

# Islamic Philosophy Conference

April 20<sup>th</sup> – April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Harvard University

Saturday, April 20th, 2019 (All panels are in  
Harvard Hall Room 102 unless otherwise noted)

## 9:00 am - 9:15 am | Opening Remarks

Dr. Macksood Aftab, Michigan State University College of Human  
Medicine Aaron Spevack, Harvard University (Conference Organizer)

## 9:15 am - 10:30 am | First Session

Walter Edward Young, McGill University, Canada | *On the Logical Machinery of  
Post-Classical Dialectic: The Kitāb ‘Ayn al-Nazar of Shams al-Dīn al-Samarqandī (d.  
722/1322)*

Mehmet Arslan, Harvard University, USA / Istanbul University,  
Turkey | *Mir Damad’s Criticism of Ashari’s Estimative Time*

Mehmet Bulgen, Marmara University Faculty of Divinity,  
Turkey | *Imām al-Haramayn al-Juwaynī and Atomism*

## 10:30 am - 11:45 am | Second Session

Ismail Lala, Independent Scholar | *Teleological Suspension of the Ethical, Spiritual  
Suspension of the Rational, and Imaginative Suspension of the Literal*

Ahmed El-Sayed Abdel Meguid, Syracuse University, USA | *Ibn al-‘Arabī’s  
Philosophical Sufism and the Post-Avicenna Development of Islamic Modal  
Epistemology: Re-Conceptualizing his Concept of Thingness and the One-Many  
Problem*

Rebecca Makas, Villanova University, USA | *Witnessing Ultimate Reality: Suhrawardī, Vision, and the Question of Unmediated Experience*

**11:45 am - 12:45 pm | Lunch**  
**Break** Details to be announced

**12:45 pm - 2:00 pm | Third**  
**Session**

Alnoor Dhanani, Independent Scholar, USA | *Antecedents to Galileo? Motion in a Void in Islamic Natural Philosophy*

Pouyan Shahidi, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA | *The explanation and the use of a natural phenomenon across disciplines: The lunar spots and the sciences in Islam*

Said El Bousklaoui, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi | *Ultimate End of Human Will in Ibn Bājja's Philosophy*

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\*\*\*PARALLEL SESSIONS\*\*\*

**2:00 pm - 3:15 pm | Fourth Session (A) Room**  
**102**

Kamal Shlbei, Duquesne University | *Mulla Sadra on Metaphysical Essentialism: The Unfolding of Existence and the Concealment of Essence.*

Seyed Amir Hossein Asghari, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA | *An Outline of the Maktab-i Tafkīk and Their Opponents in Contemporary Shī'ī Seminary*

S. Zahra Moballegh, Harvard University, USA / Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies, Iran | *Uncovering God, the Narrator*

**2:00 pm - 3:15 pm | Fourth Session (B) Room**

Russell Hopley, Independent Scholar | *Casting Doubt on the Philosopher's Stone: Alchemy and Its Critics in Medieval and Early Modern North Africa*

İshak Arslan, Istanbul Sehir University Department of Philosophy,  
Turkey | *Ibn Rushd's Physical Theory: A Turning Point or An  
Aristotelian Revision*

Serdar Kurnaz Speaker, Academy of World Religions, University of  
Hamburg | *The influence of atomism in Islamic theology (kalām) on the  
formation of Islamic law (fiqh)*

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page)

\*\*\*PARALLEL SESSIONS\*\*\*

**3:15 pm - 4:30 pm | Fifth Session (A) Room  
102**

Daniel Watling, University of Chicago, USA | *Ḥayy's Two  
Nativities: Ismā'īlī Ta'wīl in Ibn Ṭufayl's Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān*

Mashhad Al Allaf, American University of Ras Al Khaimah,  
UAE | *Critique of Kant's Antinomies, Islamic Perspectives*

