

RAJA BAHLUL

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ADDRESS

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 Wadi Al-Banat P.O.BOX: 200592
 Al-Da'ayen, Qatar

EDUCATION

1983: Ph.D (Philosophy), Indiana University, Bloomington.
 1977: M.A (Philosophy), Indiana University, Bloomington.
 1973: B.A (English and Philosophy), American University of Beirut.
 1973: Teaching Diploma, American University of Beirut.

LANGUAGES

English: excellent speaking, reading, and writing knowledge.
 Arabic: excellent speaking, reading, and writing knowledge.
 German: good reading knowledge.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Philosophy of Mind: Perception, Emotion, Action
 Metaphysics: Identity, Individuation, Universals
 Ethics: Fact-Value Distinction, Human Rights
 Social and Political Philosophy: Democracy, Secularism, Feminism, Islamic Thought
 Islamic Philosophy: *‘Ilm al-Kalam*, Ghazali, Avicenna, Averroes.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

2015-Present: Professor of Philosophy, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies
 2014-2015: Professor of Philosophy, Qatar University.
 2008-2014: Professor of Philosophy, UAE University.
 2005- 2008: Chair, Philosophy Dept., United Arab Emirates University.
 2003-2005: Professor of Philosophy, UAE University.
 2002-2003: **Professor of Philosophy**, Birzeit University.
 1996 -2002: Associate Professor of Philosophy, Birzeit Univ.
 1999-2001: Chair, Program in Democracy and Human Rights, Birzeit Univ.
 1994 -1996: **Associate Professor of Philosophy, Yarmouk University.**
 1991 -1994: Adjunct Faculty Member, Indiana University (IUPUI).
 1991: Visiting Scholar, Indiana University, Bloomington.
 1990: Visiting Scholar, Catholic University of America.
 1983 -1990: **Assistant Professor of Philosophy**, Yarmouk University.

1976 -1980: Associate Instructor, Indiana University, Bloomington.

COURSES TAUGHT

Introduction to Logic
 Introduction to Philosophy
 Cultural Studies
 Identity in a Multi-cultural World
 Personal and Social Ethics
 Problems of Knowledge and Reality (MA level)
 Political Philosophy (MA Level)
 Theories of Human Rights (MA level)
 Islam and Democracy (MA level)
 Theories of Democracy (MA level)
 Political Philosophy (MA level)
 Knowledge and Reality (MA level)
 Conceptual Foundations for Gulf Studies (PhD level)
 Problems and Methods of Research (PhD level)
 Theory and Practice of the University (PhD level)

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

“What the Nature of Natural Law?” paper presented at the Fourth Annual *Tabayyun* Conference held at Kuwait University, 22-24 April, 2024.

“The Cognitive Theory of al-Razi’s al-Tibb al-Ruhani,” paper presented at the CILE 8th International Conference (**Key Classical Works on Islamic Ethics**) in Collaboration with Leuven University, 6-8 December 2020

“On the Relation Between Divine and Popular Sovereignty,” paper presented at the Hamad Bin Khalifa University Workshop on **Islamic Constitutionalism in Transition Times**, 4-5 May 2019.

“Universalism about Human Rights,” paper presented at the 24th Muwatin Conference- **Seven Decades Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. Birzeit University, Palestine, Oct. 4-6, 2018.

“Theory of Action”. Public Lecture given at the Arab Center for Policy and Research Studies, Doha, Qatar, April 12, 2017.

“The Ash‘arite-Mu‘tazilite Debate on Ethics and Divine Law,” Paper presented at the 6th Annual Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, Doha, Qatar. 12-15 March, 2017

“Freedom and Impediment to Action”. Paper presented at the 5th Annual Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, Doha, Qatar. 18-21 March, 2016.

"Religion, Democracy and the Public Sphere", a series of lectures at the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization, Lido, Italy, 2-3 February, 2016.

"Theories of Democracy", a series of lectures at the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization, Lido, Italy, 11-14 February, 2015.

"Injustice as Injury, Forgiveness as Healing," IPSA and Boston University School of Theology Conference on Justice, Violence and Forgiveness. Held at Boston University May 20-May 22, 2013.

"Pain, Emotion, and Emotional Pain," Interdisciplinary Net 3rd International Conference on Pain. Prague, Czech Republic. May 19-May 21, 2012

"Concepts of Freedom in Arab-Islamic Intellectual Traditions," SFS Workshop on Teaching Freedom as a Historical Concept. Georgetown University SFS, Doha, Qatar March 16-17, 2011.

"The Universal Community of Cosmopolitan Citizenship," American Council for the Study of Muslim Societies. Williamsburg, VA 8-9 April 2011.

