

## Nathan Hofer, Ph.D.

Department of Religious Studies  
221G Arts and Science Building  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211  
(404) 819-0857  
[hofer@missouri.edu](mailto:hofer@missouri.edu)

### EMPLOYMENT

---

- Assistant Professor of Islam, University of Missouri, 2011 – present.
  - Creator and Director of the minor in Middle East Studies, 2015 – present.
- Instructor, Dillard University, 2010 – 2011.
- Instructor, Emory University, 2006 – 2007, 2009 – 2010.

### EDUCATION

---

- Ph.D., Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University, 2011.
- Fellow, Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), Damascus, Syria, 2007-2008.
- M.A., Jewish Studies, Emory University, 2005.
- B.A. *summa cum laude*, Religious Studies, Arizona State University, 2003.

### LANGUAGES

---

- Arabic (medieval, modern [MSA], and Syrian dialect).
- Hebrew (biblical, medieval, and modern).
- Reading competence in Judeo-Arabic, Aramaic, French, German.

### PUBLICATIONS

---

- MONOGRAPHS
  - *The Popularisation of Sufism in Ayyubid and Early Mamluk Egypt, 1173-1325*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2015.
    - Reviewed by Emil Homerin in *Journal of Sufi Studies* 5 (2016): 99–114.
    - Reviewed by Yossef Rapoport in *Ilahiyat Studies* 7 (2016): 306–308.
    - Reviewed by Adam Sabra in *Journal of Islamic Studies* 28 (2017): 235–237.
    - Reviewed by Éric Geoffroy in *Bulletin critique des Annales Islamologiques* 31 (2016): 25.

- PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- “The Ideology of Decline and the Jews of Ayyubid and Mamluk Syria.” In *Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Middle Islamic Period: Jews in the Ayyubid and Mamluk Sultanates (1171-1517)*, ed. Stephan Conermann. Göttingen: V&R Unipress, Bonn University Press, 2018: 95-120.
- “Sufism in Fatimid Egypt and the Problem of Historiographical Inertia.” *Journal of Islamic Studies* 28.1 (2017): 28-67.
- “Dogs and Sufis in Medieval Egypt.” In *Our Dogs, Our Selves: Dogs in Medieval and Renaissance Society*, ed. Laura Gelfand. Leiden: Brill, 2016: 78–93.
- “Training the Prophetic Self: *adab* and *riyāḍa* in Jewish Sufism.” In *Éthique et spiritualité en Islam: l’adab soufi*, eds. Francesco Chiabotti, Eve Feuillebois-Pierunek, Catherine Mayeur-Jaouen, and Luca Patrizi. Leiden: Brill, 2016: 325–355.
- “The Origins and Development of the Office of the ‘Chief Sufi’ in Egypt, 1173-1325.” *Journal of Sufi Studies* 3 (2014): 1–37.
- “Scriptural Substitutions and Anonymous Citations: Judaization as Rhetorical Strategy in a Jewish Sufi Text.” *Numen* 61 (2014): 364–395.
- “Mythical Identity Construction in Medieval Egyptian Sufism.” In *Les Mystiques juives, chrétiennes et musulmanes dans le Proche-Orient médiéval, VIIe-XVIe siècles: interculturalités et contextes historiques*, ed. G. Cecere, M. Loubet, S. Pagani, A. Rigo. Cairo: Institut français d’archéologie orientale, 2013: 393–422.
- “Abraham Abulafia’s Mystical Reading of Maimonides’ *Guide for the Perplexed*.” *Numen* 60 (2013): 1–29.

- ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- “Ibn al-Mulaqqin.” *Encyclopaedia of Islam, THREE* [forthcoming].
- “Brotherhoods.” *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, ed. Gerhard Böwering et. al. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012: 74–77.
- “Shaykh/Pir.” *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, ed. Gerhard Böwering et. al. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012: 508–509.
- “Kabbalah.” *The Multimedia Encyclopedia of Women in Today’s World*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., edited by Mary Zeiss Stange, Carol K. Oyster and Jane E. Sloan. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2013: 1002–1006.

