

# HAMZA M. ZAFER

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## APPOINTMENTS

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- 2020-Present Associate Professor, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of Washington  
Affiliate Faculty in History and African Studies  
Faculty in Jewish Studies
- 2021-2022 Katz Fellow in Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2021 Summer Visiting Associate Professor in Classics, Princeton University
- 2014-2020 Assistant Professor in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington

## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D. Cornell University, 2014. (Near Eastern Studies)  
Thesis: *The Ummah Pericope: Rhetoric and Representation in Qur'anic Communalism*
- M.A. Cornell University, 2011. (Near Eastern Studies)
- B.A. Binghamton University SUNY, 2008. (Middle Eastern Studies and Linguistics)

## BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES

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- The Matriarchs of Medina and the Early Muslim Elites.* (In Progress)
- The Comrades of the Ship: An African History of Early Islam* (In Progress)
- Ecumenical Community: Language and Politics of the Ummah in the Qur'an.* Leiden: Brill, 2020.
- His Pen and Ink Are a Powerful Mirror: Andalusī and Other Near Eastern Studies in Honor of Ross Brann on His 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*  
Co-edited with Adam Bursi (Utrecht) and S.J. Pearce (NYU). Leiden, Brill: 2020.
- The Qur'an Seminar: A Collaborative Study of 50 Select Passages.* Co-edited with Gabriel Reynolds (Notre Dame) and Mehdi Azaiez (Leuven). Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016.

## ACADEMIC ARTICLES

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- "The Ethiopic Qur'an in the Polemic of Enbaqom (d. 1565)" *The Literary Qur'an*, ed. Shawkat Toorawa, Edinburgh University Press. (Forthcoming, 2024)
- "The Abyssinian Emigres and the Early Muslim Elites" *The Qur'an and Ethiopia: Context and Reception*, ed. Aaron Butts at the Institute of Advanced Study. (Forthcoming, 2023)
- "Early Muslim Documents on the Ummah" *Anthology on Toleration*, ed. Karen Barkey at UC Berkeley, (Forthcoming, 2023)
- "Ṣafīyyah bt Huyayy and the Fall of Khaybar." (In Progress at Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Will submit to *Association of Jewish Studies Review*, 2023).
- "Adversarial Clansmen in Qur'anic Narrative and Early Muslim Antipatrimonialism." *Scripts and Scriptures: Language and Religion in Arabia, ca. 500-700*, Fred Donner (ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Oriental Institute, 2021.

“Transformations in Early Muslim Prophetology: From Typology to Teleology in Narratives of Jonah and the Ninevites.”  
*Journal of Qur’ānic Studies* 22:1, pp. 1-32 (2020).

## TRANSLATIONS

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“Found in Translation.” *Association of Jewish Studies’ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue* (Fall 2018): p. 36.

“Translating Verse through Brushstrokes.” *Islamic Horizons*. Chicago: Islamic Society of North America, 2018. pp. 53-54.

*The Gateway of Faith (Anqasha Amīn) of Enbaqom (d. 1565): An Annotated Translation with Critical Commentary*. (In Progress) (Ge’ez to English)

*Herimé Zoraver: Peyghember aur Khevātīn* (In Progress) (An Urdu Introduction and Translation of Fatima Mernissi, *Le Harem Politique: Le Prophete et les Femmes* (Albin Michel, 1987).

*The Book of Idols (Kitāb al-ʿAṣnām) of Ibn Al-Kalbi (d.): An Edition and Annotation with Critical Commentary*. Seattle: Ouroboros Press, 2021. (Forthcoming) (Arabic to English)

## REVIEWS

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“On the Origins of Caliphates: Review of Steven Judd’s *Religious Scholars and the Umayyads*.” *Marginalia: Los Angeles Review of Books*. London: Routledge, 2015.

Review of Shady Hekmat Nasser, *The Transmission of the Variant Readings of the Qur’ān: The Problem of Tawātur and the Emergence of Shawādh* in *Review of Qur’ānic Research* 1.9 (2015).

## LANGUAGES

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Advanced Classical	Arabic, Ethiopic, Aramaic, and Hebrew
Proficient Classical	Persian and Syriac
Advanced Modern	Urdu and French
Intermediate Modern	Pashto, Sindhi and Hebrew
Reading Knowledge	Harla, Sabaic, and Grabar (Classical Armenian)

## ACADEMIC GRANTS

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2021-2022	Katz Fellowship in Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
2020	Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Research Grant
2020	The Middle East Center Curriculum Development Grant, Univ. of Washington
2019-2020	Simpson Center for the Humanities Grant: The Horn of Africa Initiative, University of Washington
2012-2013	The Mellon-Sawyer Qur’ān Seminar Doctoral Fellowship, University of Notre Dame.
2011-2012	The Buttrick-Crippin Graduate Student Fellowship, Cornell University.
2009-2012	Sage Doctoral Grant, Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University.

