give: The Ethical Dilemma of Organ Donation” ed. by E. Gurch and Mahdiya Abdulhussein (Brill, forthcoming 2021).

“Functional Authority: Women in the Times of the Imams,” in *Female Religious Authority in Shi‘i Islam: A Comparative History* ed. Mirjam Künkler and Devin Stewart, (Edinburgh, 2021), 105-120.

“Privileging the Qur’an: Divorce and the Hermeneutics of Ayatullah Sane‘i” in *Approaches to the Quran in Contemporary Iran*, ed. Alessandro Cancian (Oxford Univ. Press, 2019), 77-99.

“Violence and the Deobandi Movement” in *Faith Based Violence and Deobandi Militancy in Pakistan*, eds. Syed Jawad, Tahir Kamran and Prof Edwina Pio” (Palgrave: 2016): 481-503.

“Maqasid al-Shari‘a in Contemporary Shi‘i Jurisprudence” in *Maqasid al-Shari‘a in Contemporary Reformist Thought: An Examination*, edited by Adis Duderija, Palgrave, (2014): 101-126.

"Western Depictions of Muhammad" in *Mohammed in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia of the Prophet of God* (2 volumes), Fitzpatrick, C. & Walker, A. (Eds.), ABC-CLIO (2014)

"A Brief History of *Ijtihad* in Twelver Shi‘ism" in *Shia Tradition and Iran: Contemporary Global Perspectives*, edited by Mohsen Eslami, Global Scholarly Publications (2013)

“*Ijtihad* and the derivation of new jurisprudence in contemporary Shi‘ism: the Rulings of Ayatollah Bujnardi,” in *Alternative Islamic Discourses and Religious Authority* ed. Carool Kersten & Susanna Olsson, Ashgate, (2013), 17-34.

"Shi‘i Islam in the African-American Community" in *The [Oxford] Handbook of African American Islam*, edited by Amina McCloud, Oxford University Press (2015):

“Shi’ite Muslims,” in *The [Oxford] Handbook of American Islam*, edited by Yvonne Haddad and Jane Smith (2013): 100 – 118.

“Then and Now: A History of *Ijtihad* in Twelver Shi’ism,” in *Shi’ism: Belief and Practices*, ed. Abbas Ahmadvand, Palgrave, MacMillan (forthcoming in 2015).

“The Concepts of the Absolute and Perfect Man in Mulla Fayd al-Kashani” in *Fayd e Kashani*, ed. Naqibi and Abbas Ahmadvand, Ansariyan (2013), 33-45.

“The Shi’ite Tradition in Islam,” in *World Religions: Communities and Cultures*, ed. Jacob Neusner, Abingdon Press, 2010.

"The Prophet Muhammad: Exemplary Model," In *Great Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) Eternal Light*, ed. Imtiyaz Yusuf, Bangkok: Islamic Cultural Center, 2009.

"The Concepts of the Absolute and Perfect Man in Mulla Fayd al-Kashani," Tehran Conference on Mulla Fayd Kashani, 2009.

“To Vote or not to Vote: The Politicization of American Islam,” In *Politics and Religion in France and the United States*, eds. John Kelsay, Alec Hargreaves and Sumner B. Twiss. Lexington: Lexington Books, 2007.

“From *Bid’a* to *Sunna*: The *Wilaya* of ‘Ali in the Shi’i *Adhan*.” In *Shi’ism: Critical Concepts in Islamic Studies*, ed. Paul Luft and Colin Turner. Routledge, 2007.

“Peace and Conflict Resolution in the Islamic Tradition.” In *Religion, Terrorism and Globalization, Nonviolence: A New Agenda*, ed. K. Kuriakose. New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2006.

“Charismatic Appeal or Communitas? Visitation to the Shrines of the Imams.” In *Contesting Rituals: Islam and Practices of Identity-Making*, ed. Pamela J. Stewart and Andrew Strathern. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005.

“Multiple Identities in a Pluralistic World: Shi’ism in America.” In *Muslims in the West: From Sojourners to Citizens*, ed. Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, 218-32. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

“Evolution in the Biographical Profiles of Two Hadith Transmitters.” In *The Shi’ite Heritage*, ed. Lynda Clarke, 285-99. Binghamton, NY: Global Press, 2001.