"Forgiveness, Expressivism, and the Cognitive Theory of Emotion," 4th Global Conference on Forgiveness. Mansfield College, Oxford, England. July 19-22, 2011.

"Secularism: Conceptual Ambiguities," DAAD Alumni Meeting. Berlin 2-5 December, 2009.

"Fundamentalism vs. Moderate Islamism," DAAD Alumni Meeting. Berlin 29 November -1 December, 2007.

"Liberal Islamism and Political Liberalism," Middle Eastern Studies Association Second World Congress. Amman, Jordan, 11-16 June 2006.

"Dwindling Expectations: Imagining Islam in the Post-colony," The American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. USA 18-21 November, 2005.

"Stateless and (Possibly) Nationless: How Can Palestinians Experience Democracy?" Chr. Michelsen Institute and The Palestinian Institute of Democracy Symposium on "Palestinian State-Formation: Prospects and Challenges." Bergen, Norway 24-25 May, 2004

"The Future of Democracy After the Second Gulf War", The 8th Annual Conference of the Institute for International Studies on "After the War on Iraq", Birzeit University, June 29- July 31, 2003.

"On the Relation Between Democracy and Secularism". Cultural Studies Department (Birzeit University) and The Center for Strategic Studies (Jordan University). Conference on "Arab Culture in the New Millennium". Amman, January 18-22, 2001.

"Public Sphere, Public Reason: Must Politics be Secular?" Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin Summer Institute on "Public Spheres and Muslim Identities." Berlin, July 15-28, 2001.

"Divine Sovereignty vs. Popular Sovereignty". Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy Conference on "Islam and Democracy." Georgetown University, April 30, 2000.

"On the Idea of Islamic Feminism". Association of Muslim Scientists. 29th Annual Conference. Georgetown University, October 13-15, 2000.

"Democracy without Secularism?" Austrian Institute for International Affairs. Conference on "Islam, Judaism, and the Role of Religions in the Middle East" Vienna, November 27-29, 2000.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

MA Program in Democracy and Human Rights, Birzeit University, 1999-2000.

Society and Leadership Program, United Arab Emirates University, 2009-2011.

PhD Program (Language, Technology, and Society), United Arab Emirates University, 2010-2012.

MA Program in Philosophy, The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

PUBLICATIONS

2025: (Forthcoming Book Chapter) "On the Relation Between Divine and Popular Sovereignty".

2025: "The Cognitive Therapy of Abū Bakr al-Rāzī's al-Ṭibb al-Rūḥānī". In Mutaz Al-Khatib (ed.), *Key Classical Works on Islamic Ethics*. Leiden: Koninklijke Brill BV, pp. 123-143. <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004459472>

2025a: "Religion, Democracy and Human Rights: The Example of Islam." Gustavo Gozzi (ed.) *Islam and the Encounter with the Western Civilization*. (London: Routledge, pp. 67-89. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003431206>

2025b: (Forthcoming book introduction). "On What is Intelligible and What is Not". In: Alan Sokal and Jean Bricmont, *Fashionable Nonsense*. Trans. Najib Hassadi, with an Introduction by Raja Bahlul.

2024a: On Conspiracy Theory. *Tabayyun for Philosophical Studies and Critical Theory*. 12(47), 155- 176. <https://doi.org/10.31430/UZAN8889>

- 2024b:** “Natural Law: Its Nature and Validity”. *Tabayyun for Philosophical Studies and Critical Theory*. 12(47), pp.155-176.
<https://doi.org/10.31430/UZAN8889>
- 2023a:** “Affective Attitudes and Democratic Political Culture.” *Tabayyun for Philosophical Studies and Critical Theory*. 11(45) 71- 107,
<https://doi.org/10.31430/MEWG9371>
- 2023b:** “Identity and Public Reason in the Context of John Rawls’s Political Philosophy.” *Tabayyun for Philosophical Studies and Critical Theory*, 11(43), pp. 41-64. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31430/MXFO8015>
- 2022a:** “Skepticism About Other Minds: Propositional and Objectual.” *Philosophical Investigations*, 45(2), 2022, 200-219. ISSN 0190-053.
<http://doi.org/10.1111/phn.12322>
- 2022b:** “Islamic Democracy: Moderate and Liberal,” *Living Together with Ambiguities: Different Cultures and Common Values?* (Conference Proceedings). Florence: Fondazione Intercultura, 2022, 317-330. ISBN 978-88-942887-4-2
- 2021a:** Wittgenstein and Logical Behaviorism.” *Tabayyun for Philosophical Studies and Critical Theories*. 10 (37), 2021, 41-68.
https://tabayyun.dohainstitute.org/ar/issue037/Documents/Tabayun37-2021_bahloul.pdf
- 2021b:** Islamic Democracy and Popular Sovereignty: A Critical Essay on Andrew March’s The Caliphate of Man, *Comparative Political Theory*, 1(2), 303-312. doi:
<https://doi.org/10.1163/26669773-bja10018>
- 2019a:** “Universalism About Human Rights,” in: Mudar Kassis, ed. *Seven Decades since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: The History and Future of Human Rights and Palestine*. Birzeit: Institute for Democracy and Human Rights Publications, 2019. (Arabic)
- 2019b:** *Action, Ontology, and Intersubjectivity*. Beirut: Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (Arabic).
<http://ow.ly/pYH130pMXU0>
- 2019c:** “(Natural) Events and (Human) action: How Are We to Understand the Relation Between the Natural and the Social?” *Tabayyun*, 8 (30), 31-54 (Arabic).
<https://www.dohainstitute.org/Pages/Natural-Events-...>
- 2019d:** “Divine vs Moral Law: A Re-assessment of an Ash‘arite-Mu‘tazilite Debate,” in *Morality in Arab-Islamic Civilization*, ed. Azmi Bisharah. Beirut: Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (Arabic)
<https://books.google.com.tr/books>