- BOOK REVIEWS

- Feryal Salem, *The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunnī Scholasticism: ‘Abdallah b. al-Mubārak and the Formation of Sunnī Identity in the Second Islamic Century*. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

In <http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/identity-commentary-sufi-tradition/>

- Aaron Hughes, *Islam and the Tyranny of Authenticity: An Inquiry into Disciplinary Apologetics*. Bristol, CT and Sheffield, UK: Equinox, 2015. In: *Religion* (2017).
- Elisha Russ-Fishbane, *Judaism, Sufism, and the Pietists of Medieval Egypt: A Study of Abraham Maimonides and His Times*. Oxford University Press, 2015. In: *Religion* (2017).
- Lloyd Ridgeon (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Sufism*. Cambridge University Press, 2015. In: *Journal of Sufi Studies* 5.1 (2016): 108–114.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

- MONOGRAPHS

- *The Mirror of Time: Essays on Sufi Biography* [in preparation, four of five projected chapters drafted].
- *The Miraculous Lives of Muslims in the Middle Ages* [in the early stages of research].

- ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Medieval Sufi *khalwa*: A Material and Social Approach” [nearly complete, preparing to submit to the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*].
- “Subaltern (Jewish) Sufism and Bourgeois Scholarship: A Plea for Creativity” [in preparation for a special issue of *Mizan: Journal for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations*].
- “*Baraka* and Commodity Fetishism: A Study in Mamluk Political Economy” [in preparation for submission to the *Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient*].
- “Sufi Outpost: *ribāṭ*” [chapter in preparation for the *Handbook of Sufi Studies*, ed. Alexandre Papas].
- “The Creation and Institutionalization of the Sufi Landscape in Upper Egypt” [chapter in preparation for *Saintly Spheres and Islamic Landscapes*, eds. Daphna Ephrat, Ethel Sara Wolper, and Paulo Pinto].
- “The *khānqāh* and the Institutionalization and Organization of Sufism.” [chapter in early stages for the *Routledge Handbook of Sufism*, ed. Lloyd Ridgeon].

- OTHER

- I am preparing a critical edition of Ibn Nūḥ al-Qūṣī (d. 708/1308), *al-Waḥīd fī sulūk ahl al-tawḥīd*, a manual-cum-prosopography of Sufism and Sufis in Upper Egypt. I have completed transcribing MS Sayyida Zaynab #3182 (Cairo). Next I will obtain and use the other two complete manuscripts, from the Dār al-Kutub (Cairo) and the Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris),

to prepare an eclectic edition of the text.

- Working with Professor Laury Silvers at the University of Toronto, I am in the early stages of preparing a translation and detailed study of representations of Sufi women in Arabic hagiographical-prosopographical texts from the tenth–sixteenth centuries CE. This project surveys what we know to date about these women, provides a critical appraisal of their contribution to the tradition, maps the shifting contours of the hagiographical tradition as it intersects with the growing tradition of women’s history in Arabic, and will contain English translations of all known prosopographical entries devoted to Sufi women between the tenth–sixteenth centuries CE.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

---

- Research Council International Travel Grant, University of Missouri-Columbia, May 2017 (\$1,834).
- Kluge Postdoctoral Fellowship, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress, Washington D. C., Sep. 2014 – Jan. 2015 (\$21,000).
- Research Council Leave Grant, University of Missouri–Columbia, AY 2014 – 2015.
- Research Board Grant, University of Missouri System, AY 2014 – 2015 (\$13,000).
- Research Council Grant, University of Missouri–Columbia, AY 2014 – 2015 (\$7,460).
- Research Council Grant, University of Missouri–Columbia, 2012 (\$5,180).
- Summer Research Fellowship, University of Missouri–Columbia, 2012 (\$7,000).
- Bruce D. Craig Prize, Best Dissertation Related to the Mamluk Sultanate, *Mamlūk Studies Review*.
- Mellon Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Dillard University, 2010 – 2011 (\$22,000).
- Dissertation Grant, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, 2010 – 2011 (\$10,000).
- Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2010 (Finalist).
- Center for Arabic Study Abroad Fellowship, Damascus, 2007 – 2008.
- David R. Blumenthal Award, Emory University, Best Ph.D. Paper, Spring, 2007: “On Donkeys and Greed, An Edition and Study of an Unpublished Judeo-Arabic Letter from the Cairo Geniza.”