“Shi’i Institutes in North America.” In *Ahlul Bayt Assembly of America: Abstract of Proceedings Convention of 1996*, ed. Sayyed M. Hejazi & A. Hashim, 103-09. Beltsville, MD: International Graphics, 1997.

Articles in Encyclopedias:

Encyclopedia of Islam (Infobase/Facts on File,) ed. Juan Campo, forthcoming 2021

S.v. "al-Majlisi"

"Ibn Babawayh"

Encyclopedia of Islamic Bioethics, ed. Ayman Shabana, forthcoming 2021

S.v. "Taklif"

"Theodicy"

The Islamic World: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture and Society, ed. Gordon Newby &

J. Ciment, forthcoming 2021.

S.v. "Ali ibn Abu Talib."

"Fatima bint Muhammad."

"Khomeini, Ayatollah."

Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia - ABC-CLIO, ed. Cenap Cakmak, 2018

S.v. "Adoration"

World Book Encyclopedia, ed. Dawn Krajcik, 2018

S.v. "Ramadan"

"Alawites"

Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expression, ed. Gary Laderman and Luis Léon. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016.

S.v. "Shi'ite Thought and History."

Encyclopedia Islamica, 2015

S.v. "Sahil"

Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion, (2nd Ed.), Springer, 2014

S.v. "Muslim Shiites." Vol. 2, pgs. 1661-1664

The [Oxford] Encyclopedia of Islam and Women, ed. Natana DeLong-Bas, Oxford, 2013

S.v. "Judgement, Final."

Encyclopedia of Indian Religions, Springer, 2013

S.v. "Khojas."

"Taqiyya."

Encyclopedia Iranica, ed. Ahmad Ashraf, 2012

S.v. "Kassi, Abu Amr Mohammad." Fascicle 1 of volume XV1, 2012

Encyclopedia of the Islamic World, Tehran, 2012

S.v. "Imami Khojas."

"Dar al-Salaam."

“Kilwa.”

World Book Encyclopedia, ed. Dawn Krajcik, 2011

S.v. “Islam.”

“Muslims.”

Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History ed. I Curtis. Facts on File, 2010

S.v. “Shi‘a American Muslims.”

World Book Encyclopedia ed. Dawn Krajcik. 2009

S.v. “Ashura.”

“Agha Khan.”

“Jinns.”

Encyclopedia of Islam in America, ed. Jocelyne Cesari. Greenwood Press, 2007.

S. v. “Shi‘a Communities.”

“Khomeini, Ayatollah.”

“Seestani, Ayatollah.”

Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures, ed. Suad Joseph. Koninklijke: Brill, 2004.

S.v. “The Four Sunni Schools of Family Law,”

“Other Schools of Family Law”

Encyclopedia of Holy People, ed. Phyllis Jestice. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2004.

S.v. “‘Ali b. Husayn Zayn al-‘Abidin,”

“Hasan b. ‘Ali,”

“Husayn b. ‘Ali,”

“Ja‘far al-Sadiq.”

Encyclopedia of the Qur‘an, ed. Jane D. McAuliffe. Leiden: Brill, 2004.

S.v. “Samson”

“Saul.”

Encyclopedia of Religion and War, ed. Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez. New York: Routledge, 2004.

S.v. “Islam - Shi‘a.”

Religion and American Cultures: An Encyclopedia of Traditions, Diversity, and Popular Expression, ed. Gary Laderman and Luis Léon. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2003.

S.v. “Shi‘ite Movements.”

The Oxford Dictionary of Islam, ed. John Esposito. New York: Oxford University, 2003.

S.v. “Banu al-Nadir,” “Banu Isra‘il,” “Banu Qurayza,” “Quraysh,” “Qusayy,”

“Sujud,” “Tashahhud,” “Thamud,” “Wajib.”

Encyclopedia of Islam and the Modern World, ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003.

S.v. "An-Nafs al-Zakiyya"

"Ja'far al-Sadiq."

Articles on Internet

"Shi'ism in the American Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities" in *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, 38, no. 1, (2018); <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602004.2018.1434942>.

"Taqiyya" <http://tessellateinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Liyakat.-Taqiyya.2018.pdf>, 2018

"The Ground Zero Mosque Controversy: Implications for American Islam" 2011
<http://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/2/2/132/pdf>

"Women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: A comparative perspective"
Seminar on "Women in Other Traditions" University of Isfahan, 2006
<http://www.islamwomen.org/EngIW/ResDetails.aspx?id=306>

Book reviews:

Review of *Contemporary Perspectives on Revelation and Qur'anic Hermeneutics: An Analysis of Four Discourses*. *Journal of the Contemporary Study of Islam* (2020)

Review of *The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism: Islamic Reform in Iraq and Iran*. *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 34, no. 3 (2017).

