

Curriculum Vitae
SyedAmirHossein Asghari, Ph.D.

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Education

- **Ph.D., Middle Eastern Studies & Religion**, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 2022
- **M.A., Comparative Philosophy**, Middlesex University, London, UK, 2013
- **B.A., Islamic and Civil Law**, Azad University, Tehran, Iran, 2000
- **Private Study with Traditional Islamic Scholars**, Quranic Sciences, Sufi Texts, Islamic Theology, and Philosophy, 2001–Present

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Affiliated Researcher**, Center for Possible Minds, Indiana University Bloomington (Oct 2025–Present)
- **Senior Fellow**, Center for the Study of the Middle East (CSME), Indiana University, 2023–Present
- **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Department of Religion, Baylor University, 2022–2025
- **Visiting Research Fellow**, Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham, UK, April–May 2024
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University, Spring 2022
- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University, 2017–2021
- **Research Assistant**, Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University, 2015–2018
 - Contributed to the scholarly edition of *The Alexandrian Epitomes of Galen* (Vol. 2), performing meticulous review and annotation of classical Arabic medical manuscripts.
 - Identified and cataloged unedited Persian and Arabic manuscripts from the *Ishrāqī* (Illuminationist) school of Islamic philosophy for future research and publication.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University Instructor of Record

- **Butler University, Adjunct Faculty & Future Faculty Teaching Fellow** (Fall 2021)
 - *First Year Seminar: Faith, Doubt, and Reason* (Designed and taught)

- *Modern Middle East and North Africa* (Designed and taught)
- **Indiana University, Associate Instructor** (2019–2020)
 - *Quranic Studies* (Fall 2020)
 - *Visions of Islam: Islam and the West* (Fall 2019)

Invited & Guest Lectures

- **Invited & Guest Lectures**
- **Respect Graduate School (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania)** — Guest Teacher (online), “Shii Exegesis of the Quran,” November 5, 2025.
- **Respect Graduate School (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania)** — Guest Teacher & Q&A (online), “Shii Sufism,” August 11, 2025.
- **Baylor University, Department of Religion** — Guest Lecturer (2022–2025). Topics included “Tolerance in Islam,” “Women in the Quran,” “Jesus in the Quran,” and “Muslim Theories of Religions.”
- **Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham, UK** — Four-part online lecture series, “Wisdom, Rationality, and Revelation in Islamic and Inter-religious Contexts,” May 2024.
- **Indiana University, Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures** — Guest Lecture, “Shia-Sunni Division: Theological Roots,” February 2020.

Additional Teaching & Educational Leadership

- **Lecturer**, Center for the Study of Contemporary Islam, Tehran (2013)
- **Lecturer**, Rumi Research Foundation, Albania (2010–2012)
- **Teacher & Headmaster**, Saadi High School, Albania (2004–2008)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Sufism and Philosophy in the Contemporary Shia Seminary: Scholars and Mystics*. London: Bloomsbury Press (I.B. Tauris), 2025.
- *The First Persian-Albanian-English Standard Dictionary (Fjalor Persisht- Shqipe)*. Tirana: Toena Publication, 2010. (as Project Leader).

Forthcoming Monographs

- *Macrocosm and Microcosm Between Islam and Confucianism in China: Han Kitab, Sufism, and Philosophy*. Birmingham: AMI Press and Brill, forthcoming 2026.
- *Natural Law and Inter-Religious Understanding: Islamic Context*. (2027)

