

Seyed AmirHossein Asghari

2451 E 10th St. Apt 1014
Bloomington, IN. 47408
sasghari@iu.edu • 812-369-9309

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Indiana University (Bloomington, Indiana)

Majors: Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures and Islamic Studies

Minor: Religious Studies

Expected May 2021

Dissertation Title: “Islamic Philosophy and Sufism in the Contemporary Shia Seminary and their Opponents”

Committee: Professor John Walbridge, Professor Devin Dewese, Professor Francis Trix, and Professor Paul E. Losensky.

Research interests: History and Schools of Islamic Intellectual Tradition; Medieval Philosophy, Islamic-Jewish and Christian Medieval Philosophy; Philosophy and Religion; Sufism; Shiism

M.A. Middlesex University, United Kingdom (In Collaboration with Islamic College for Advanced Studies), 2013. Comparative Philosophy (Islam and the West).

M.A. Thesis Title: Evaluation of ‘*aql* (Intellect) in Islamic Philosophical Theology Based on an Analytic Study of Mulla Şadrā’s Commentary on *Uşul Al-Kāfi*

MA Thesis Related Publication: Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, “Ontology and Cosmology of ‘*Aql* (Intellect) in Şadrā’s Commentary on *Uşul al-Kāfi*,” *Journal of Shi’a Islamic Studies* (JSIS). (July 2017)

BA Azad University (Tehran-Iran), Department of Islamic Law.2000

Traditional Islamic education, Theoretical Sufism, Philosophy, Arabic Language, Islamic Jurisprudence. 2000 – 2007

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Indiana University-Bloomington

Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Fall 2020

**Associate
Instructor**

- Quranic Studies (3 CR_N 370), Qualifies for Intensive Writing Credit, A&H Breadth of Inquiry
- Delivered lectures for an undergraduate seminar with 25 students, both Synchronously and Asynchronously online, along with two sections of Arabic and English discussions per week.
- Graded all assignments including weekly writings and term papers, held regular online office hours
- Mentored students for their term papers by assessing their paper proposal, introducing them primary and secondary sources and academic research methodology

Associate Instructor	<p>Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Fall 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visions of Islam (Islam and the West), three credits • Designed the syllabus and taught in person • Graded and held regular office hours • Mentored term paper
Teaching Assistant	<p>Quranic Studies, Arabic discussion section, Fall 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Arabic manuscripts with six students.
Guest Lecturer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Shia-Sunni Division: Theological Roots," Study Safavid and Ottoman Relations Class taught by Professor Zeynep Elbasan, Indiana University Bloomington, February 13, 2020." • Endorsed with very positive Student Evaluations (Available in my teaching portfolio)

Undergraduate Mentoring

Supervising Indiana University Undergrad Delegate to the Model Arab League in Portsmouth OHIO University, On February 2018, 2019, 2020

Other Teaching Experiences

Lecturer	<p>Center for the Study of Contemporary Islam, Tehran, 2013</p> <p>I lectured in Intensive Courses on various subjects, including Philosophy, Contemporary Challenges in Islamic thought, Socratic Methods of Philosophical Discussion in the Classroom.</p> <p>Rumi Research Foundation (Albania), Lecturing on Philosophy, Sufism, Islamic Studies. 2010-2012.</p> <p><i>Farhang</i> High School (Tehran), Teaching philosophy to high school students. 2001</p>
Teacher, Headmaster	<p><i>Saadi</i> High School,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching philosophy to students based on the Socratic Method (Argumentation, Critical Thinking, Art of Questioning) • <i>Persian Language and Literature</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Current Book Project (Teamwork):	<p><i>Ghuluww (Extremism) as a Philosophical School</i>, studying extant Manuscripts attributed to unknown Hasan b. Hamza al-Shīrāzī al-Balāsī (7th / 13th century) in the shī'ī-Sufī and Nusayri traditions, (in collaboration with Dr. Hassan Ansari, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton).</p>
Indiana University, Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures 2016 – 2018	<p>Research Assistant to Professor John Walbridge, editing Arabic medical manuscripts of <i>The Alexandrian Epitomes of Galen</i> (2nd volume) 2015 – 2016</p> <p>Research Assistant to Professor John Walbridge, identifying manuscripts, mainly in the Middle Eastern libraries, and catalog descriptions on the <i>Isbrāqī</i> (Illumination) school of Islamic philosophy.</p>