Review of *Religious Authority and Political Thought in Twelver Shi'ism: From 'Ali to Post-Khomeini*. *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 32, no. 2 (2015).

Review of *The Shi'a of Samara: the Heritage and Politics of the Community in Iraq*, edited by Imranali Panjwani. *Journal of Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia* (2014)

Review of *Islam in the Hinterlands: Exploring Muslim Cultural Politics in Canada*, edited by Jasmin Zine. *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 31, no. 2 (2014)

Review of *Scripturalist Islam: The History and Doctrines of the Akhbari Shi'i School*, by Robert Gleave. *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies*, 3, no. 4 (2010)

Review of *British Muslim Converts: Choosing Alternative Lives*, by Kate Zebiri. *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies*, 2, no.3 (2009)

Review of *Reliving Karbala*, by Syed Hyder. *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, 26, no. 3 (2009)

Review of *The Shi'is of Iraq*, by Yitzhak Nakash. *The Muslim World*, 97, no. 3 (2007)

Review of *The Twelver Shi'a as a Muslim Minority in India: Pulpit of Tears*, by Toby Howarth. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 70. no. 2 (2007).

Review of *Islam: Its History, Teaching, and Practices*, by S. A. Nigosian. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 74, no. 2 (2006).

Review of *The Crisis of Muslim History*, by Mahmoud Ayoub. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 73, no. 3 (2005).

Review of *Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*, by Andrew Rippin. *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 2, no. 3 (2001).

<http://www.jcrt.org/archives/02.3/index.html?page=takim.shtml>

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2020: "Islam and Post-Ijtihadism" lecture delivered for al-Mahdi Institute, online.

2019: Examining the Methodological differences between Legal and Ethical deliberations on Organ Donation, conference on "Islamic Perspectives on Organ Donation after Death" al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham, England

2019: "Islamic Revivalism in Contemporary Times" Bayan's conference on Islam, Change, and Modern Muslim Identities, Los Angeles

2019: "(Dis)Orienting Legal Studies: A critical assessment of Islamic Law" 10th Annual Ibadi Conference, University of Toronto

2019: "Ghadir and Sunni-Shi'i Exegetical Literature" Berlin, Germany

2019: "Islamic Human Rights and Secular Liberalism" University of Bahawalpur, Punjab

2019: "Knowledge and Teaching in the Islamic Tradition" University of Bahauddin Zakariya, Multan, Pakistan

2019: "Evolution in Gender Laws: An Islamic Perspective" Kish University, Kish Island, Iran

2018: "Pilgrimage and Shrine Practices in Kerbala" Florida International University, Miami

2018: "Islamic Jurisprudence and Modernity: Instituting Laws in the Realm of the Lacuna"

University of California, Santa Barbara

- 2018: “Islam and the Question of Slavery” Symposium on Slavery, Liberation and Islamic Law in the Middle East and Beyond, Brock University, Canada
- 2018: “The Modern Muslim Youth and the Challenge of De-radicalization” Conference on Radicalization: Perceptions, Realities and Challenges of Campus Life, Department of Humanities, Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan
- 2018: “Islam and Democracy” 5th World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) Seville, Spain
- 2018 Between Theory and Practice: The Clash of Authority between the Imams and their Disciples “Islamic Sciences, Ethics, and Art in Shi’a World: The Case of Medīna (the City of the Prophet)” Cologne, Germany
- 2018: “American Islam and the Media” Media, Religion & Culture Conference, Boulder, Colorado
- 2018: “Shi’ism and Democracy” Fourth International Conference on Shi’i Studies, Islamic College for Advanced Studies, London, England
- 2018: “Shi’i Fundamentalism: Myth or Reality” (Keynote Speaker) 1st Annual Conference, Islam, the West and Radicalism, Center for Islamic and West Asian Studies, Royal Holloway, University of London
- 2017: “American Muslim Youth at the Crossroads” Islam in America: Civic and Youth Identities, Respect Graduate school, Pennsylvania
- 2017: “Fiqh for Minorities: Shi’i Law in the Diaspora” Conference in honor of Shaykh Taha al-Alwani at IIIT, Herndon, Virginia
- 2017: “*Ijtihad and Usul al-Fiqh*: Historical and Contemporary Manifestations” A Thousand Year School of Shi’a, Berlin, Germany
- 2017: “Violence in Shari’a and its Contemporary Implications” AMI Annual Contemporary Fiqhi Issues Workshop, al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham, England
- 2017: “Sectarianism and Pluralism in the Canadian Context” Pluralism and Islam: Muslim Citizenship in Western Liberal Democracies Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, Massey College, Munk School (Islam and Global Affairs Initiative)
- 2017: “Peace and Justice in Islam” International Conference on Justice and Ethics (ICJECA) Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Faculty of Theology Mashhad, Iran
- 2017: “Islam and Globalization” International Conference on Globalization and the

