

TALAL AL-AZEM MSt, DPhil (Oxon)
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POSITIONS

- 2025–Present Assistant Professor (Department of History, Boğazici University)
2022–2024 Academic Director (Cambridge Muslim College)
2018–2024 Lecturer (Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford)
2015–2024 Fellow (Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies)
2014–2015 IMPAcT Research Officer (Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford)
2011–2014 Lecturer in Islamic History (Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford)

EDUCATION

- 2007–2011 D.Phil in Oriental Studies (St Edmund Hall, Oxford)
2006–2007 M.St. (Distinction) in Oriental Studies (St Cross College, Oxford)
1993–1997 B.A. in History & Near Eastern Studies (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

AWARDS

- 2013–2015 Junior Research Fellowship (Pembroke College, Oxford)
2008–2011 Easa Saleh Al Gurg Scholarship (Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford)

PUBLICATIONS

Rule Formulation and Binding Precedent in the Madhhab-Law Tradition: Ibn Qutlūbughā's Commentary on the Compendium of Qudūrī (Leiden: Brill, 2016).

‘Qudūrī's *Taqrīb*’ in *Festschrift for Christopher Melchert*, edited by Belal Abolabbas, Robert Gleave, and Joseph Lowry (Leiden: Brill, 2026) (forthcoming).

‘The Practice of Engagement: Research and Teaching as Conversations with an Other's Tradition’ (with with Johan Rasanayagam) in *Dialogues: Anthropology and Theology*, special issue of *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, edited by Adam Reed and Naomi Haynes, 28/1 (2022): 297–347.

‘Conscience and Action in the Madhhab-Law Tradition’, in Emily Corran and Morgan Clarke (eds.), *Rules, Ethics and Conscience: Perspectives from Anthropology and History* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2021).

‘The Transmission of Adab: Educational Ideals and Their Institutional Manifestations,’ in *Philosophies of Islamic Education: Historical Perspectives and Emerging Discourses*, edited by Mujadad Zaman and Nadeem A. Memon, 112–26 (New York and London: Routledge, 2016).

‘A Mamluk Handbook for Judges and the Doctrine of Legal Consequences (*al-mūjab*)’, *Bulletin d'Études Orientales* 63 (2015): 205–226.

MONOGRAPHS IN PREPARATION

The Place of Learning in Damascus: ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Nu‘aymī (d. 927/1521) and His ‘Unwān.

PRESENTATIONS

- ‘*Dawr al-qawā‘id fī binā’ niẓām al-fiqh al-madhhabī* (The Role of Legal Maxims in the Madhhab-Law Tradition’, The Legal Maxims International Conference, İstanbul Sultanahmet Vakfi, İstanbul (2025).
- ‘The Formation of a Scholar: The Madrasa within the Educational Landscape of Late Medieval Damascus’, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge (2022).
- ‘The History of the Hanafi Madhhab: Stages of Development’, Imam Maturidi International Scientific Research Centre, Uzbekistan (2022).
- ‘*Al-Tarjīh fī al-madhhab al-Ḥanafī: Dirāsa muqārana bayn al-qarnayn al-rābi‘ wa-l-sābi‘ al-hijrī* (in Arabic), Manuscripts of the Seventh Century (Hijri) International Conference, İstanbul Sultanahmet Vakfi, İstanbul (2021).
- ‘The Purposes of a Madrasa Education’, Madrasa Talks, Fatih Sahn-i Seman Education and Research Centre (2021).
- ‘Ibn ‘Abīdīn on Reading the Madhhab’, Transformations and Continuities in Islamic Intellectual Thought, Georgetown University in Qatar (2019).
- ‘Conscience and Action in the Madhhab-Law Tradition’, Legalism: Conscience and Ethics Workshop, Keble College, University of Oxford (2018).
- ‘How do you read *Fatāwā*? A Sixteenth-Century Epistle on the role of *Fatāwā* works in Ḥanafī Rule Formulation’, Alexander von Humboldt Kolleg for Islamic Intellectual History, University of Bonn (2017).
- ‘Adab and the Education of the Whole Person’, Narratives of Islamic Civilisation Seminar, Centre of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge (2017).
- ‘Damascus in the Intellectual Landscapes of the Long Fifteenth Century’, British Association of Islamic Studies (BRAIS) (2017).
- ‘Questions in the History of Islamic Education’, University of Birmingham Post-Graduate Seminar in Islamic Studies (2016).
- ‘Formations of the (Moral) Self: Institutions and Traditions’, presented at Religion and the Role of Self-Reflection, Pembroke College, University of Oxford (2016)
- ‘The Ordering (*tartīb*) of Education in Late Medieval Damascus’, British Association of Islamic Studies (BRAIS) (2016).

ACADEMIC MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

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| 2022–2024 | Director of Academic Department & member of Senior Leadership Team (CMC) |
| 2021–2022 | Academic Programmes Manager (OCIS) |
| 2021–2022 | Visiting Fellowships Manager (OCIS) |
| 2020–2022 | Chair of the Development Committee (OCIS) |

- 2016–2021 Fellow Librarian and Chair of the Library Committee (OCIS)
2012–2014 Chair of the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish Working Group (Faculty of Oriental Studies)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2019–2023 Editor of the Journal of Islamic Studies (Oxford University Press)
2017–2021 External Examiner to the Open University

LANGUAGES

English (native), Arabic (fluent), French (reading)