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University of Notre Dame  
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### **Academic Position**

University of Notre Dame (from Aug. 2003)  
Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies and Theology  
Department of Theology

### **Education**

Yale University (Sep. 1997 - May 2003)  
Program in Islamic Studies, Department of Religious Studies  
M.A. (May 2001) M. Phil. (Dec. 2001) Ph. D. (May 2003)

Columbia University (Sep. 1991 - Dec. 1994)  
B.A. in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (Dec. 1994), *magna cum laude*

### **Languages**

Classical Arabic, Colloquial Arabic (Eastern), Syriac, Persian, Biblical Hebrew, Latin, New Testament Greek, German, French, Italian.

### **Fellowships/Awards**

Notre Dame Henkels Lectures Award to host academic conference, "The Qur'ān in Its Historical Context" on April 19-21, 2009.

Fulbright Regional Research Award, for research in Beirut and Jerusalem (2007).

Luce Fellow in Theology (2006-7).

Notre Dame Henkels Lectures Award to host academic conference, "Towards a New Reading of the Qur'ān?" on April 2-4, 2005.

The Theron Rockwell Field Prize, for a dissertation in Humanities, Yale University (2003).

Whitney Fellow, Yale University (2002-3).

Fulbright-Hays Grant for research in Beirut, Lebanon (2000-2001).

Bates Junior Fellow, Jonathan Edwards College, Yale University (1999-2003).

Mellon Fellow (1996-97).

### **Publications**

#### **Books**

*The Qur'ān and Its Biblical Subtext*. Submitted to Routledge Press.

*The Critique of Christian Origins: Qādī ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s (d. 415/1025) Islamic Essay on Christianity.*  
Introduced and Translated. Edited Samir Khalil Samir. BYU Press, to be published in 2008.

*The Qur’ān in Its Historical Context.* Introduced and Edited. London: Routledge, 2008.

*A Muslim Theologian in the Sectarian Milieu: ‘Abd al-Jabbār and the ‘Critique of Christian Origins’.*  
Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2004.

## Articles

### Refereed Articles

“The Muslim Jesus: Dead or Alive?” Accepted for publication in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (London).

“The Rise and Fall of Qadi ‘Abd al-Jabbar,” *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 37 (2005), 3-18.

“A Reflection on Two Qur’anic Words (*Iblīs* and *Jūdī*) with Attention to the Theories of A. Mingana,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 124 (2004) 4, 1-15.

“A New Source for Church History? Eastern Christianity in ‘Abd al-Jabbār’s (415/1025) Confirmation,” *Oriens Christianus* 86 (2002), 46-68.

“[The Muslim] Jesus, the Qā’im, and the End of the World,” *Rivista degli studi orientali* 75 (2001), 55-86.

“Saint Thomas’ Islamic Challenges: Reflections on the Antiochene Questions,” *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 12 (April 2001) 2, 161-189.

“The Sufi Meal: A Case Study of Âdâb,” *Muslim World* 90 (Spring 2000), 198-218.

“The Ends of *al-Radd al-Jamīl* and Its Portrayal of Christian Sects,” *Islamochristiana* 25 (1999), 45-65.

### Chapters of Books, Solicited Articles

“‘Abd al-Jabbār,” *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History*, ed. D. Thomas (Leiden: Brill, 2009).

“‘Abd al-Jabbār,” *The Islamic World*, ed. A. Rippin (London: Routledge, 2008), 338-44.

“The Qur’anic Sarah as Prototype of Mary,” *The Bible in Arab Christianity*, ed. D. Thomas (Leiden: Brill, 2007), 193-206.

“Redeeming the Adam of the Qur’ān,” *Arabische Christen – Christen in Arabien*, ed. D. Kreikenbom, F.-Ch. Muth and J. Thielmann (Frankfurt: Lang, 2006), 71-83.

“The Eschaton and Justice in the Thought of Mulla Sadra,” *Proceedings of the Second World Congress on Transcendent Philosophy* (Tehran, Iran), 2005.

“A Philosophical Odyssey: Ghazzālī’s *Intentions of the Philosophers*,” *Medieval Philosophy and the Classical Tradition in Islam, Judaism and Christianity*, ed. D. Thomas (Richmond: Curzon, 2001), 37-50.

### Encyclopedia Articles

“Angels,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Leiden: E.J. Brill).

“Bible,” *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia* (London: Routledge, 2005), 1:107-8.

“Seven Sleepers of Ephesus,” *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia* (London: Routledge, 2005), 2:719-20.