- **Co-authored Article:** "Ghuluww (Extremism) as a Philosophical School: A Study of Hasan b. Hamza al-Shīrāzī al-Balāsī." (with Dr. Hassan Ansari, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. "The Inner Qur'ān: Notes on the Sufi Hermeneutics, Self-Knowledge, and Divine Address." *Scientific Quarterly Journal of Ahl al-Bayt (as) Teachings* 2(3), Autumn 2024, pp. 15–40. https://www.jat-journal.ir/article_226881.html.
2. "Pilgrimage Theology and Interreligious Dialogue: Exploring Divine Presence in Shi'i Visitation Prayers." *Journal of Islam and the Contemporary World* 1, no. 2 (2024). https://icwj.edihe.ac.ir/article_191588.html. [translated to Arabic: "Lāhūt al-ziyāra wa-l-ḥiwār bayn al-adyān: istikshāf al-ḥuḍūr al-ilāhī fī ad'iyat al-ziyāra al-shī'iyya." (Pilgrimage Theology and Interreligious Dialogue: Exploring Divine Presence in Shi'i Visitation Prayers) Shadharāt (شذرات), Issue 0 (August 2025): 50-59.]
3. "Bridging Cultures: Sufi Underpinnings in the Han Kitab School of China." *SUREK Alevism, Bektashism and Journal of Cultural Studies* 1, no. 1 (2024).
4. "Sufism in the Contemporary Shii Seminary?" *Religions* 14, no. 10 (2023): 1248. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14101248>.
5. "Understanding Human Dignity in Shi'i Islam: Debates, Challenges, and Solutions." *Religions* 14, no. 4 (2023): 505. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14040505>.
6. "Presence, Manifestation, and Visitation in Abrahamic Religions: The Notion of 'Presence' in Shi'ism." *Journal of Religious & Theological Information* 21 (2022): 54-67. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10477845.2021.1926629>.
7. "Replacing Sharī'a, Tariqa and Haqīqa with Fiqh, Akhlāq and Tawhīd." *Journal of Sufi Studies* 9, no. 2 (2021): 202-214. <https://doi.org/10.1163/22105956-bja10010>.
8. "The Bektashi Order, Sufism, and Shi'ism in the Work of Baba Rexheb." *Turkish Journal of Shiite Studies* 3, no. 2 (2020): 245-258. <https://doi.org/10.48203/siader.799560>.
9. "Shi'a Mystical Theology: Notes on Sayyid Ḥaydar Āmulī's *Jāmi' al-Asrār*." *Kom: Casopis Za Religijske Nauke* 9, no. 3 (2020): 65-80. <https://doi.org/10.5937/kom2003065A>.
10. "Sufism and Philosophy of Modern Science: Notes on Nasr's Philosophy." *Journal of Turkish Culture and Haci Bektash Veli Research Quarterly* 98 (2020): 229-242. <https://doi.org/10.34189/hbv.98.011>.
11. "Ontology and Cosmology of 'Aql (Intellect) in Ṣadrā's Commentary on *Uṣūl al-Kāfi*." *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies* 10, no. 2 (2017): 157-182. <https://doi.org/10.1353/isl.2017.0011>.
12. "Modern and Traditional Science and Technology in the Philosophy of S. H. Nasr." *Metafizika dhe Morali* 1, no. 1 (2011): 83-96.

13. "Mystical Interpretation of the Qur'ān." *Burhan Journal of Quranic Studies* 1, no. 1 (2016). Translated into Arabic by Ali al-Sa`īdī, July 13, 2019. <http://tawaseen.com/?p=3910>.

Book Chapters & Peer-Reviewed Proceedings

1. "On the Path of Oneness: Self-Knowledge, Imagination, and Presential Consciousness in the Sufi School of Najaf." In *The Oneness of Being (Waḥdat al-Wujūd): Interpretation, Reception, and Implications*. Birmingham: Brill, forthcoming 2026.
2. Asghari, SeyedAmir Hossein, and Sergey Dolgopolski. "SELF in Rabbinic and Shia Legal Reasoning." Chapter in preparation for a co-authored volume under discussion with Rutgers University Press, *Transmodern Global Thought* series, ed. Ezra Tzfadya (proposal to be submitted October 2025).
3. "Baba Rexheb and Bektashism, Notes of Bektashi-Shia Convergence" In *Conference Proceedings of the International Bektashism Symposium in the Balkans*. Ankara, 2023.

Book Reviews

- Eliza Tasbihi, *Hidden in Plain Sight: Ismā'īl Anqaravī's Commentary on 'Book Seven' of Rūmī's Mathnawī* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2025)." *Journal of Islamic and Muslim Studies* (forthcoming).

Book Translations

1. Chittick, William C. *In Search of the Lost Heart: Explorations in Islamic Thought*. Translated to Persian. Tehran: Intishārāt-i Falāt, 2017.
2. Chittick, William C. *Divine Love: Islamic Literature and the Path to God*. Translated into Persian. Tehran: Intishārāt-i 'ilmī wa Farhangī, 2015.
3. Chittick, William C. *Science of the Cosmos, Science of the Soul*. Translated into Persian. Tehran: Intishārāt-i Ittilā'āt, 2009/2016.
4. Nasr, Seyyed Hossein, Muzaffar Iqbal, and Amīr Ḥusayn Aṣgharī. *Islām, 'ilm, Musalmānān va fan'āvarī (Islam, Science, Muslims, and Technology)*. Tehran: Intishārāt-i Ittilā'āt, 2011.