## PUBLIC SERVICE GRANTS

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2020-2021	University of Washington Population Health Initiative Pilot Research Grant: Female Community Health Workers (Marwo Caafimaad) Program to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Puntland, Somalia.
2018-2019	Islamic Trauma Healing Program by the Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress – Victims of Rape and Sexual Abuse, Refugee Camps in Djibouti, University of Washington.

## UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTION (Selection)

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Lectures	Introduction to Islamic History (610-1258) History of the Arabs (500-1500) Medieval Muslim Societies: Syria and Iraq Arabia, Africa, and the Rise of Islam
Seminars	Women in Medieval Islam Jews in Muslim Contexts, Muslims in Jewish Contexts Muslim Scripture, Historiography, and Exegesis Readings in Classical Arabic Literature

## PANELS ORGANIZED

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2014	"Gender in Qur'anic Narrative" at International Quranic Studies Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.
2014	"Sexual and Gender Diversity in Qur'anic Jurisprudence" at Annual LGBTQ Muslim Retreat, Philadelphia, PA.

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (Selection)

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2022	"Arabian Judaism and Early Islam." The Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, Univ. of Washington
2022	"Quranic Law and the Red Sea Wars." The LEAP Seminar, Katz Center, Univ. of Pennsylvania.
2021	"Early Muslim Accounts of Abyssinia." The Ethiopian Studies Workshop
2021	"The Emigration of Ramlā bt. Abi Sufyan." Near Eastern Studies Colloquium, Princeton University
2021	"The 7 <sup>th</sup> century Red Sea Economy and the Quran." Oberseminar, University of Tübingen, Germany.
2021	"Supra-Sectarianism in the Quran." Toleration in Comparative Perspective, The Center for Democracy, Toleration and Religion, Berkeley University.
2021	"Surplus in the Qur'an's Communitarian Rhetoric," ASMEA Conference
2019	"The Rainwater Metaphor in Qur'anic Passages." International Qur'anic Studies Association, Tangiers, Morocco.
2018	Invited: "Abraham Breaking Azar's Idols in the Qur'an and the Sira." Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar, University of Zürich, Switzerland.
2018	Seminar on the Supernatural in Jewish History and Culture. Katz Center / Hebrew University Graduate Student Summer School, Philadelphia, USA.
2017	"Epigrapha in the Sira." Scripts and Scripture Conference, University of Chicago. Chicago, USA. "The Umma Pericope in Q2 Surat al-Baqara." International Qur'anic Studies Association, Tunis, Tunisia.
2016	"Patrilineal Rupture in Qur'anic Prophetology." 9 <sup>th</sup> SOAS Conference on the Qur'an, London, UK. "Matriarchs and the Matriline in the Qur'an." International Quranic Studies Association, San Antonio, USA. "Qur'anic Studies in the Western Academy." Islamic Studies Conference, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan.
2015	"The Qur'anic Jonah and the doctrine of Infallibility." International Quranic Studies Association Conference, San Diego, USA.
2014	"Jewishness as a Model of Kinship in Early Islam." Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Baltimore, USA. "The Death of Israel-Jacob: A Qur'anic Retelling of Genesis." Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa, Washington DC, USA.

- "The Siege of Banu Nadir in the Qur'an and Early Muslim Sources." AOS 224<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Phoenix, USA.
- 2013 "Gender and Genealogy in the Qur'an." International Quranic Studies Association Inaugural Conference, Baltimore, USA.
- 2013 "O Children of Israel! A Case Study in Qur'anic Polemics." Near Eastern Studies Colloquium, Cornell University.
- 2012 "The Dye of God: Circumcision and Baptism Metaphors in Q2:138." AOS 222<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, Boston, USA.
- 2012 "Muhammad and the Ninevite: Infallibility in Early Islamic Prophetology." 27th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, USA.
- 2011 "Rabbinic Soteriological Claims in Surat al-Baqarah." 8th Annual Graduate Islamic Studies Conference, UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, USA.

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND INVITED TALKS

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- 2022 "Arabian Judaism and Early Islam", Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington
- 2022 "Arabia and Abnyssinia", Ethiopian Studies Speaker Series, Rutgers University
- 2021 "Arabian Judaism and Early Islam", Katz Center, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2021 "Abyssinia in Early Muslim Historiography," Near Eastern Studies Colloquium, Princeton University.
- 2020 "Translating the Quran", UW Translation Hub, Seattle, WA
- 2020 "Arabian Judaism and Early Islam", Stroum Center Salon Nights, Seattle, WA
- 2019 "Immigration: Then and Now," Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle, WA
- 2019 "Muhammad's Jewish Wife: Safiyya bt. Huyayy", Grinnell College Jewish Studies, Grinnell, IW
- 2019 "Sufi-Socialist Influences in Lubna Zahid's *Shamsa* Collection", The Gandhi Center, Washington, DC.
- 2018 "LGBTQ Asylees in US Immigration Detention", Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northeast, Seattle, WA.
- 2018 "Muslim Asylees in the United States", Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle, WA.
- 2018 "Judeo-Islamic Pasts: Three Part Lecture Series", Temple Beth Am, Seattle, WA.
- 2017 "Qur'anic Studies in the Western Academy", Lahore University (LUMS), Punjab, Pakistan.
- 2016 "On the Origins of Caliphates", The Rainier Club, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 "Choosing Our Ancestors", The Stroum Center Talks, Seattle, WA.