“‘Uthmân,” *Encyclopaedia of the Qur’ân* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2001-6), 5:408-10.

### Non-Refereed Articles

“Sidon and the South through American Eyes” (in Arabic), *As-Safir* (July 12, 1999), 4.

### Reviews

“Sidney Griffith, *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque*,” *Journal of Law and Religion* 24 (2008-9), 101-5.

“Yehuda Nevo and Judith Koren, *Crossroads to Islam*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 125 (2006), 9-13.

“Qamar-ul Huda, *Striving for Divine Union*,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 65 (January 2006) 1, 66-9

“Günter Lüling, *A Challenge to Islam for Reformation*,” *Bulletin of the Royal Institute of Inter-faith Studies* 7 (Spring/Summer 2005) 1, 185-91.

“Samuel-Martin Behloul, *Ibn Hazms Evangelienkritik: Eine methodische Untersuchung*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 124 (2005), 14-5.

“Harald Motzki, *The Origins of Islamic Jurisprudence*,” *Journal of Semitic Studies* 50 (Spring 2005) 1, 227-30.

“David Thomas, *Early Muslim Polemic against Christianity: Abû ‘Îsâ al-Warrâq’s “Against the Incarnation*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 124 (2004) 2, 4-7.

“Linda Walbridge, *Christians of Pakistan*,” *Bulletin of the Royal Institute of Inter-faith Studies* 5.1 (Spring/Summer 2003), 220-5.

“Daniel Madigan, *The Qur’ân’s Self Image*,” *al-Abhath* (2002-3), 225-8.

“Michael Gilsenan, *Recognizing Islam*,” *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 36 (Summer 2002) 1, 70.

“Andrew Rippin, *Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices*,” *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 36 (Summer 2002) 1, 71-2.

“Tarif Khalidi, *The Muslim Jesus*,” *Books and Culture* (March/April 2002), 8.

“Muhammad Abdel Halem, *Understanding the Qur’an*,” *al-Abhath* (2001), 131-5.

“Christoph Luxenberg, *Die Syro-Aramäische Lesart des Koran*,” *Bulletin of the Royal Institute of Inter-faith Studies* 3 (Spring/Summer 2001) 1, 198-202.

“Ibn Warraq, *The Quest for the Historical Muhammad*,” *Islamochristiana* 27 (2001), 284-6.

Journal submission evaluations: one article for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2007); one article for *Islamic Studies* (2007); two articles for *Religion and Literature* (2007, 2008).

### **Selected Lectures**

17 Mar. 2008, “Abraham the Gentile,” American Oriental Society Conference (Chicago)

14 Mar. 2008, “On the Qur’anic Term Hanif,” Frühe Islamgeschichte und der Koran, Institut zur Erforschung der frühen Islamgeschichte (Otzenhausen, Germany)

19 Nov. 2007, “‘The Male is Unlike the Female.’ On the Quranic Narrative of Mary's Birth,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (Montreal, Canada).

4 Nov. 2007, “Reading the Quran in Light of a Jewish-Christian-Islamic Tradition,” Henry Luce III Theology Fellows conference (Pittsburgh, PA).

21 Jun. 2007, “A New Approach to the Qur’ān,” Public Lecture, American Embassy (Beirut, Lebanon).

10 Sep. 2006, “Reading Qur’ān and Bible Together,” Tantur Ecumenical Institute (Jerusalem).

25 Apr. 2006, “Islam and Christianity,” Corpus Christi Lecture Series on Christianity and World Religions (Toledo, OH).

21 Nov. 2005, “Why Does God Give the Children of Adam Feathers in Qur’ān 7:26?” The Society of Biblical Literature Conference (Philadelphia, PA).

16 Sep. 2005, “The Laughter of Sarah in Christian Tradition and Qur’ān 11:71,” The Fifth Woodbrooke-Mingana Symposium on Arab Christianity and Islam (Birmingham, England).

18 Mar. 2005, “Why is Abraham’s Wife Laughing in Qur’ān 11:71?” American Oriental Society Conference (Philadelphia, PA).

25 May 2004, “The Eschaton and Justice in the Thought of Mulla Sadra,” Second World Congress on Mulla Sadra (Tehran, Iran).

30 Apr. 2004, “Arab Christianity and the Redemption of the Qur’anic Adam,” Universität Mainz Konferenz: “Arabische Christen” (Mainz, Germany).

13 Mar. 2004, “Is Jesus Alive?” American Oriental Society Conference (San Diego, CA).

8 Nov. 2003, “Jesus, the Qur’ān and the Day of Resurrection,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (Anchorage, AK).