## COURSES TAUGHT

---

- University of Missouri (undergraduate courses)
  - Religious History of the Middle East I and II (a two-semester sequence)
  - Islam and the Myth of Religious Violence
  - Advanced Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion
  - Introduction to the Qur’ān
  - Islam

- Topics in Arabic Literature (taught as ARAB 2005)
- Judaism
- History of Jewish and Islamic Exegetical Traditions
- Islamophobia
- Islam in America
  
- University of Missouri (graduate seminars)
  - Theory and Method in the Study of Religion
  - Heresy in Comparative Perspective
  - History of Islamic Mystical Traditions
  - Political Islam
  - Women, Gender, and Islam
  
- Dillard University
  - World Religions
  - Introduction to Islam
  
- Emory University
  - Arabic 101
  - Arabic 102
  - Arabic 201
  
- Emory University – Candler School of Theology
  - Introduction to Islam

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

- “Mamluk Biographical Dictionaries as Expressions of Class Consciousness.” Fourth Annual School of Mamluk Studies, Beirut, Lebanon. 11 May 2017.
- “Shahab Ahmed’s *What is Islam?*” Roundtable Discussion. American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX. 19 November 2016.
- “Teaching, Learning, and Researching Judaic Studies in the Midwest: Challenges and Opportunities.” Midwest Jewish Studies Association, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO. 11 September 2016.
- “Baraka and Commodity Fetishism: A Study in Mamlūk Political Economy.” Third Annual School of Mamluk Studies, Chicago, IL. 23 June 2016.
- “The Many Lives of Abū l-Fatḥ al-Wāsiṭī.” The American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. 16 April 2016.
- “The Popularization of Islamic Mysticism in Medieval Egypt.” The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC. 15 January 2015.

- “The Material and Social Nature of Medieval Sufi *khalwa*.” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA. 24 November 2014.
- “Jewish ‘Decline’ – A Case Study of Ayyubid and Mamluk Syria.” Muslim-Jewish Relations in the Middle Ages: Jews in the Ayyubid and Mamluk Periods (1171-1517). International Conference, Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, Bonn, Germany. 30 October 2014.
- “Abū l-Ḥasan al-Shādhilī and the Institutionalization of Sufi Identity.” Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, LA. 13 October 2013.
- “Whoever Resembles a Community is From that Community: Medieval Jews and Muslims as Communities of Practice.” Religious Negotiations at the Boundaries: A Workshop at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. 23 February 2013.
- “Training the Prophetic Self: *adab* and *riyāḍa* in Jewish Sufism.” Colloque Internationale: Éthique et spiritualité en Islam: l’adab soufi, Paris, France. 30 December 2012.
- “Portraits in Palimpsest: Finding the Sufis of Fatimid Egypt.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 17 November 2012.
- “The Production and Popularization of Sufi Culture in Medieval Cairo.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 17 November 2012.
- “The Popularization of Sufism in Medieval Cairo.” Medieval Academy of America, St. Louis, MO. 24 March 2012.
- “Scriptural Substitution as Political Strategy in a Jewish Sufi Text.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 21 November 2011.
- “Medieval Jewish Sufi Appropriations of Islamic Texts.” The Mid-Missouri Colloquium on Religious Studies “T-Society,” Columbia, MO. 4 November 2011.
- “Unruly Sufis in Upper Egypt.” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Louisville, KY. 5 March 2011.
- “How ‘Sufi’ were the Jewish Sufis?” Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA. 21 December 2010.
- “The Jewish Sufis in Their Egyptian Social Context.” *Mystiques juives, chrétiennes et musulmanes dans l’Égypte médiévale: phénomènes interreligieux et contextes historiques*, Institut Français. Cairo, Egypt. 22 November 2010.
- “The Sacred Becomes Profane: Political Sufis in Medieval Cairo.” The Banality of Religion: Graduate Student Conference in Religious Studies, Stanford University, CA. 22 May 2010.
- “Jewish Sufis in their Egyptian Context.” Jewish Studies Seminar Series, Emory University, GA. 12 February 2010.
- “Intention and Hypocrisy in Three ‘Sufis:’ al-Muḥāsibī, al-Makkī, and Baḥyā ibn Paqūda.” Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, GA. 23 February 2007.