Abdulrahman Bajodah, Central European University, Hungary | *Ikhwan al-Safa's  
Prudent Paideia: An Example of Intercultural Receptivity in 10<sup>th</sup> Century Iraq*

**3:15 pm – 4:30 pm | Fifth Session (B) Room  
103**

Jawad Qureshi , Zaytuna College, USA | *Countering Reform: Sunni  
Traditionalism against Modernist Salafis on Law and Ethics*

Hajara Shareef , Independent Scholar | *Secularization in Tariq*

*Ramadan's Maqasid Reform Methodology: Does It Matter?*

Sobia Tahir, Government College University Lahore, Pakistan | *Hassan Hanafi's Interpretation of Qur'an through Phenomenological Hermeneutics: An Analysis*

**4:30 pm – 6:00 pm | Sixth Session (Room 102):**

**Panel: Avicenna, ibn 'Arabi, and Post-Avicennian Metaphysics**

Nathan Spannaus, University of Jyväskylä, Finland *The Shifting Nature of Contingency in Post-classical Persianate Kalam*

Kutlu Okan, University of Jyväskylä, Finland | *Ibn al-'Arabī on Divine Knowledge of Particulars*

Bilal Ibrahim, \*\*\* | *Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī on Being and Meaning: A Preliminary Analysis*

Emaan Allebban, \*\*\* | *Avicenna's Proof for the Necessary Existent and Causation*

\*\*\*6:30 PM Dinner (Details forthcoming)\*\*\*

**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>,**

**2019** Harvard Hall, Room 102

**9:15 am – 10:30 am | First Session**

Irem Kurt, University of Osnabrück, Germany | *The Transformation of ethical terms to physical parameters of goodness and badness: the terms khabīth and ṭayyib and their effects on the halal food discourse*

Nihal Khan, Hartford Seminary / Harvard University, USA  
| *Tracing Hanafi Theology: The Murji'ite Doctrine in*

*Transoxiana*

Khairul Anam Che Mentri, University of Malaya,  
Malaysia | *Avicenna's Metaphysical Realism*

**10:30 am – 11:45 am | Second  
Session**

**Panel: Intersections of Philosophy and Theology in Shī'ī Thought: Revelation,  
Resurrection, and Tawḥīd**

Khalil Andani, Harvard University, USA | *A Neoplatonic  
Qur'ān: Revelation According to Abū Ya'qūb al-Sijistānī*

Aaron Viengkhou, Harvard University, USA  
| *Tawḥīd Divided*

Syed Zaidi, Emory University, USA | *Neoplatonic Resurrections: The Brethren of Purity's  
(Ikhwān al-Ṣafā') Conception of Resurrection and the Last Day*

**11:45 am – 12:30 pm | Lunch  
Break Details to be announced**

**12:30 pm – 1:45 pm | Third  
Session**

Abbas Ahsan, University of Birmingham, UK  
| *The Paradox of an Absolute Ineffable God of  
Islam*

Hureyre Kam, Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main,  
Germany | *al-Māturīdī's Dual Epistemology*

Alaa Awad Osman, Omdurman Islamic University, Sudan | *Proofs  
of Prophecy: Emergence, Evolution, and Effect of Theological  
Background*

**1:45 pm – 3 pm | Fourth  
Session**

**Panel: Being in Three Ways: Metaphysics and Epistemology in Medieval Islamic Thought**

Giovanni Carrera, McGill University/Harvard University,  
Canada/USA | *Possible Concepts and Possible Beings: Al-Jurjānī on  
Mental Perception*

Paul Gerard Anderson, Harvard University, USA | *Out of Mind, Out of Sight? Considering the  
Epistemological Contributions of Shams al-Dīn al-Shahrazūrī to the Illuminationist School*

Arezu Riahi, Harvard University, USA | *The Evolution of Mental Existence: Nafs  
al-amr and Knowledge in the Commentaries on Tūsī's Tajrīd*

**3pm | Closing Remarks** Aaron Spevack, Harvard University,  
USA (Conference Organizer)