Social Sciences. University of Tehran

- 2017 “The Qur’an and Islamophobia” 10th International Conference on Quranic Researches” Qum, Iran
- 2017: “The Many Faces of Shi’ism in the American Diaspora,” The Unthought in Islam, Edinburgh University, Scotland
- 2017: “African American Shi’ism in the American Context,” Conference on Shi’i Studies, Islamic College for Advanced Studies, London, England
- 2017: “Salvation and Religious Pluralism in Islam” The 1973 Constitution of Pakistan: Representation, Empowerment and Social Integration, University of Peshawar
- 2017: “Islam and Modernity” Sohraverdy Foundation, Toronto, Canada
- 2016: “Textual and Charismatic Authority in Early Islam” Nanyang Technological University, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore
- 2016: “Convergence or Divergence: The Qur’an and Juristic Texts on Human Dignity and Human Rights” Conference on Exploring the Meaning and Application of Human Dignity in Islam, Imam al-Hasan Center, Sydney, Australia
- 2016: “The Interfacing of Customary and Shi’i Law” Keynote Speaker at Conference on Shia Minorities in the Contemporary World: Migration, Transnationalism and Multilocality, Chester University, England
- 2016: “*Ijtihad* and the Changing Face of Islamic Legal Theory” Conference on Shia Muslim Communities in Europe I and II: Local and Transnational Dimensions’ EASR Conference in Helsinki, Finland
- 2016: “Shi’ism and the Law in the Diaspora” Conference on Shi’i studies, Islamic College for Advanced Studies, London, England”
- 2016: “Fiqh for Minorities: Islamic Law in the Diaspora” Speech at Harford Seminary, Connecticut
- 2016: “Rahma as an Ethical Term in Muslim-Catholic Dialogue” Conference at the University of St Michael's College, University of Toronto commemorating 50 years of Muslim-Catholic dialogue.
- 2016: “The Other Within the Other: Demystifying American Muslims” Symposium on Islam in North America: History and Contemporary Manifestations”, McMaster University
- 2015: “Shi’ism in the Diaspora” Conference on “Lines of Identity: Middle Eastern

- Diasporas in North America” University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
- 2015: “Charismatic Appeal or Communitas? Visitation to the Shrines of the Imams.” University of Houston, Centre for International and Comparative Studies
- 2015: “The Khoja Community in the Diaspora” Florida International University, Western Indian Ocean Studies Workshop
- 2015: “Western Studies of Shi‘ite Islam” Conference on Shi‘i Studies: Past and Present, Islamic College, London
- 2015: “‘Urf in Islamic Law: The Case of the Guardianship of Women, 'Family law in Islam: Between Fiqh and society" 3rd Annual contemporary Fiqhi issues workshop, Birmingham, England
- 2015: “Between Theory and Practice: The Clash of Authority between the Imams and their Disciples” Shi‘i Studies Symposium, Chicago
- 2015: “The Role of Custom (*‘Urf*) as a Source of Islamic Law” British Association for Islamic Studies Annual Conference, London, England
- 2015: “Post-Islamism and the Religious: Islamic Law in Modern Times” Islamism and Post-Islamism: Religious and Political transformations in Muslim Societies, Queen’s University, Kingston
- 2015: “The Development of Islamic Law in the Diaspora”, Global Halal: an International Conference on Muslims and the Cultural Politics of the Permissible, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
- 2014: “Muharram Rituals in the Khoja Shi‘i Community” Fourth World Congress for Middle East Studies (WOCMES), Ankara, Turkey
- 2014: “Classical Shari’ah and Its Applicability in Modern Times” North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS) 43rd Annual Conference on “The Concept of Authority in Muslim Societies: Political, Religious, Social and Literary” New York
- 2014: “Sociology of Islamic Economy” Asia-Canada: Transnational Collaborative Research Conference, McMaster University, Canada
- 2014: “Female Transmitters in Biographical Literature”, Conference on “The Past and Present of Female Religious Authority in Shi‘i Islam”, Princeton, New Jersey
- 2013: “Reformation in the Qur’an” London, England.
- 2013: “Islam and the Classical Law: Conflict or Confluence” Hawaii International