## INVITED PANELS and LECTURES

---

- PANELS

- Moderator: "A Time to Listen: Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and the Mizzou Community. A Town Hall Forum." University of Missouri, Columbia, 14 March 2017.
- Panelist: "Citizenship@Mizzou: A Taste of Things to Come." University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. 20 July; 17, 18, 19 August; 2 October 2016; 17, 22, 30 January 2017.
- Moderator: Suhaib Webb Keynote Event for Islamic Awareness Week. University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. 15 March 2016.
- Panelist: "Religious Diversity in Higher Education." Central Methodist University, Fayette, MO. 29 January 2016.
- Panelist: "Diversity@Mizzou: A Taste of Things to Come." University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. 15, 19, and 21 January 2016.
- Panelist: "The Future of Faith: Religion in a Postmodern World," A Conversation with Phyllis Tickle. University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. 14 March 2014.
- Moderator: Muslim Student Organization panel discussion on interfaith marriage. University of Missouri, 28 April 2011.
- Panelist: McDavid Hall Diversity Night on Islam, University of Missouri, 20 October 2011.

- LECTURES

- "Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and Xenophobia," Know More, Do More lecture series for MU Staff, sponsored by the Inclusion Collective in the Division of Student Affairs. 12 April 2017.
- "American Muslims, Real and Imagined, from Thomas Jefferson to Ben Carson," Introduction to Religion, University of Missouri. 10 November 2016.
- "Subsidized Diversity and the Cultural Explosion in Medieval Egypt and Syria," Research Discussion Series organized by the College of Education, University of Missouri. 1 September 2016.
- "Revolutionary Islam," Speaking of Culture Lecture Series, organized by the University of Missouri Honor's College. Columbia, MO. 13 March 2016.
- "Muslim Perspectives on the Crusades." University of Missouri Honor's College Humanities Sequence. 12 February 2016.
- "Origins of Shi'ī-Sunnī Divide," Missouri United Methodist Church, Columbia, MO. 10 August 2014.
- "The Origins of Islam," Missouri Scholars Academy, Columbia, MO. 16 June 2014.
- "Religious Intolerance," University of Missouri-Columbia Graduate School of Social Work. 14

April 2014.

- “The Crusades: Muslim Perspectives,” University of Missouri Honor’s College Humanities Sequence. 14 February 2014.
- “The “District 9” of Medieval Egypt? Sufi Immigration in Alexandria,” University of Missouri, Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative: Diversity in Action. 12 February 2014.
- “Hijab,” University of Missouri-Columbia. 6 November 2013.
- “Religious Intolerance,” University of Missouri-Columbia Graduate School of Social Work. 5 November 2013.
- “Shari‘a Law and The Concept of Jahiliyya,” Introduction to Religion, Department of Religious Studies, University of Missouri-Columbia. 29 October 2013.
- “Introduction to Islam,” University of Missouri-Columbia Freshman Interest Group. 21 October 2013.
- “Islamophobia,” William Woods University. 29 April 2013.
- “Medieval Islamic Studies,” Medieval Reading Hour, The University of Missouri Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. 25 April 2013.
- “Religious and Scientific Knowledge in Early Islam,” Chautauqua Society of Mid-Missouri. 22 April 2013.
- “Islamophobia, The New Atheism, and the Politics of Tolerance,” The University of Missouri Dialogue Club. 16 April 2013.
- “Shari‘a, A Threat to America?” University of Missouri-Columbia. 23 October 2012.
- “Islamic Thought and Philosophy.” The Honors College Humanities Sequence, University of Missouri-Columbia. 6 February 2012.
- “Introduction to the Qur’an.” The Honors College Humanities Sequence, University of Missouri-Columbia. 1 February 2012.
- “Shari‘a Law.” Introduction to Religion, Department of Religious Studies, University of Missouri-Columbia. 9 November 2011.
- “Judaism, Islam, and Trade in the Medieval Middle East according to the Cairo Genizah.” Invited lecture for the University of Missouri-Columbia Honor’s College. 19 September 2011.
- “Jewish Sufis.” Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Emory University, GA. 18 November 2009.
- “Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Mysticism.” Introduction to Western Religious Traditions, Emory University, GA. 7 April 2006.
- “The Emergence of Medieval Kabbalah.” Medieval Jewish History, Emory University, GA. March 2005.



