

David Hollenberg

1294 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1294
(215) 279-9280
dbh@uoregon.edu

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 2006
PhD in classical Arabic and Islamic Studies, Department of Near
Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies 2016-
Department of Religious Studies, University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon
Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Oregon 2010-2016
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies,
Department of Religious Studies, James Madison University 2007-2010
Harrisonburg, VA
Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Religion 2004-06
Carleton College, Northfield MN

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Principle Investigator Open Oregon Resources Grant (with Hanan Elsherif) 2021-23
on grant to write an open access textbook for first-year Arabic.
Faculty Excellence Award, University of Oregon 2021
Scholarly Editions and Translations Collaborative Grant (with Musghegh Asatryan). 2020-23
Received \$130k NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities) grant to complete
critical edition and abridged translation of *Manhaj al-‘ilm wal-bayān wa-nuzhat al-samā‘*
wal-‘ayān by ʿIṣmat al-Dawlah (died c. 1030).
Institute of Advanced Study, Short-term Visiting Scholar April, 2019
Sponsored by Carnegie Mellon Foundation.
Williams Teaching Fellowship, University of Oregon 2016
Van Claus Foundation Grant, Imam Zaid bin Ali Cultural Foundation 2016
Wrote successful 44,000€ Van Claus Foundation Fellowship on
behalf of the Imam Zaid bin Ali Cultural Foundation
Visiting Research Fellow, The Institute of Ismaili studies, London Jan-Mar 2014
Received research fellowship to begin critical edition of *Risālat*
ta'wil al-huruf al-mu'jama (The allegorical sense of the alphabet) by
Ja'far ibn Mansur al- Yaman.
Director, Yemen Manuscript Digitization Initiative 2010-2013
National Endowment for the Humanities/Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (NEH/DFG)
Enriching Digital Collections Grant (2010-2012; NEH Award Number HG-50019-10;
DFG Award Number SCHM 829/15-1). Composed grant narrative, drafted budget, and
assembled international advisory board for \$330k grant to digitize Arabic manuscripts in
the private libraries of Yemen.
American Academy of Religion Summer Fellow, Sanaa, Yemen Summer, 2010
Received fellowship to conduct fieldwork on scholasticism among

- Zaydi scholars in contemporary Yemen.
- Shaeffer Fellow, James Madison University/Sana'a, Yemen Summer, 2009
 Conducted preliminary research on contemporary scholasticism in Sana'a, Yemen.
- American Institute for Yemeni Studies Fellow Summer, 2007
 Awarded funding to investigate unpublished Zaydi manuscripts in the Great Mosque in Sana'a, Yemen.
- Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Fellow, The University of Pennsylvania 2006
 Awarded fellowship to pursue post-doctoral research on Fatimid doctrine within the Center's broader theme of "Jews, Christians and Muslims under Caliphs and Sultans."
- Institute of Ismaili Studies Dissertation Fellow, London, U.K. 2003-2004
 Awarded funding for manuscript research in IIS's research library.
- Council for American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Fellow, 2001-2002
 Awarded Smithsonian grant to research manuscripts in India and Morocco related to my dissertation.
- Oxford University/Queen Elizabeth Dissertation Fellow, 2000-2001
 Annenberg Grant to attend Oxford University, U.K., for dissertation research.
- American Numismatics Society Summer Fellow, New York, NY 2001
 Completed numismatics course focusing on Fatimid coinage.
- American Council for South Asian Manuscripts (ACSAM) Fellow, 2000
 Brown University, Providence, RI
 Completed intensive summer course on Arabic palaeography and codicology. Described the Arabic manuscripts in the Philadelphia area.
- Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Fellow, 1996
 Researched Arabic oral literature in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Yemen. U.S. Information Agency and Department of Education.
- Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) Fellow, Cairo, Egypt. 1995-1996
 American University of Cairo Intensive program in advanced Modern Standard and Egyptian Arabic.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Monographs

The Nusayri Path of Knowledge: Manhaj al-'ilm wal-bayan wa-nuzhat al-sam' wal'-iyan by Muhammad b. 'Ali 'Ismat al-Dawla (d. c. 1058): A compendium of Nusayri doctrine (with Mushegh Asatryan), Brill Shii Islam: Texts and Studies (currently in production with a publication date of August, 2024).

Beyond the Qur'ān: Early Ismaili ta'wil and the Secrets of the Prophets, University of South Carolina Press, 2016.

Edited volumes

The Yemeni Manuscript Tradition; co-edited with Sabine Schmidtke and Christopher, Rausch, Brill, Brill, 2015.

Textbooks (with Hanan Elsherif et al).

Introduction to Arabic: Egyptian Arabic for first-year students

<https://opentext.uoregon.edu/introarabic/> 411 pages. A Creative Commons Open Access publication, 2023.

ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS AND PEER REVIEWED EDITED VOLUMES

“Parsing God: Nuṣayrī Quran exegesis as theological and communal rectification,” in *Esotericism and the Quran* ed. Wissam Halawi and Bruce Fudge De Gruyter (submitted Sept 10, 2023)

“Expanding orthodoxy: Nuṣayrī esoteric Qur’an exegesis in the fifth/eleventh century” in *Esoteric Cultures of Scripture*, Oxford University Press. Submitted for consideration August 20th, 2022.

