

Curriculum Vitae__ Racha el Omari
Department of Religious Studies, 4001 HSSB, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106
Email: elomari@religion.ucsb.edu.

Current Position

Associate Professor of Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara (2013-present).

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara (2006-2013)

Education

2006 PhD Arabic-Islamic Studies. Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale University.

1998 MA Comparative Literature. Department of Comparative Literature, Princeton University.

1994 BA Comparative Literary Studies. Department of Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University.

Research Interests

History of early Islamic thought with focus on the Mu'tazila

Publications

Book

The Theology of Abū l-Qāsim al-Ka'bī/al-Balkhī (d. 319/931). Leiden: Brill, 2016.

Journal Article

"Accommodation and Resistance: Classical Mu'tazilites on *Ḥadīth*." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 72 (2012): 231–256.

Chapters in Peer-Edited Volumes

"Abu l-Qāsim al-Ka'bī/al-Balkhī's Doctrine of the *Imāma*." In *A Common Rationality: Mu'tazilism in Islam and Judaism*. Proceedings of the First Conference of the Mu'tazilite Manuscripts Group, edited by Camilla Adang, David Sklare, and Sabine Schmidtke, 39–57. Würzburg: Ergon, 2007.

"Ibn Taymiyya's Theology of the *Sunna* through His Polemics with the Ash'arites." In *Ibn Taymiyya and His Times*, *Proceedings of a Conference Held at Princeton University, 8–10 April 2005*, edited by Shahab Ahmad and Yossef Rapoport, 101–119. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

"*Kitāb al-Ḥayda*: The Historical Significance of an Apocryphal Text." In *Islamic Philosophy, Science, Culture and Religion: Studies in Honor of Dimitri Gutas*, edited by Felicitas Opwis and David C. Reisman, 419–451. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

"Mu'tazilite Movement: Origins." In *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology*, edited by Sabine Schmidtke, 130-141. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

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“Divine Justice: Abū l-Qāsim al-Balkhī/al-Ka‘bī’ (d. 319/931) *‘Uyūn al-masā’il wa-l-jawābāt,*” in *Māturīdī Theology: A Bilingual Reader*. Edited by Lejla Demiri, Philip Dorroll and Dale J. Correa (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022).

Encyclopedia Entries

“Ja‘far b. Mubashshir.” In *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*. Edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, Everett Rowson. Leiden: Brill, Online Edition [1, 759 words] First Online February 2022.

“Ja‘far b. Harb.” In *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*. Edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, Everett Rowson. Leiden: Brill, Online Edition [2, 058 words] First Online February 2022.

“Hishām al-Fuwaṭī.” In *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*. Edited by Kate Fleet, Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, Everett Rowson. Leiden: Brill, Online Edition. [830 words] First Online 2016.

“Theology.” In *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, edited by Gerhard Böwering et al, 65-66. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012.

“Beatific Vision.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*, edited by John L. Esposito, vol. 1: 331–332. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

“Mu‘tazilites.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*, edited by John L. Esposito, vol. 4: 199–200. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Fellowships and Grants

2020 Regents’ Humanities Faculty Fellowship for Summer Salary

2015 (Trinity Term): Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.

2014-2015: Friends of the Princeton Library Research Grant

2010–2011: Hellman Faculty Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara.

2011: Faculty Senate Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara.

2010: Faculty Career Development Award, University of California, Santa Barbara. 2009–2010: Faculty Senate Grant, University of California, Santa Barbara.

2008: Interdisciplinary Humanities Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara (Individual Research Grant).

2008: Interdisciplinary Humanities Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara (One Course Teaching Release).

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2008: Hellman Faculty Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara.

2004–2005: Yale Dissertation Fellowship.

Fall 2003: Beinecke Library Fellowship

1999-2002: Yale University Fellowship

Summer 2001: Yale University NELC Department Funding

Summer 2000: Yale University John Perry Miller Summer Language Grant

1995-1998: Princeton University Fellowship

Select Talks

“Animals in Mu‘tazilī Accounts of the ‘Attribute of Life’”: A Preliminary Assessment.” *Animals in Greek, Arabic and Latin Philosophy. (Final Conference of the ERC Funded Project Animals in Philosophy of the Islamic World)*. Organizer: Peter Adamson. Munich School of Ancient Philosophy, May 2023.

“Al-Balkhī (al-Ka‘bī’s) (d. 319/931) Doctrine of Nature in Light of a Chapter of ‘*Uyūn al-Masā’il wal-l-jawābāt*”.

American Oriental Society, March 2023.

“A Textual History of Kitāb al-Ḥayda.” American Oriental Society, March 2021 (Held Virtually).

“God’s Capacity to Do Evil Acts: A Diachronic Look at a Mu‘tazilī Precept.” American Oriental Society, March 2018.

“*Kitāb al-Ḥayda* and Early Ḥanbalī Creeds.” University of California Los Angeles, April 2016.

“Ḥanbalī Kalām and the Case of Pseudepigraphy.” Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, June 2015.

“The Role of Cosmology in the Baghdādī Mu‘tazilite School.” American Oriental Society, March 2010.

“The Baghdādī School and the Limits of Mu‘tazilite Traditionalism.” American Oriental Society, March 2009.

“Al-Rummānī and the Mu‘tazilite Grammarians of the Fourth Century.” American Oriental Society, March 2008.

“The Place and Function of *Ḥadīth* in the Classical Baṣran Mu‘tazilite School.” American Academy of Religion, November 2007.

“The Mu‘tazilites in al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī’s *Ta’rīkh Baghdād*.” Middle East Studies Association, November 2006.

“Abū l-Qāsim al-Ka‘bī/al-Balkhī’s Doctrine on the *Imāma*,” Mu‘tazila Workshop at the German Oriental Institute. Organized by Sabine Schmidkte and David Sklare. Istanbul, Turkey, July 2005.

“Ibn Taimīya on Abū l-Ḥasan al-Aṣ‘arī: A Case Study in his Polemics with later Aṣ‘arites.” Ibn Taimīya and His Times Conference. Princeton University, April 2005.

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“Abū l-Qāsim al-Balḥī/al-Ka‘bī’s Doctrine on Human Knowledge” American Oriental Society, March 18, 2005.

“A Mu‘tazilite Refutation of *Isnād* Criticism: The *Qabūl al-aḥbār wa ma‘rifat al-riḡāl* of Abū l-Qāsim al-Balḥī/al-Ka‘bī (d. 319/931)” American Oriental Society, April 2004.

“The Students of Abū l-Ḥasan al-Aš‘arī.” Yale University. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Roundtable, April 2003.

“*Kitāb al-Ḥaida*: the Question of its Authenticity.” Yale University: Textual Effects: Graduate Student Medieval Studies Conference. October 2002.

“Al-Qādī ‘Abd al-Ġabbār and al-Ṣāḥib b. ‘Abbād: A Case study on the Loyalty of a Judge” Yale University. Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Roundtable. October, 2001