- 2018a:** “Religion, Democracy and the *Dawla Madaniyya* of the Arab Spring”, *Islam and Muslim Christian Relations*, 29(3), 1-17.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09596410.2018.1491135>
- 2018b:** “Justice and Mercy: Two Islamic Views on Divine Forgiveness,” *The Philosophy of Forgiveness: Forgiveness in World Religions*, ed. Gregory L Bock. Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press.
<https://vernonpress.com/book/465>
- 2017.** *The Discourse of Dignity and Human Rights*. Beirut: Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (Arabic).
<https://bookstore.dohainstitute.org/p-936.aspx>
- 2016a:** "Freedom and Impediment to Action". *Tabayyun*, 5 (17), 7-37 (Arabic).
<https://tabayyun.dohainstitute.org/ar/issue017/Pages/art01.aspx>
- 2016b:** "Islamic Law and Legal Positivism". *Rivista di Filosofia del diritto* (Journal of Legal Philosophy), 5 (2), 245-266.
<https://www.rivisteweb.it/download/article/10.4477/84933>
- 2016c:** “Injustice as Injury, Forgiveness as Healing”, *Explorations of Forgiveness: Personal, Relational, and Religious*, ed. Court Lewis. Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press.
<https://vernonpress.com/file/2426/.../1475757818.pdf>
- 2014:** "Emotion as Patheception", *Philosophical Explorations: an International Journal of Mind and Philosophy of Action*, 17(2),1-19.
www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13869795.2013.874494
- 2012a:** *Debates on Religion, Democracy and Civil Government* (edited volume). Ramalla: The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy. (Arabic)
<https://www.scribd.com/document/366610901/>
- 2012b :** “Modernity and Islamic Religious Consciousness”, in *A Handbook of Political Islam*, ed. Shahram Akbarzadeh. London: Routledge, 35-50.
<https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203154144.ch4>
- 2011a:** “Ethics, Emotion and Cognition,” *Arab Journal for the Humanities*, 29 (113), 123-155. (Arabic)
- 2011b:** “Forgiveness, Affect, and Cognition,” in *Forgiveness: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue*, eds. [Heather Levy](#) and [Tuğba Sevinç Yücel](#). Brill
<https://brill.com/view/title/54946>
- 2010:** “People vs. God: the Logic of 'Divine Sovereignty' in Islamic Democratic Discourse”, in *Islamic Political Thought and Governance*, ed. Abdullah Saeed. London: Routledge. Reprinted from *Journal of Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations* 11(3), 287-298, 2000.
<https://www.dohainstitute.edu.qa/EN/People/Academic-Affairs/.../Raja-Bahlul.aspx>