Forthcoming Translations

1. (In Press) Madelung, Wilfred. *Studies in Medieval Shi'ism*. Translated by SeyedAmirHossein Asghari.
2. (In Press) Murata, S., Chittick, W.C., Tu, W., & Liu, J. *The Sage Learning of Liu Zhi: Islamic Thought in Confucian Terms*. Translated by SeyedAmirHossein Asghari.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

A selection of over 30 presentations from 2003-2025. Full list available on request.

2025

- "The Sufi School of Najaf: Reassessing the Intersection of Sufism, Space, and Networks," *Middle Eastern Studies Association, Washington, DC., November 23-5, 2025.*
- "Prophetic Wisdom in the Quran: Bridging Divine Revelation and Universal Ethical Principles," Islamic Perspectives on Prophecy and Revelation, Al-Mahdi Institute and Duke University, Durham, NC.
- "Shī'ī and Jewish Political Conceptual Maps" (with Sergey Dolgopolski). *Shia–Jewish Legal Reasoning Dialogue*, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University Bloomington, July 14–16, 2025.

2024

- "Imagination as a Catalyst in Shia Political Philosophy," *Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)*, Virtual.
- "Understanding Self/Soul in Islamic Tradition in Conversation with Jewish Tradition," *Shia–Jewish Legal Reasoning Dialogue*, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University.
- "Contrasting Approaches of the Sufi/Irfānī School of Najaf and the Maktab-i Tafkīk," *Al-Mahdi Institute*, Birmingham, UK.

2023

- "Governance in Shia Islam: Ṭabāṭabā'ī's Integration of Philosophy, Sufism, and Political Theory," *Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University.*
- "Natural Law in Shia Islam," *Shia-Jewish Legal Reasoning Dialogue*, Indiana University.

2022

- "Presence and Sacred in Abrahamic Religions with a focus on Shia Islam," *Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)*, Denver, CO.
- "Opposition to Philosophy and Sufism in the Contemporary Shia Seminary," *Shia Studies in the Twenty-First Century Conference*, Massey University & Indiana University, Online.

2021

- "Transforming Sufism in the Modern Shi'i Seminary and Vocabularies of Authority," *Stiftung für Islamische Studien*, Germany, Online.
- "Replacing Sharia, Ṭarīqah, and Ḥaqīqah with Fiqh, Akhlāq, and Tawḥīd," *American Academy of Religion (AAR) Midwest Annual Meeting*, Online.

2020

- **Panel Organizer & Presenter:** "Discussions on the Interrelation Between Philosophy and Revelation in Islamic Scholarship," *Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)*, Online.

2019

- “Qādī Tabātabā’i: An Esoteric Master in an Exoteric School,” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), New Orleans, LA, November 14-17.
- “Governance and Philosophy, Shia Islam and Jewish Studies,” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) Seminar, San Diego, CA, December 15-17.

2018

- Mīrzā Mahdī Isfihānī and his Anti-Philosophy School in Contemporary Iran,” *Midwest American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting*, Muncie, IN, March 2-3.

2017

- “Continuation of Islamic Philosophy and Sufism in Shī’a Seminary,” *Shi’i Studies: The State-of-the-Art Conference*, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ, December 8-9.

2016

- “Maktab-i Tafkīk (School of Separation) and Its Opponents,” *Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)*, Boston, MA, November 17-20.
- “Revelation and Philosophy: From Distinction to Equality,” *2nd International Conference on Shī’a Studies*, Islamic College for Advanced Studies, London, UK, May 7-8.