- Conference on Social Sciences" Honolulu
- 2012: "Diasporic Jurisprudence and Shi'i Law in America" Williams College, Williamstown
- 2012: "Qur'anic Interpretation in Modern Times," International Society for Iranian Studies, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2012: "The Islamic Response to Arab Shi'i Thought," Texas A&M University, College Station
- 2011: "Myth or Reality: Ayatullah al-Khu'i and the Ten Readers of the Qur'an," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco
- 2011: "The Study of Shi'ite Islam in North American Universities," Conference held at Hartford Seminary, Connecticut
- 2011: "Shi'ism in the Post-9/11 World" London Middle East Institute, Conference held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, England
- 2011: "The Shi'i Minority in the American Diaspora" Conference held at the University of Isfahan
- 2011: "The Qur'an in the West," Universal Muslim Association of America, Toronto
- 2011: "Islamic Pluralism and the Challenge of Human Rights," Carleton University, Ottawa
- 2011: "Idealization or Realization; The Methodology of Ayatullah al-Khu'i in *Mu'jam al-Rijal*," Conference held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, England
- 2011: "Islam and the Challenge of Human Rights," University of Mary Washington
- 2011: "Islam in the American Diaspora: A Minority Perspective," McMaster University
- 2010: "Religion in Diaspora," University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2010: "Reformation or Reinterpretation: Rethinking Shi'i Jurisprudence and Legal Methodology," al-Khoei Foundation, London, England
- 2010: "Imamology and the Shrine Culture in Twelver Shi'ism," Liminal Deities of South Asia, Conference held at Niagara on the Lake, Canada
- 2010: "9/11 and the Shi'i Image," Universal Muslim Association of America, Washington
- 2010: "Messianism in the Monotheistic Traditions," Sixth Mahdiism Conference, Bright Future Institute, Tehran

- 2010: "Revival of Religious Thought: *Ijtihad* and the Re-evaluation of Classical Texts in Modern Times," 20th World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), University of Toronto
- 2010: "The Meta-Minority Complex: The Shi'i Experience in America" McMaster University
- 2009: "A Minority with Diversity: The Shi'i Experience in America" Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University
- 2008: "Islam in the American University" Project on "Religion in the Academy" (RITA) Sponsored by the Lilly Foundation, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago
- 2008: "Revival of Religious Thought: The Re-evaluation of Classical Texts by Contemporary Shi'i Jurists" Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago
- 2008: "Teaching Islam in a post 9/11 world" Symposium on Religion on the Secular University Campus, University of Denver
- 2008: "Musa al-Sadr and the Impact of Modernity on Shi'i Jurisprudence" Conference on: "The Shia, Modernity, and the Legacy of Musa al-Sadr." University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2008: "Reformation or Reinterpretation: Islamic Law in America" AAR Great Plains Region Conference, Denver
- 2008: "From Conflict to Co-existence: The Application of Islamic Law in a Minority Context" Symposium at Carthage College
- 2007: "Preserving or Extending Boundaries: The Black Shi'is of America" Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego
- 2007: "Islamic Fundamentalism in America" Institute of Oriental Studies, Azerbaijan
- 2007: "Muslim Women in America" Islamic University, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2007: "Muslim Life in America" American Studies Center of the Foreign Languages University, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2007: "Institutionalization and the Politicization of American Islam," Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2007: "Interpretation of Islamic Sacred Texts in the American Diaspora," Khazar

