

**AUN HASAN ALI**

Department of Religious Studies  
 University of Colorado Boulder  
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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

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2017 – present	Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Religious Studies
2015 – 2016	Instructor, University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Religious Studies
2011	Teaching Fellow, McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies
2009 – 2010	Arabic Instructor, McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies
2008 – 2009	Teaching Fellow, McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies
2006 – 2007	Adjunct Instructor, Saint Francis College, Department of Religious Studies

**EDUCATION**

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2007 – 2016	Ph.D., McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies Specialization: Shī'ī Intellectual History Dissertation Committee: Rula Jurdi Abisaab, Robert Wisnovsky, Lynda Clarke
2004 – 2007	M.A., Dean's Honor List, McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies
2003 – 2004	Certificate in Arabic Language, Yemen Language Center
1998 – 2003	B.A., Highest Honors Religion, Rutgers University, Department of Religion

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Peer-Reviewed Articles**

- “Reading the Story of Moses and Khidr through the Lens of Islamic Law.” *English Language Notes* 56/1 (2018): 209-212.
- “The Discourse on *‘Ilm al-Waḍ‘* in Modern Shī'ī Scholarship.” *Islamic Studies* 50/3-4 (2011): 325-345.

**Contributions to Edited Volumes**

- “*Kitāb muṣṭalahāt al-fiqh*.” In Aptin Khanbaghi (ed.), *Interpretations of Law and Ethics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010.
- “*Masā'il-i namāz kā insā'iklopidiya*.” In Aptin Khanbaghi (ed.), *Encyclopedias about Muslim Civilizations*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009.

**Encyclopedia Articles**

- “Legal Theory: Classical Shi'ite.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Law*.
- “Legal Theory: Modern Shi'ite.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Law*.

**Translation**

- “Mīrzā Abū l-Ḥasan Jilwah” by Encieh Barkhah. In Reza Pourjavady (ed.), *Philosophy in Qajar Iran*. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

**Work in Progress**

- “The Rational Turn in Imāmism Revisited.” Submitted and under review with *Global Intellectual History*.
- Why Ḥadīth Matter: A History of the Use of Ḥadīth in Imāmī Law*, co-authored with Hassan Ansari. Preparing for publication.
- “Al-Sharīf al-Murtaḍā's Doctrine of *Ijmā'*,” co-authored with Hassan Ansari. Preparing for publication.

“Taqī al-Dīn al-Subkī’s *fatwā* on Shī‘īs.” Preparing for publication.

### Book Reviews

Review of *Mullā Ṣadrā and Metaphysics: The Modulation of Being* by Sajjad Rizvi. *American Journal of Islamic Social Science* 28/1 (2011): 126-129.

Review of *Schooling Islam: The Culture and Politics of Modern Muslim Education*, edited by Robert W. Hefner and Muhammad Qasim Zaman. *Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University* (2007):

### Popular Publications

“The Book of God and My Family Shall Never Part Ways,” al-Sidrah, 15 May 2018,

<https://aiseminary.org/al-sidrah/book-god-family-shall-never-part-ways/>

Letter to the President, American Values Religious Voices: 100 Days. 100 Letters, 20 January 2017,

<https://valuesandvoices.com/>

\*Submission withdrawn due to political climate.

“Some Thoughts on the Remembrance of Karbala,” Muharram in Manhattan, 24 October 2014,

<https://muharraminmanhattan.com/2014/10/24/karbalthoughts/>

“A Muslim’s Perspective on the Right to Freedom of Expression,” Muslims4Peace, 26 November 2012,

<https://muslims4peace.org/a-muslims-perspective-on-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>

### CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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“Signs of God: How (Not) to Read the Quran,” Symposium on Inclusive Islam in America, University of Hawaii Manoa, April 2018.

“The Evidentiary Value of the Prima Facie Meaning of the Quran in Shii Law,” Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2018.

“Reading the *Nahj al-Balāghah* in Ḥillah,” *Nahj al-Balāghah: The Word of ‘Alī*, The Shī‘ah Institute, Warburg Institute, University of London, December 2017.

“The *Ijāzah* of al-‘Allāmah al-Ḥillī to the Banī Zuhrah: Sources for the History of the School of Ḥillah,” Shii Studies: The State of the Art, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, December 2017.