8 Oct. 2003, “Occidentalism,” Centre Lebret Conference on the Dialogue of Civilizations (Beirut, Lebanon).

- 14 Jun. 2001, "The Problem of Evil: Muslim and Christian Perspectives," (in Arabic), The Iranian Cultural Center at the Lebanese University (Beirut, Lebanon).
- 5 Apr. 2001, "The Bible Seen through the Eyes of a Muslim Polemicist," Lecture Series, History Department, American University of Beirut (Beirut, Lebanon).
- 6 Feb. 2001, "Faith and Reason: the Conversions of Augustine and Ghazzâlî" (in Arabic), Institut des études islamo-chrétien, l'Université Saint Joseph (Beirut, Lebanon).
- 21 Nov. 1999, "The Splendid Refutation: A Medieval Muslim Christology," American Academy of Religion Annual Conference (Washington, DC).

### **Selected Media Appearances**

- 28 Jun 2007, Interview for *al-Safir* newspaper, Beirut (in Arabic).
- 4 May 2007, Guest for a one-hour long television program on inter-religious relations in Beirut, al-Hurra International Television (in Arabic).
- 2 Jun. 2006, Article on 25 Apr. 2006 lecture: "Interfaith lecture draws Christians and Muslims," *Catholic Chronicle*, 5.
- 16 Jul. 2005, Article on the Notre Dame conference, "Towards a New Reading of the Qur'ân?" *al-Hayat Newspaper* (London/Beirut, in Arabic), p. 16.
- 13 Apr. 2005, Interview on WCBS Radio (New York) on Islam and the Future of the Catholic Church.
- 27 Dec. 2004, Interview on National Public Radio ("Here and Now") on new theories of Qur'anic interpretation.
- Interviews on KDXU radio (Utah):
- 6 Sep. 2005, on recent Islamic fatwas regarding violence.
- 7 Mar. 2005, on political quietism in Shī'ī Islam.
- 7 Feb. 2005, on Islamic sexual ethics.
- 15 Dec. 2004, on Islamic modernism and fundamentalism.
- 31 Aug. 2004, on the Qur'ân.
- 22 Sep. 2004, Interview for the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation on Islamic militancy.
- 15 Sep. 2004, quoted in article, "...É doloroso que quase todos os terroristas sejam muçulmanos," *Veja* magazine (Brazil).
- 4 Aug. 2004, Quoted in article: N. Kristof, "Martyrs, Virgins and Grapes," *New York Times*.
- 25 May 2004, Interview on Radio Javan, Iranian Youth Radio (in Persian).
- 19 Jul. 2003, "The Clash of Civilizations and Western Views of Islam," one-hour interview (in Arabic) on al-Îrânî television (Iranian local and satellite government channel).
- 12 Jul. 2003, "Muslim-Christian Dialogue in the post-Cold War World," one-hour interview (in Arabic) on al-Ālam television (Iranian satellite channel).

### Activities

Co-Director, Orient-Institut der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft Conference, “Interpretation and Authority” (21 Apr. 2007).

Director, Notre Dame Conference “Towards a New Reading of the Qur’ân?” (2-4, Apr. 2005).

Co-Founder, Member, Beirut Circle for Qur’ânic Studies (Mar. 2001–Aug. 2005).

Co-Founder, Co-Director, Yale University “Islam and Modernity” Lunch Colloquium (Jan. 1999-May 2000, Sep. 2001-May 2003).

English as a Second Language Instructor, Arab American Family Support Center, Brooklyn, NY (Jun. 1994-Aug. 1996).

Cape Cod Marathon (Oct. 2001).

### Service

#### University of Notre Dame

Director, Qur’ân Reading Circle (Aug. 2006-Present)

Director, Masters of Theological Studies Program (Aug. 2008-Present)

Fellow, Medieval Institute

Residential Scholar (2005-Present)

Small Group Leader, First Year Students Orientation (2005, 2007)

Participant, Faculty Seminar on the Catholic Ideal of Liberal Learning (2005-6)

Theology Department Library Committee (2003-6)

Presenter, University Writing Center (April 28, 2006)

Presenter, Theology on Tap (October 5, 2005)

Theology Department Undergraduate Committee (2004-5)

Organizer and Presenter, First-Year Convocation (22 Sep. 2003)

### Academy

Member: American Oriental Society, Middle East Medievalists, Middle East Studies Association, Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies (Amman, Jordan), Orient-Institut der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft (Beirut, Lebanon).