**Indiana University,
Center for the Study of
Global Change** Summer
2017

working on the project of “Internationalizing the Academic Standards” and successfully contributing to the Middle Eastern aspects.
[<https://global.indiana.edu/publications-resources/teaching-resources/internationalizing-academic-standards.html>]

**Indiana University,
Department of Linguistics,
“The Linguist List”
foundation**
Summer 2015

Summer Internship, computational linguistics, working on *Baharlu* Turkish dialect.

**Center for the Study of
Contemporary Islam
(Tehran, Iran)**
2013 – 2014

Research project in identifying intellectual challenges of contemporary Islam and in Muslim Societies.

**The Book-House Institute-
Tehran, Iran**
2013-2014

A member of the Board of Directors

**Rumi Research
Foundation, Albania**
2007-2012

Founding Director, creating an intellectual environment and successfully attracting talented authors and researchers to the foundation,

Co-authoring with a group of scholars: “*The First Persian-Albanian-English Standard Dictionary*” (*Fjalor Persisht-Shqipe*).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Indiana University
2017- present

Graduate Assistant, Center for the Study of the Middle East

**Center for the Study
of Contemporary
Islam, (Tehran, Iran)**

Research Assistant of Short-Term Courses on Islamic Philosophy and Islamic Intellectual Tradition, Comparative Studies, Tehran: September 2013, January 2014, and January 2015.

**Rumi Research
Foundation**

Assistant Editor

- Assisted the editor by soliciting contributions, copyediting, and producing translations resulting in 3 successive volumes of the journal *Metafizika dhe Morali* (Metaphysics and Morals)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Rijāl al-Ghayb, (in Persian), *Mosāfer* Publication, Tehran, 2013.

The First Persian-Albanian-English Standard Dictionary (*Fjalor Persisht-Shqipe*), Toena Publication, Albania, 2010.

- Writing a proposal, gathering team members, dividing jobs, supervising the progress.

There are Some book reviews on this publication, including Jani Thomai. " FJALOR PERSISHT-SHQIP,

TOENA, TIRANË, 2010". Studime Filologjike 01-02:181-186. <https://www.ceeol.com/search/article-detail?id=463822>

Bashkisedime Persisht-Shqipe, (Persian-Albanian and English Conversations) Albania, 2007.
Barān-i Mazāmīr (Mystical Aspects of Islamic Supplications), Tehran, Azad University, 1998.

Forthcoming Book Manuscripts and Edited Book Contribution

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, "Ibn Taymīyya's Polemic on Shia Islam's Essential Jewishness and 'Allāma Hillī's Response" in *Judaism and Shia Islam: theological and historical encounters*, eds Ezra Tzfadya and Carlos Grenier (Leiden, Brill. 2022).

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, *Cosmology and Ontology in the Han Hitab: The Case of Yusuf Ma Dexin in Islam and the Art of Cross-Cultural Translation: Studies in Honor of William C. Chittick and Sachiko Murata* ed. Muhammad Rustom, (Leiden, Brill. 2023)

Ansari, Hassan; Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, *Extremism (Ghulumw) as a Philosophical School: Studies on Shi'i-Sufi and the Nuṣayrī's Relationships during the 6/12-8/14th Centuries*.

Published Journal Articles:

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, "Ontology and Cosmology of 'Aql (Intellect) in Ṣadrā's Commentary on *Uṣūl al-Kaḥfi*", *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies* (JISIS). (July 2017)

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, "Mystical Interpretation of the Qur'ān", *Burhan Journal of Quranic Studies*, Vol 01, No.01, (<http://academicpress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/asghariv1i1-p28-45.pdf>)

The above paper is translated into Arabic by Ali al-Sa'īdī: "تفسير الصوفي للقرآن". طواسين للتصوف والاسلاميات. July 13, 2019. <http://tawaseen.com/?p=3910>.