Response to David Wacks, Denise Filios, Michele Hamilton, Borja Franco, Gurer Karagedikli, Veronica Menaldi, and Albert Hernandez, “How Do Texts or Objects Reinforce or Transgress Religious, ‘Ethnic,’ or Cultural Divides?” Ethnicity, Faith and Communal Relations, Mediterranean Seminar and Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, November 2017.

“On the Use of *Ḥadīth* in Shī‘ī Law,” Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, October 2017.

“Muḥammad Ishāq Fayyād on Islamic Governance,” Shī‘ī Studies Group Symposium, Franke Institute, University of Chicago, May 2017.

“Reading the Story of Moses and Khidr through the Lens of Islamic Law,” Mysticism and Doctrine—Are they Compatible or do they Conflict?, Mysticism & Devotion, Mediterranean Seminar and Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2017.

“Some Notes on the Boundaries of Islam,” AAR/SBL/ASOR Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Regional Conference, Boulder, CO, March 2017.

“Sunnī-Shī‘ī Relations in Mamlūk Syria,” Islamic Studies Symposium, University of Denver, January 2017.

“Understanding the *Maqṭal* of Ḥusayn as Devotional and Mystical Literature,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

Response to Fouad Ben Ahmed, “Ibn Ṭumlūs of Alcira (d. 1213) on Juridical Inferences and Logic: *al-Qawl fī l-Maqāyīs al-Fiqhiyyah*,” Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, October 2016.

“Post-Classical Islamic Philosophy: *Status Quaestionis*,” Islamic Philosophy: A Death Greatly Exaggerated?, Mediterranean Studies Group and Center for Western Civilization, Thought & Policy, University of Colorado Boulder, September 2016.

“Devotional and Mystical Aspects of the *Maqṭal*,” Lamenting Karbala: Commemoration, Mourning, and Memory, The Shī‘ah Institute, Warburg Institute, University of London, August 2016.

\*Accepted and withdrawn due to personal emergency.

“Applying the Techniques of Social Network Analysis to Imāmī Shī‘ism,” 2nd International Conference on Shi‘i Studies, The Islamic College, London, May 2016.

\*Accepted and withdrawn due to personal emergency.

Panelist, “Religion & Politics,” Week of Jewish Philosophy, Center for Judaic Studies, Denver University, April 2016.

Response to Sabahat Adil, “From Syria to Sevilla: Memory, Text, and the Making of al-Andalus in the Seventeenth-Century,” Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, February 2016.

Respondent, “Was Mediterranean Politics Determined by Religion?” Middle East History/Mediterranean, Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, November 2015.

“Some Notes on the Relationship Between Sunnīs and Shī‘īs in Light of the Issue of Documentary Evidence in Islamic Law,” Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, November 2015.

Response to Samuel Boyd, “A Brief History of the Phrase ‘King of Kings’: Political, Religious, and Philological Considerations,” Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, September 2015.

“The School of Ḥillah: Twelver Shī‘ism in the Ilkhanid Era,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2014.

“The Shī‘ī *Madhhab* and its Relationship to Sunnism in Light of the Issue of Documentary Evidence in Islamic Law,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

“The Quran and Contemporary Iranian Shī‘ī Discourse on the Origins of Language,” 9th Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Istanbul, August 2012.

“Some Notes on ‘*Ilm al-Waḍ‘*,” MIISSC Graduate Student Symposium, Montreal, April 2011.

“Revisiting the Rational Turn in Twelver Shī‘ism,” 8th Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, Santa Monica, CA, May 2010.

“Shī‘ite Rationalism in the Būyid Era,” 8th Annual Middle Eastern Studies Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, March 2006.

“From Traditionalism to Rationalism: The Rationalist Turn in Imāmī Shī‘ite Theology During the Būyid Era,” Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, March 2006.

## **SYMPOSIA AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

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Organizer of invited speaker Justin Stearns (NYU-Abu Dhabi) for a lecture on “Science, Evolution, and Islam in the Modern Middle East,” and a public lecture on “The Rational Sciences in Seventeenth Century Morocco: Philosophy, Incommensurability, and History,” Mediterranean Studies Group, Center for Asian Studies, and Center for Western Civilization, Thought & Policy, University of Colorado Boulder, March 21, 2017.