INTERFAITH & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- **Luce-AAR Advancing Public Scholarship Grant**, American Academy of Religion, 2025 (\$5,000)
- **Contributor**, Shia-Jewish Legal Reasoning in Dialogue, Indiana University, 2023-2026
- **Invited Public Lectures** (Selection)
 - "From the Human Condition to Moral Responsibility: A Close Reading of Imam 'Alī's Letter to his Son," 10-part series, Saba Islamic Center, San Jose, CA, March 2025.
 - "Natural Law and the Quranic Concept of Fitrah," Salam Center, London, UK, April 2024.
 - "Self-Knowledge and Self-Improvement in a Religious Context," 10-part series, Saba Islamic Center, San Jose, CA, March-April 2024.
 - "Religion and the Revival of Intellect," Northwestern University Shia Muslim Association, July 2023.

Media & Interviews

- **Podcast interview** (published August 31, 2025). The Insight Interviews (host: Dr. Vinay Khetia), Shia Research Institute. Discussion of my book *Sufism and Philosophy in the Contemporary Shia Seminary* (Bloomsbury, 2025). YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjSXwXbeOTA>.

- **Interview**, *LaPresse* (Canada). "Le plus petit État du monde pourrait voir le jour en Albanie." September 29, 2024. <https://www.lapresse.ca/international/europe/2024-09-29/radioscopie/un-vatican-pour-les-soufis.php>.
- **Podcast Interview**, *Al-Mahdi Institute Podcast*. "Revelation, Philosophy and Sufism." May 13, 2024.
- **Podcast Interview**, *Currents in Religion*. "Natural Law and Interreligious Dialogue." March 10, 2023.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & INVITED TALKS

Invited Public Lectures (Selection)

- "From the Human Condition to Moral Responsibility: A Close Reading of Imam 'Alī's Letter," 10-part series, *Saba Islamic Center, San Jose, CA*, March 2025.
- "Natural Law and the Quranic Concept of Fitrah," *Salam Center, London, UK*, April 2024.
- "Self-Knowledge and Self-Improvement in a Religious Context," 10-part series, *Saba Islamic Center, San Jose, CA*, March-April 2024.
- "Religion and the Revival of Intellect," *Northwestern University Shia Muslim Association*, July 2023.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Reviewer

- Journal of Sufi Studies (Brill)
- Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society
- Journal of Religions (MDPI)
- Sophia, International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions (Springer)
- Journal Degli Studi Orientali (Sapienza University, Italy)
- Pažuhešnāma-ye 'Erfān: A Journal of Islamic Mysticism (erfanmag.ir)
- Oxford University Press, Book Proposal Reviewer (2025)

Editorial & University Service

- Editorial Board Member, *Journal Tarbiyatuna*, Indonesia, 2021–Present
- Contributor, *Shia-Jewish Legal Reasoning in Dialogue*, Indiana University, 2023–2026
- Awards Committee Member, Graduate and Professional Student Government, Indiana University, 2020–2021
- Project Collaborator, "Internationalizing the Academic Standards," Indiana University, Summer 2017

- Assistant Journal Editor, Metafizika dhe Morali, Rumi Research Foundation, (3 Volumes)
- Founding Director, Rumi Research Foundation, Albania, 2007–2012

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

- **Luce-AAR Advancing Public Scholarship Grant**, American Academy of Religion, 2025, (\$5,000)
- **Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship**, Indiana University, 2021-22, (\$12,000)
- **Wonkai Lee Fellowship**, Indiana University, 2021-22, (\$12,000)
- **The Linda S. Walbridge Fellowship**, Indiana University, 2020 & 2019, (\$6,000)
- **Conference Funding**, Gurion Family Fund, Jewish Studies, Indiana University, 2019
- **Knapp Foundation Travel Grant / MESA Travel Award**, 2019
- **Travel Award**, Islamic Studies Program, Indiana University, 2019, 2018, 2016
- **International Student Fellowship**, Burnham GR, Indiana University, 2017, (\$2,500)
- **International Services Award**, GR, Indiana University, 2018
- **NELC Department's Travel and Expenses Award**, Indiana University, 2016
- **Travel Award**, College Arts & Humanities Institute, Indiana University, 2016
- **Travel Award**, Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG), Indiana University, 2015
- **Travel and Expenses Award**, MELC, Indiana University, 2015

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), 2015–Present
- American Academy of Religion (AAR), 2017–Present

LANGUAGES

- **Native:** Persian
- **Advanced:** English, Turkish, Arabic, Albanian
- **Reading Knowledge:** French
- **Intermediate:** Azerbaijani
- **Elementary:** Bulgarian

REFERENCES

Available upon request.