University, Baku, Azerbaijan

- 2007: "A Minority within a Minority: The Black Shi'is of America" Breaking Apart the Monolith: The Many Ways of Being Muslim - A Conference Exploring the Dynamics of Muslim Identity in Today's World held at Princeton University
- 2007: "Revival of Religious Thought: *Ijtihad* and the Re-evaluation of Classical Texts in Modern Times" American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies
- 2006: "Gender and Islamic Civilization: The Contribution of Muslim Women to Islamic Sciences and Civilization" University of Isfahan, Tehran
- 2006: "The Religious Other in America: The Deterritorialization and Deculturation of American Muslims," Symposium held at Colorado College, Colorado Springs
- 2006 "The Danish Cartoons in Islamic *Hadith* Literature." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Washington
- 2006 "Closing the Interpretive Process: Toward a New Qur'anic Hermeneutic." University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2006 "Women in the three Monotheistic Traditions and in Islamic Law," Conference held in Tehran, Iran
- 2006 "Conversion and Proselytizing: Balancing Religious Freedom and Respect." Symposium, University of Denver
- 2006 "Islam, the West and the Cartoon Controversy: Religious Sensitivities vs. Secular Liberties." Symposium, University of Denver
- 2006 "The Ten Commandments in Islamic Exegetical Literature: A Comparative Perspective." Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions at UW-Madison
- 2006 "The Indigenization of American Islam: Muslims in the American Diaspora." USNorthcom Academic Conference
- 2005 "The Politicization of American Islam." Politics and Religion in France and the United States, International Conference, Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies in association with the Department of Religion, Florida State University
- 2005 "American Muslims or Muslims in America: Muslims as the 'Other'." Eighth Annual Honors Conference, Metro State College, Denver

- 2005 “The Power of Islamic Sacred Texts Today.” Religious Leadership Conference, Iliff School of Theology, Denver
- 2004 “Discovering the Hidden Treasure: Creation in the Islamic Tradition.” Third Furlong Memorial Lecture, “Creation in Judaism, Christianity and Islam” symposium, St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2004 “Human Rights in the Qur’an and *Shari‘a*: A Comparative Perspective.” University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2004 “Muslim Youth at the Crossroads: Advancing into the Twenty-First Century.” Islamic Social Services Association Conference, Toronto, Canada
- 2004 “Revival of Religious Thought: The Thoughts and Contribution of Ayatullah Mutahhari.” International Conference, Tehran, Iran
- 2004 “The Mental Jihad: Reason and Revelation in the Islamic Tradition.” Seminar held at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO
- 2004 “Holy Peace in the Islamic Tradition.” Columbia University, NY
- 2003 “Muslim-Christian Dialogue: Past, Present and Future.” Macdonald Center Lecturers in Christian-Muslim Understanding, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
- 2003 “Challenging the Authority of Tradition and Texts: *Ijtihad and Taqlid* in Modern Times.” American Academy of Religion regional meeting, Boulder, CO
- 2002 “Biography as Literary Genre: The Struggle for Authority in Shi‘i Rijal Texts.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada
- 2002 “Re-evaluation of the *Shari‘a* Post-September 11: Islam and Modernity.” Furlong Memorial Lecture, “Understanding Islam” symposium, St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2002 “Violence and Healing: Facing the Ongoing Challenges of September 11.” Colloquium held at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO
- 2002 “Aging in the Islamic Tradition.” The National Council on the Aging, Denver, CO
- 2001 “Islam in America after September 11.” Kanuga Conference on Christian-Muslim Understanding, Asheville, NC
- 2001 “Islam in the Context of American Religious Diversity.” *Res Publica* Conference, Aspen, CO

- 2000 "Promise & Peril: Religion at the Millenium." Conference on The Many Faces of God, New Hampshire Humanities Council, Manchester, NH
- 2000 "Preserving or Extending Religious Boundaries? Muslim Proselytization in America." Islamic Education Council, Washington, D.C.
- 1998 "Acculturation and Assimilation – Muslims in the Diaspora." Colloquium held at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada.
- 1998 "Religious Pluralism and Human Rights: An Islamic Perspective." Grinnell College, Iowa
- 1997 "Acculturation and Assimilation – Muslims in the West," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco
- 1997 "Contemporary Muslim Polemics." MESA Conference, San Francisco
- 1997 "Exclusivism or Inclusivism? Salvation History in the Qur'an." Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, GA
- 1997 "External Influences on American Muslims." Presented at a conference on Jews and Muslims in the American context, The Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT
- 1996 "From *Bid'a* to *Sunna*: The Case of the *Wilaya* of 'Ali in the Shi'i *adhan*." Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, New Orleans, LA
- 1995 "The Origins of Islamic Biographical Literature" Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA
- 1994 "Religious Pluralism in the Qur'an." Eastern International Region of the American Academy of Religion, University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada
- 1994 "The Case of the Holy Disciples. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago
- 1993 "Authority and the Struggle for Legitimacy." University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- 1993 "The Ethics of Self Realization: an Islamic Perspective." Institute of Global Cultural Studies, State University of New York, Binghamton, NY
- 1990 "The Origins and Development of Imami Biographical Texts." School of Oriental & African Studies, London