Organizer of invited speaker Najam Haider (Barnard College) for a public lecture on “The Remembered Imam: Truth and Meaning in Early Muslim Historiography” and a workshop on “Methods for the Reconstruction of Early Muslim Social History,” Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, April 19-20, 2016.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS**

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2018	Short-term Visitor, Shii Studies Research Program, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
2017	Faculty Conference Travel/Research Grant, Department of Religious Studies, University of Colorado Boulder
2017	Course Development Grant, Culture and Language Across the Curriculum (CLAC), Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder
2017	Faculty Grant, Center for Western Civilization, Thought & Policy, University of Colorado Boulder
2016	Seminar Series Grant, Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder
2016	Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence Grant, University of Colorado Boulder
2014	Doctoral Dissertation Completion Grant, Al-Mahdi Institute [£2500]

2010 – 2011	J. W. McConnell Memorial Fellowship, McGill University [\$10,000]
2010	State of Kuwait Graduate Prize in Islamic Studies, McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies (awarded to the best Ph.D. candidate)
2008 – 2009	J. W. McConnell Memorial Fellowship, McGill University [\$20,000]
2008	Alavi Foundation Grant [\$4,000]
2007 – 2008	Recruitment Excellence Fellowship, McGill University [\$5,000]
2005 – 2006	Institute Fellowship, McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies [\$5,000]
2004 – 2005	Cedrik Goddard Memorial Award in Islamic Studies, McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies (awarded to the best M.A. candidate)
2003	Henry Rutgers Scholar, Rutgers University
2002 – 2003	William H. S. Demarest Scholarship, Rutgers University
2002	Dean's Award for Excellence, Rutgers University
2000	Golden Key International Honor Society
2000	National Society of Collegiate Scholars
1999	Mary and John Krok Memorial Scholarship, Rutgers University

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

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### University of Colorado Boulder

#### *Courses:*

Islam (RLST 2202), Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

Advanced Language Co-Seminar (ASIA 4001-802), Fall 2017

Sufism (RLST 3070), Fall 2017, Fall 2016

Independent Study: Readings in Philosophical Sufism: *Muqaddimat Sharḥ Fuṣūṣ al-Ḥikam li-l-Qayṣarī* (RLST 6840), Spring 2017

The Quran (RLST 3040), Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

Islam, Politics and Militancy (RLST 3820), Spring 2016

Fundamentalism and Islam (RLST 3060), Spring 2017

Fundamentalisms (RLST 4820-5820), Spring 2018

Religious Dimensions of Human Experience (RLST 1620), Fall 2018

#### *M.A. Committees, Director:*

Yasemin Pacalioglu, Yasemin. M.A. Candidate, Religious Studies, in progress.

Fazeli, Saman. M.A. Candidate, Religious Studies, in progress.

#### *M.A. Committees, Member:*

Hashemi-Niasari, Hossein. "The Newspaper and the Pulpit: Media, Religious Anxieties, and the Revolutionary Crowd prior to Iran's Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1911." M.A. Thesis, Religious Studies, April 2018.

#### *B.A. Honors Thesis Committees:*

(Chair) Shriver, Carly. "What Is Unveiled Through Veiling: Understanding the Complex Narratives of the Modern Hijabista Movement." B.A. Honors Thesis, *summa cum laude*, Religious Studies, April 2017.

#### *Teaching Enrichment Activities*

FTEP CLIP (Classroom Learning Interview Process) for RLST 3600: Islam, with Stefanie Mollborn, October 14, 2015.

NAAP-FTEP, "Leading Class Discussions: Increasing Student Engagement," September 30, 2015.

NAAP-FTEP, "Grading Papers in the Humanities," September 10, 2015.

NAAP-FTEP, "Learning Goals and Course Objectives," August 10, 2015.

#### *Pedagogical Presentations and Workshops*

Co-Presenter (with Sabahat Adil), "Religion, Pedagogy, and the Multicultural Classroom," for Diversity and Inclusion Summit, University of Colorado Boulder, February 23, 2017.

Participant, Faculty discussion with Eboo Patel (Interfaith Youth Core) on how to facilitate interfaith conversations on campus, Division of Student Affairs and Lutheran Campus Ministry, University of Colorado Boulder, August 23, 2016.

“NAAP-FTEP Workshops in Action,” New Assistant Professor Program, University of Colorado Boulder, January 20, 2016. Presented on how I incorporated material from the workshops I attended into my teaching.