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, *Shkenca e Teknologjia Moderne në Këndvështrimin e Shkollës Filozofike Tradicionaliste të S. H. Nasr* [Modern and Traditional Science and Technology in the philosophy of S. H. Nasr], in *Metafizika dhe Morali*, Vol 01, No. 01, (Summer 2011), pp. 83-96.

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, *Tāriḥ-i Islam va Musalmānān dar Albani*, (History of Islam and Muslims in Albania), in *Majaliyi Paṣḥubeshbhai Mantāqi-i*, (Area Studies) Number 4, (Summer 2010), pp. 81-93.

Tashayyū' Va Taṣawwuf Az Iran Tā Balkan "Trfān-I Iran" No.24, (2004), pp. 82-107.

Forthcoming Journal Articles:

Seyed Amirhossein Asghari, "Replacing *Sharia*, *Tarīqah*, and *Ḥaqīqah* with *Fiqh*, *Akhlāq*, and *Tawḥīd*: Some Notes on Shaykh Muḥammad Bahārī (1325/1908)," *Journal of Sufi Studies*, (Brill 2021).

Seyed Amirhossein Asghari, "Presence, *Shekbinah*, and *Hudūr*; The Notion of "Presence" in the Jewish *Shekbinah*, the Catholic Eucharist, and the Shī'ī Visitation," *Journal of Religious & Theological Information* (2021).

Seyed Amirhossein Asghari, "Shi'a Mystical Theology; Notes on Sayyid Ḥaydar Āmulī's *Jāme' al-asrār wa manba' al-ammār*," *Journal Kom*. forthcoming (2021).

Submitted Journal Articles:

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, The Traditionalist School and Modern Science and Technology; Notes on Nasr's Philosophy, submitted to the Journal of Theology and Science.

Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, "The Bektashi Order, Sufism, and Shi'ism in the Work of Baba Rexheb, a Bektashi Saint of 20th Century in America", Under Review, Journal of Shi' Studies Review, Brill.

Translations:

William Chittick, *In Search of the Lost Heart*, (Translation from English into Persian), Tehran, Intishārāt-i Falāt, 2017.

William Chittick, *Divine Love*, (English into Persian), Tehran, Intishārāt-i 'ilmī wa Farhangī. 1393/ 2015.

Seyed Hossein Nasr in Conversation with Muzaffar Iqbal, *Islam, Science, Muslims and Technology*, (Translation from English into Persian), Tehran, Intishārāt-i Ittilā'āt, 1388/2009.

William Chittick, *Science of the Cosmos, Science of The Soul*, (English into Persian), Tehran, Intishārāt-i Ittilā'āt, 1388/2009 and 1394/2016

Forthcoming Book Translations:

Wilfred Madelung, *Studies in Medieval Shi'ism*, Routledge; New edition, 2012. (under publication, Intishārāt-i Rāyzan, Tehran), (English into Persian)

Murata, Sachiko, William C. Chittick, Weiming Tu, and Jielian Liu. *The Sage Learning of Liu Zhi: Islamic Thought in Confucian Terms*, Cambridge, Mass.: Published by the Harvard University Asia Center for the Harvard-Yenching Institute, 2009. (English into Persian)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2020

Panel Organizer/Presenter, P-5993: Discussions on the Interrelation Between Philosophy and Revelation in Islamic Scholarship", Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (**MESA**) October 10-13, 2020, **Online**.

Intellect in the Shi'i philosophical Theology, Center for the Study of the Middle East, September 29, 2020, **Indiana University**, Bloomington.

2019

"Qādī Tabātabā'i: An Esoteric Master in an Exoteric School", Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (**MESA**). November 14-17, 2019, **New Orleans, Louisiana**. Also presented in the Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University Bloomington, November 5, 2019. Bloomington.

"Governance and Philosophy, Shia Islam and Jewish Studies", Seminar on Jewish and Shia Legal Reasoning in Dialogue at the American Jewish Studies (**AJS**). December 15-17, 2019, **San Diego, California**.

2018

“A Millennium after al-Fārābī; Utopia Among Shia Philosophers,” Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (**MESA**). November 15-18, 2018, San Antonio, Texas.