PUBLIC LECTURES (Non Peer-Reviewed Presentations)

- 2018: The Qur'an and Spirituality (Islamic Center, Singapore) – 10 lectures
- 2017: Islamic Spirituality (al-Mahdi Center, Phoenix)
- 2016: Islam and Reform (Islamic Center, Singapore) – 10 lectures
- 2016: Human Dignity in the Qur'an (Ahl al-bayt Center, Sydney, Australia)
- 2015: "Social Justice and Activism in the Islamic Tradition" in Faith in Social Action panel held by McMaster Student's Union Diversity Services
- 2015: The Problem of Theodicy in Islam, Bait al-'Ilm Islamic Center," Chicago (3 Lectures)
- 2015: "Worshipper and the Worshipped: Spirituality in Islam," Islamic Center, Arizona
- 2015: "Islam in the Diaspora" KSI Jamaat Center of Los Angeles (10 lectures)
- 2014: "Living Islam" Ahl al-Bayt Center, Auckland New Zealand (10 lectures)
- 2012: "Spirituality in the Nahj al-Balagha" Conference on Nahj al-Balagha, Peterborough
- 2010: "Diversity and Change: An Islamic Dilemma" Organization for Islamic Learning, Toronto, Canada (10 lectures)
- 2010: "Mammetry and Mahomet: Depiction of the Prophet in Western European Literature" Bait al-ilm, Chicago
- 2008: "Reformation or Transformation: Islamic Law in Transition" Shi'a Ithna'asari Community of Middlesex, London, England (10 lectures)
- 2008 "Teaching Islam in a Post-9/11 World" Muslim Student Association, University of Colorado
- 2008 "From Majority to Minority: The Jurisprudence of Muslim Minority Communities" Islamic Center, Los Angeles
- 2007 "The Islamization of American Immigrant Islam" Muslim Student Association, University of Denver
- 2007 "History and Narratives in Qur'anic Exegesis" Islamic Center, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2006 "Reformation in Islamic Jurisprudence: The Question of Punishment in Islamic Law," Universal Muslim Association of America, Virginia

- 2005 "From Muslims in America to American Muslims." Universal Muslim Association of America, Washington, D.C.
- 2005 "Is Islam Synonymous with Terrorism?" The City Club, Denver
- 2005 "Progressive Muslims in the American Milieu." Bates College, Maine
- 2004 "The Cool Dudes: Muslim Youth in Transition." Universal Muslim Association of America, Washington, D.C.
- 2004 "Reflecting Black: Islam in Africa and Antebellum America." University of Toronto, Canada
- 2004 "The Shi'i Vision: Reason and Reformation in Shi'ism." University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus, Canada
- 2004 "Faith and Belief: An Islamic Perspective." Ja'faria Islamic Center, Burtonsville, MD
- 2003 "Re-evaluation of Islamic Law post September 11: Islam and Modernity." Faculty Luncheon, University of Denver, Denver, CO
- 2003 "From 911 to 711: The Islamic Experience in the West." Orientation Lecture, University of Denver, Denver, CO
- 2003 "Unity or Uniformity: Islam and the Question of Reformation." al-Iman Islamic Center, Seattle, WA
- 2002 "A Minority within a Minority: The Muslim Youth Culture in Contemporary America." Ja'fariya Islamic Center, Burtonsville, MD
- 2000 "Integration, Isolation, or Insulation? The Muslims of America." University of Miami, Miami, FL
- 2000 "A Viable Qur'anic Hermeneutic for Muslims in the New Millennium." Auckland, New Zealand
- 1999 "Qur'anic Exegesis and Women's Right to Divorce." Islamic House of Wisdom, Detroit, MI
- 1997 "The Muslims as the 'Other' in North America." Conference on Muslims in America, Ja'fariya Islamic Center, Burtonsville, MD
- 1997 "Drawing Boundaries in America: The Muslim Identity." Islamic Society of North America, Indianapolis, IN

1996 “Ethno-cultural Identity: Muslim Institutes in America.” Islamic Center, Washington, D.C.