- 2009:** "Avicenna and the Problem of Universals". *Philosophy and Theology*, 21(1&2), 3-25.
https://www.pdcnet.org/philtheol/content/philtheol_2009_0021_40180_0003_0025
- 2007a:** "*Mutual Consultation*": *Contemporary Islamic Views on Democracy*. Ramalla: The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy, 2007. (Arabic)
- 2007b :** "Is Constitutionalism Compatible with Islam?", in *Rule of Law: History, Theory, and Criticism*, ed. P. Costa and D. Zolo. Dordrecht: Springer Publishers.
https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/978-1-4020-5745-8_15.pdf
- 2007c:** "Palestine-in-the-Mediterranean: History, Culture, and Political Future" in Danilo Zolo, ed. *L'alternativa mediterranea. Per un dialogo fra le due sponde*. Milan: Feltrinelli. (Italian). sbd.iuav.it/sbda/mostraindici.php?&EW_D...
- 2005:** *Constitutions and Constitutional Rule: First Principles*. Amman: Frederic von Nauman Foundation. (Arabic)
- 2004a:** "Does Democracy Require Secularism?" *Majallat al-'Arabi* (Kuwait), #542, (Arabic)
- 2004b:** "Democracy Without Secularism?" in *Islam, Judaism, and the Political Role of Religions in the Middle East*, ed. John Bunzl. Florida: University Press of Florida. ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00011671/00001
- 2003a:** *From Jihad to Peaceful Co-existence: The Development of Islamic Views on Politics and International Relations*. Birzeit: Institute of International Studies (Strategic Papers Series).
ialiis.birzeit.edu/.../From%20Jihad%20to%20Peaceful%20Co-existence%20The%20D...
- 2003b :** "Road to Nationhood: An Unfinished Palestinian Journey", in *Integration Processes in the Mediterranean Area: Comparisons and Collaborations between Cultural Perspectives and Legal-Political Traditions*, ed. Gustavo Gozzi. Bologna: Il Mulino. (Italian)
- 2003c:** "Forced to be Free? Democracy in Post-War Iraq," *Implications of the US War on Iraq*. Birzeit: Institute of International Studies (Birzeit University). (Arabic)
- 2003d** "Toward an Islamic Conception of Democracy: Islam and the Notion of Public Reason", *Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies*, 12(1), 43-60.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1066992032000064183>
- 2002a:** *Modern and Contemporary Western Thought: A Source Book*, ed. Raja Bahlul. Ramalla: Birzeit University Publications. (Arabic)

2002b: “Soft Determinism and the Liberal Concept of Freedom”, *Arab Journal for the Humanities* (Kuwait University), (Arabic).

<http://pubcouncil.kuniv.edu.kw/ajh/homear.aspx?id=8&Root=yes&authid=395>

2001: “Leibniz, Aristotle, and the Problem of Individuation”, in *Leibniz: Critical Essays*, ed. Catherine Wilson. London: Ashagate Publishers. Reprinted from *The Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 73, 185-199, 1992.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/j.1468-0114.1992.tb00335.x>

2000a: “*Ijtihad*: the Search for Islamic Feminist Thought”, in *Feminism and Interpretation of Islam*. Rabat: Jussour. (Arabic)

2000b: *On the Relation Between Democracy and Secularism*. Ramalla: The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy, 2000. (Arabic)

2000c : “On the Idea of Islamic Feminism”, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 20, 34-63.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/274132519_On_the_Idea_of_Islamic_Feminism

2000d: (With George Giacaman) “Ghazali on Miracles and Necessary Connection”, *Medieval Philosophy and Theology*, 8(2), 39-5.

<https://philpapers.org/rec/GEOGOM>

2000e: “Curriculum and Methods of Teaching Democracy and Human Rights”, *Ruwaq Arabi*, 18, 113-124. (Arabic)

1998: *Women and Democracy in Liberal Feminist Thought*. Ramalla: The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy. (Arabic)

1997: *Education and Democracy*. Ramalla: The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy. (Arabic)

1993: “The Liberal Concept of Freedom in Modern Arab Political Thought”, *International Journal of Islamic and Arabic Studies*, 10(1), 27- 66. (Arabic)

1992a: “Al-Ash ‘ari's Theological Determinism and the Senses of ‘Can’”, *Hamdard Islamicus*, 15(1), 39-57.

1992b: “Ghazali on the Creation vs. Eternity of the World”, *Philosophy and Theology*, 6(3), 259-275.

<https://philpapers.org/rec/BAHGOT>

1992c: “Identity and Necessary Similarity”, *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 22(4), 529-44.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00455091.1992.10717295>

1991: “The Logical Structure of the Free Will Problem in Islamic *Kalam*”, *al-Munatharah* (Morocco), 4, 6-25. (Arabic)

archive.sakhrit.co/authorsArticles.aspx?AID=5344

1990: “Miracles and Ghazali's First Theory of Causation”, *Philosophy and Theology*, 5(2), 137-150.

https://www.pdcnet.org/philtheol/content/philtheol_1990_0005_0002_0137_0150

1989: “Ockham's Razor and the Identity of Indiscernibles,” *Philosophy Research Archives*, 14, 405-414.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40231801>

WORK IN PROGRESS/FORTHOMING

Book Project: Affective Attitudes in Ethics and Political Culture. Due to be completed in late 2025. To be submitted for publication in the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies.

Book Chapter: “Political Forgiveness: Distributive or Coporitative. With Vernon Press, to be completed 2025

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