### **McGill University**

#### *Courses:*

Islamic Civilization (ISLA 200, teaching fellow), Spring 2011, Spring 2009, Spring 2008

Introductory Arabic (ISLA 521), Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

Lower Intermediate Arabic (ISLA 522, speaking session), Fall 2009

### **Saint Francis College**

#### *Courses:*

Independent Study: The Text of the Quran in Arabic II, Summer 2007

Independent Study: The Text of the Quran in Arabic I, Spring 2007

Islam (REL 246), Fall 2006

### **Invited Lectures and Outreach (selected)**

“What is Islam?” PEO Boulder Women’s Organization, Fraiser Meadows, Boulder, April 2018.

“What is Islamic Philosophy?” Undergraduate Philosophy Club, University of Colorado Boulder, February 2018.

“How Do We Know That Muḥammad Existed?” a guest lecture in ARAB 1011, University of Colorado Boulder, February 2018.

Co-Facilitator (with Deborah Whitehead), “CNN’s *Believer*,” Department of Religious Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, May 2017.

“A Crash Course in the History of Islamic Theology and Philosophy,” a guest lecture in ARAB/RLST 2320, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2017.

Panelist, “Banning Muslim Travel: Why it Matters,” Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2017.

“Islamic Legal Norms,” First Year Global Experience – UAE (BADM 1260), Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado Boulder, February 2017.

“Al-Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī,” Lady Fatima Center, Denver, January 2017.

“Islam and the Malaise of Modernity,” 33rd Annual Conference of the Muslim Group of USA and Canada, Lombard, IL, December 2016.

“Introduction to Islam,” First United Methodist Church, Loveland, CO, September 2016.

“Understanding Sharia Law,” Jewish Community Center, Boulder, September 2016.

Facilitator, Screening and discussion of *The Color of Paradise*, Department of Religious Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, September 2016.

“Private Certainty and Public Knowledge,” 4th Annual Conference of the Ahl al-Bayt Forum, Streamwood, IL, December 2015.

“Is ISIS Islamic?” ISIS from Multiple Perspectives, Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, November 2015.

“Ibn Kammūnah: Jewish Philosophy in the Islamicate Word,” a guest lecture in History, University of Colorado Boulder, October 2015.

“Islamic Teachings on Interfaith Harmony,” Masjid-e-Ali, Somerset, NJ, July 2014.

“Second-order Imperatives in Islamic Law,” 2nd Annual Conference of the Ahl al-Bayt Forum, Streamwood, IL, September 2013.

“Orientalism,” a guest lecture in Modern Islamic History (HIST 240), McGill University, Montreal, September 2010.

“Introduction to the Islamic Worldview,” Thaḡalayn Muslim Association of Concordia University, Montreal (free course offered to the public), Summer 2010.

“Stages in the Development of Shī‘ī Law up to the 16th century,” a guest lecture in Islamic Law, McGill University, Montreal, January 2010.

“Abū Ja‘far al-Bāqir’s Role in the Development of Twelver Shī‘ism,” Concordia University, Montreal, August 2009.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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### **Professional Organizations**

- 2017 Chair, “Varieties of Contemporary Christianity,” AAR/SBL/ASOR Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Regional Conference
- 2016 – present Book Review Editor, *Shii Studies Review*
- 2016 Member of Program Committee, AAR/SBL/ASOR Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Regional Conference
- 2015 – present Organizational and Advisory Board, The University of Colorado Mediterranean Studies Group Organization
- 2015 – present Associate, The Mediterranean Seminar
- 2015 – present Fellow, The Shī‘ah Institute, London
- 2013 – present Manuscript Referee, *Journal of Shi‘a Islamic Studies*
- 2009 Manuscript Referee, *Blackwell History Compass*

### **University of Colorado Boulder**

- 2018 – present Member of Executive Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2018 Department Representative for Admitted Student Day
- 2018 Presentation on “Rewriting the History of Islam,” Miramontes Arts & Sciences Program
- 2018 Department Representative for Arts & Humanities Undergraduate Research Event
- 2017 – 2018 Member of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2016 – present Member of Curriculum Committee, Center for Asian Studies
- 2016 – present Member of Executive Committee, Center for Asian Studies
- 2016 Member of Inclusive Excellence Committee, Department of Religious Studies
- 2016 Moderator, “US Policy Towards Iran,” Conference on World Affairs
- 2015 Evaluation of Lucas Carmichael (RLST 2400: Religion and Contemporary Society)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Academy of Religion, CU Mediterranean Studies Group, Mediterranean Seminar, The Shī‘ah Institute, and Baitul Ilm Academy/Zekr Institute

## **LANGUAGES**

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Arabic, Urdu, Persian, and French