1993 “Child Custody and Family Support: A Re-evaluation of Traditional Islamic Sources.” Conference held by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, Toronto, Canada

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2014 McMaster Incentive Grant

2007 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title for “The Heirs of the Prophet: Charisma and Religious Authority in Shi‘ite Islam”

2006 Professional Research Opportunity for Faculty (PROF) grant, University of Denver

2006 Internationalization Small Grants, University of Denver

2005 Research Grant, Denver Foundation

2004 Internationalization Small Grants, University of Denver

2003 Faculty Research Fund, University of Denver

1990 Central Research Fund and Scholarships Committee, School of Oriental & African Studies

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/HONORS

The Center for Global Understanding - Board Member

American Academy of Religion

Theta Alpha Kappa (National Honor Society for Religious Studies and Theology)

Editorial Board

Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics

Muslim Societies Journal

Journal of Islamic History and Civilization

The Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies

Shi'a Affairs Journal: International Dialogue Series

Tarikh va Tamaddon-i- Islami

“Al-Milal: Journal of Religion and Thought”

Journal of contemporary Study of Islam

Majale Qoran va Hadith

LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

Native Speaker: English, Swahili and Gujarati
Classical Languages: Arabic, Urdu and Persian

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Supervisor of several Ph.D and Masters candidates, McMaster University
Faculty of Business Committee Member (2014-2017)
Graduate Affairs Committee (2017 – 2018, 2019-2020)
Faculty Council (2017 – 2018)
Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2014-2016)
Bookstore representative (2013-2016)
Tenure and Promotion committee (2012-2016)
Chair of Colloquium Committee (2017-2018)
Elected Faculty Committee (Advisory Board to the Dean, University of Denver)
Professional Research Opportunity for Faculty (PROF) Grant Committee
Member of pre-Tenure committee - Religious Studies, University of Denver - 2008-9
Member of Search Committee, lecturer in Arabic, University of Denver - 2008-9
Tenure and Promotion Committee, University of Denver 2006 - 2009
Director of Master's Program in the Department of Religious Studies, 2004 - 2006
Committee member for the DU/Iliff Joint Ph.D Program, Autumn 2004 - 2006
Member of five Ph.D. dissertation committees for the DU/Iliff Joint Ph.D. Program, Spring 2004 - present
Committee member, "Bridges to the Future —The American Dream Revisited" 2002-2005
Member of search committee for position in Judaic/Religious Studies Program, Fall/Winter 2004-05

EXTERNAL EXAMINER:

Irfaan Jaffer, "Traditional Islamic Ethics: The Concept of Spiritual Virtue and its Implications for Contemporary Human Rights" (Ph. D Thesis, York University, 2018)

Ahmed Ismail, "The Harvest of Secession: A Study of the Dynamics of Ethnic Boundaries between Southern and Northern Sudanese Canadians" (Ph. D Thesis, McMaster University 2017)

Ali-Ahmed Rasekh, "Agents of the Hidden Imam: Shiite Juristic Authority in Light of the Doctrine of Deputyship" (Ph. D Thesis, Concordia University, 2015)

May Al-Fartousi, "Unveiling Shi'i Religious Identities: Case Studies of Hijab in Culturally Homogeneous Canadian Schools," (Ph. D Thesis, Brock University, 2012)

Wendy Jane Isaac-Martin, "A Violent Origin: A Girardian Analysis of the Scapegoating of Ali ibn Abu Talib in Shi'ite Tradition," (Ph. D Thesis, University of Cape Town, 2008)

Linda Darwish “Texts of Tension, Spaces of Empowerment: Migrant Muslims and the Limits of Shi’ite Legal Discourse” (Ph. D Thesis, Concordia University, 2009)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member of Human Services Committee of the Denver Foundation 2003 - 2007

Member of Denver’s Faith Community Initiative to End Homelessness (Mayor John Hickenlooper’s Faith Based Initiative) 2005 - 2010

Chairman of the Islamic Education Board of North America 1996 - 2004

Member of Council of ‘Ulama (Muslim Scholars) of North America 1997 - present

Advisor to the Imams’ Council of Toronto 1994 – 2004