“Political Philosophy Among the Contemporary Shia Philosophers,” Pre-MESA panel in the Center for the Study of the Middle East, November 9, 2018, **Indiana University**, Bloomington.

“Shī’a Salafist?!” Presented at the Iranian Studies Graduate Students Workshop and Islamic Studies Program, April 5, 2018, **Indiana University**, Bloomington, Indiana.

“Mīrzā Mahdī Isfihānī and his Anti-Philosophy School in Contemporary Iran,” Presented at the Midwest American Academy of Religion (**AAR**) annual meeting, March 2-3, 2018, Muncie, Indiana.

2017

“Continuation of Islamic Philosophy and Sufism in Shī’a Seminary: ‘The Self-Knowledge Order’ Since Its Beginning to the Date,” Presented in the Shī’i Studies: The State-of-the-Art Conference, December 8-9, 2017, **Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, USA**.

2016

“The *Maktab-i Tafkik* (School of Distinction) and Its Opponents in the Contemporary Shī’a Seminary in Iran, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (**MESA**) conference, November 17-20, 2016. Boston, Massachusetts.

“Revelation and Philosophy: From Distinction to Equality,” the United Kingdom, Presented in the 2nd International Conference on Shī’a Studies, **Islamic College for Advanced Studies**, May 7-8, 2016 **London, UK**.

“Mullā Sadrā and His Interpretation of *‘Aql* (Intellect)”, Presented at the 23rd annual ACES Conference, **Indiana University**, March 2016. Bloomington, IN.

2014

“Islamic E-Learning and Making a ‘Real’ Virtual Space,” presented at the First International Conference on Islamic E-Learning held by The Islamic College and Middlesex University, London, May 27, 2014.

2009

“Methods and Experience of Practicing Philosophy with Students,” Presented at the poster session at the ICPIIC (International Council of Philosophical Inquiry with Children) 14th conference July 2 to 4th 2009, Università Degli Studi Di Padova, Padova Italy.

2008

“Philosophizing in the Classroom,” Presented at the International Conference on The Goal of Education According to Traditional and Modern Perspectives, May 31, 2008. Albania.

2003

‘Philosophy for Children’ and the Heritage of Muslim Philosophers,” Presented at the 11th Conference of the International Council for Philosophical Inquiry with Children: Children and Adults: A Philosophical Encounter,” June 26, 2003, Varna, Bulgaria.

LANGUAGES

Persian	Native
English	Advanced (Fluent reading, writing, and speaking ability and translation experience)
Turkish	Advanced (3 years of modern Turkish and ability to read Ottoman Turkish)
Arabic	Advanced (Modern and classical Arabic with research project experience in Arabic manuscripts)

Albanian	Advanced (Speaking and reading. Mapped and co-authored “ <i>The First Persian-Albanian-English Standard Dictionary (Ejalor Persisht-Shqipe)</i> ”)
French	Reading Knowledge (Graduate level)
Azerbaijani	Intermediate level
Uyghur	Reading Knowledge
Tajiki	Reading and understanding
Bulgarian	Elementary

Awards

- 2020 The Linda s. Walbridge Fellowship, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University
- 2019 Indiana University, Conference funding from Jewish Studies through the Gurion Family Fund
Knapp Foundation Travel Grant/ MESA Travel
The Linda s. Walbridge Fellowship, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University.
Travel Award, Islamic Studies Program, Indiana University
- 2018 Travel Award, Islamic Studies Program, Indiana University
International Services Award GR, Indiana University
- 2017 International Student Fellowship Burnham GR, Indiana University
- 2016 NELC Department’s Travel and Expenses Award, Indiana University.
Travel Award, the College Arts & Humanities Institute, Indiana University.
Travel Award, Islamic Studies Program, Indiana University,
- 2015 Travel Award, Graduate and Professional Student Government GPSG, Indiana University.
Travel and Expenses Award, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department’s Indiana University.
International Service Award, Indiana University.

Website: <https://seyedamirhosseinasghari.academia.edu>

Affiliations:

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) 2015- Present
American Academy of Religion (AAR) 2017-Present
Association of Jewish Studies (AJS) 2019