## SERVICE

---

- DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
  - Lecture Committee, 2016 – present.
  - MA Qualifying Exams Committee, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016.
  - Editor, *Communique*, Newsletter of the University of Missouri Department of Religious Studies, 2011 – present.
  - Organizer, MU Religious Studies Department Faculty Colloquium, 2013 – 2014.
  
- COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
  - Creator and Director, Middle East Studies Minor, 2015 – present.
  - Diversity Intensive Requirement Curriculum Committee, 2016 – present.
  - Curriculum, Instruction, Advising Committee, 2015 – 2017.
  - Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MARS) Executive Committee, 2013 – 2014, 2015 – 2016.
  - Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, 2012 – 2014.
  
- UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA
  - Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Advisory Group, University of Missouri, 2016 – present.
  - Diversity/Citizenship@Mizzou Initiative, University of Missouri, 2015 – present.
  - Student Conduct Committee, University of Missouri, 2015 – present.
  - Traffic Appeals Committee, University of Missouri, 2012 – 2016.
  
- PROFESSION
  - Chair, committee for the 2014 Bruce D. Craig Prize for Mamluk Studies.
  - External reviewer for post-doctoral fellowship for The Research Foundation, Flanders, Belgium.
  - Reviewer for Yale University Press' "World Thought in Translation Series."
  - Peer reviewer for the *Journal of Sufi Studies*; *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*; *Bulletin of School of Oriental and African Studies*; *Journal of 'Abbasid Studies*; and *Mathal: Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Multidisciplinary Studies*.
  - Panel Organizer: "Rethinking the Consolidation of Sufi Traditions in the Medieval and Early Modern Period." Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, LA. 13 October 2013.

- Administrator of Arabic 1001 final exam, Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia, May, 2009, and December, 2009.

## GRADUATE SUPERVISION

---

- PhD dissertation committee member, Nabil al-Awawdeh, MU Department of Romance Language and Literatures, 2017 – present.
- PhD dissertation committee member, Katie McGinnis, MU Department of English, 2017 – present.
- PhD dissertation committee member, Neriman Kuyucu, MU Department of English, 2017 – present.
- MA thesis committee member, Haley Reed, MU School of Journalism, 2017 – present.
- PhD dissertation committee member, Medhy Hidayat, MU Department of Sociology, Defended Fall 2016.
- PhD comprehensive exam committee member, Medhy Hidayat, MU Department of Sociology, Defended Spring 2015.
- MA thesis committee member, Svyatoslav Puyat, MU Department of History, Defended Spring 2015.
- MA thesis committee member, Kholood Eid, MU School of Journalism, Defended Spring 2015.
- MA thesis committee member, Colin McMillin, MU Department of Religious Studies, Defended Spring 2015.
- MA portfolio committee member, Jesca Scaevola, MU Department of Religious Studies, Defended Fall 2014.
- MA thesis committee member, Josephine Butler, MU Department of Religious Studies, Defended Fall 2012.

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

---

- North American Association for the Study of Religion, 2013 – Present.
- Middle East Studies Association, 2012 – Present.
- Association for Jewish Studies, 2011 – Present.
- American Academy of Religion, 2005 – Present.