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

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### Doctoral Thesis

- Jeff Haines, History Ph.C. (2019-current)
- Michael Sims, Middle East Studies Ph.C. (2019-current)
- Ayda Apa Pomeshikov, Middle East Studies Ph.D (2017-2021)

### Masters Thesis

- Jack Robinson, Middle Eastern Studies (2022-current)
- Brett Windhauser, Middle Eastern Studies (2018-20)
- Victoria Meucci, Middle Eastern Studies (2017-19)
- Connor Walden, Fine Arts (2017-19)
- Kiah Neal-Collucie, Comparative Religion (2016-18)

## Undergraduate Honors Thesis

Oliver Lange, Middle Eastern Studies (2020)

Mira Weimar, Middle Eastern Studies (2019)

Noah Tashbrook, International Relations (2018)

## SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

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2022-	Chair of Curriculum Committee for MELC (formally NELC), Univ, of Washington
2022-	Faculty Advisory Council Member, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington.
2021-2022	Chair of Internal Committee for Assistant Professor 3rd-year Review, NELC, Univ. of Washington.
2020-2021	Executive Council Member, The Population Health Initiative, University of Washington.
2020-2021	Near and Middle East Studies PhD Selection Committee Member, University of Washington.
2019-2020	Faculty Advisory Council Member, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington.
2018-2019	Selection Committee Member, Cole Fellowship in Jewish Studies, University of Washington.
2018-2019	10-year Review Internal Committee Member, NELC, University of Washington.
2017-2020	Curriculum Committee Member, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Washington.
2014-2017	Executive Board Member, The International Qur'anic Studies Association. The Luce Center at Emory University.

## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

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2023	Expert testimony on anti-Shia persecution in Seattle Immigration Court Asylum-seeker fleeing anti-Shia persecution - S. A. of Pekar, Pakistan (Asylum Granted)
2022	Expert Testimony and Affidavit in Seattle Immigration Court Asylum-seeker fleeing anti-Shia persecution - S. A. of Pekar, Pakistan (Continuation to Feb, 2023)
2022	Expert testimony on anti-Shia persecution in Seattle Immigration Court Asylum-seeker fleeing - M. H. of Parachinar, Pakistan (Asylum Granted)
2021	Expert Testimony and Affidavit in Seattle Immigration Court Asylum seeker fleeing anti-Shia persecution - I.H. of Ghwundakhel, Pakistan (Asylum Granted)
2020	Expert Testimony and Affidavit in Houston Immigration Court Asylum seeker fleeing anti-Shia persecution - L.H of Nastikot Kanda, Pakistan (Asylum Denied)
2020	Affidavit preparation guidance and logistical support for asylum seeker fleeing political violence. Ashfaq Rehman of Nawshera, Pakistan – Tacoma Immigration Court, WA. (Asylum Granted)
2020	Translation, Interpretation and Client Advocacy for Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle WA. Volunteered for attorneys working on asylum cases: Anne Recinos
2019	Expert Testimony and Affidavit for asylum seeker fleeing anti-Shia and anti-LGBTQ persecution. (Name Omitted) of Parachinar, Pakistan - Memphis Immigration Court, TN. (Asylum Granted)
2019	Expert Testimony and Affidavit for 5 asylum seekers fleeing anti-Shia target killings. (Name Omitted) and Family from Multan, Pakistan - Austin Immigration Court, WA. (Asylum Granted)
2019	Expert Testimony and Affidavit for asylum seeker fleeing Taliban anti-Shia violence. Samin Ali of Pekar, Pakistan – Seattle Immigration Court, WA. (Asylum Pending)
2019	Expert Testimony and Affidavit for asylum seeker fleeing Taliban anti-Shia violence. Ibrahim Hussain of Pekar, Pakistan – Seattle Immigration Court, TX. (Asylum Pending)
2018-19	Translation, Interpretation and Client Advocacy for Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Seattle WA.

Volunteered for attorneys working on asylum cases: Henry Hwang, Jessie, Tsering, Bruna.

2018 Expert Testimony and Affidavit for asylum fleeing anti-LGBTQ persecution.  
Farrukh Asad Khan of Karachi Pakistan – Seattle Immigration Court, TX. (Asylum Granted)

2018 Translation and identification of Ethiopic Antiquities for Archdiocese of Toronto.

2017 Expert Testimony and Affidavit for asylum fleeing anti-LGBTQ persecution.  
(Name Omitted) of Lahore, Pakistan – Phoenix Immigration Court, NM. (Asylum Granted)

Last updated:  
March 3, 2023