“How did the militant Kufan Shī‘ī *ghulāt* become quietist? Docetic visions of Abū l-Khaṭṭāb’s insurrection in a fifth/eleventh century Nuṣayrī doctrinal source,” in *Shi‘i and other Islamic Studies in Honour of Professor Mohammad Ali Amir-Moezzi* Edited by Mathieu Terrier and Orkhan Mir-Kasimov. Bibliothèque de l’Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Brepols. Submitted October 1st, 2022.

“*Anta ana wa-ana minka* (“You are me, and I am from you”): A quasi-Nuṣayrī fragment on the intellect in the early Ismā‘īlī treatise *Kitāb ta’wīl ḥurūf al-mu’jam*,” in *Mind, Body and Soul, a Festschrift honoring our doktorvater*, Everett Rowson, Brill, 2017.

“Manuscripts destruction and looting in Yemen: A status report,” with Anne Regourde, in *Chroniques yéménites*, Sanaa/Paris, June 2016.

“The empire writes back: Fāṭimid-Ismā‘īlī *Ta’wīl* (allegoresis) and the mysteries of the ancient Greeks.” In *The study of Shi‘i Islam: the state of the field, issues of methodology and recent developments*. Edited by Gurdofarid Miskinzoda (I.B. Tauris in conjunction with the Institute of Ismaili Studies), December, 2013.

“The Yemen Manuscript Digitization Initiative,” in *Chroniques du manuscrit au Yémen* January, 2012.

“Neoplatonism in early Fatimid doctrine: a critical edition and translation of the prologue of the *Kitāb al-fatarāt wa-l-qirānāt* (The Book of Periods and Conjunctions),” *Le Muséon*, July, 2009.

“Disrobing Judges with Veiled Truths: An early Ismaili Torah interpretation (ta’wīl) in service of the Fatimid mission,” *Religion*, April, 2003.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES, REVIEWS, TRANSLATIONS

“Child-labor’s frightening growth during the war in Yemen,” (translation).

Unesco Crossings Institute <https://unesco.uoregon.edu/2022/01/22/child-labors-frightening-growth-during-the-war-in-yemen/> January, 2022.

- “Ishmaelites.” In *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*,” Princeton University Press (2011).
- “Kitab al-‘alim wal-muta’allim.” In *Encyclopedia Iranica*, Columbia University Press (2011).
- (with Seth Rosenthal) *The Development of exegesis in early Islam* by Herbert Berg. (Curzon, 2000). *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (September, 2003).
- (with Naghmeh Sohrabi), *The Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (Princeton University Press, 2005) *Religion* (February, 2006).

PAPERS PRESENTED/CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION/INVITED TALKS

- “The Early Phases of Ismailism and its Precursors: A Defense of the Social-Historical Model,” presented at the Ismaili Studies Conference: The State of the Field, Nov. 21, 2022.
- “The Esoteric Quran Teaching Circles in 10-11th century Iraq and Syria,” Presented at *Esotericism and the Qur’an*, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, May 6th, 2022.
- “The Nusayri Teaching Circles of 10–11th century Iraq and Syria: A Portrait,” Presented at the Annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, MA March 20th, 2022.
- “The origins of Ismā’īlism and the politics of representation” presented at the *International Ismaili Studies Conference: Histories, Philosophies & Communities*, Leiden, August 6th, 2021.
- “Nusayri views of scripture and its interpretation” presented at the “Esoteric Cultures of Scripture meeting” Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, UK , December 17, 2019.
- “Jewish Prayer and Politics in Fatimid Egypt: The Connotations of Nosrim and the Absence of the Wicked Ruler in Several Geniza Versions of the Birkat ha-minim (Curse of the Sectarrians)” The Shia Jewish-Encounter meeting at Florida State University/Bramberg, Miami, April 11, 2019.
- “Scholasticism and Manuscript Culture under siege: the case of the Zaydi ‘ulama’ of Yemen,” Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Turkey, December 22nd, 2018.
- “The curriculum and channels of knowledge for contemporary Zaydi ‘ulama’ in the Yemeni highlands.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 19, 2017.
- “Saving manuscripts: Yemen’s humanitarian Disaster and he targeting of cultural heritage for destruction,” The College of Idaho, November 3, 2016; The University of Pennsylvania Museum, March 20, 2016; Tufts University, March 16, 2016.
- “Accounts of the Compilation of Scripture in Ismaili Sources,” presented at the meeting of the Intellectual Interactions in the Islamic World: The Ismaili Thread.” London, The Institute for Ismaili Studies, October, 2016.
- “The Curriculum and channels of knowledge for contemporary Zaydi ‘ulama’ in the Yemeni highlands,” Middle East Studies Association, November, 2016.
- Lessons learned from the Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative. Middle East Studies Association, November 22, 2015.
- Discussant, “Concealment and manifestation: A Reappraisal of Ghayba and Satr in Shi’i History, Middle East Studies Association, November 23, 2015.
- “Ismā’īlī ta’wīl as Hiero-Interpretation,” Presented at the meeting for Ismaili Studies, The University of Chicago, Oct. 16, 2014.

- “The Yemen Manuscript Digitization Initiative,” Presented at the meeting of the International Manuscript Association, August, 2014, Cambridge University, Cambridge Uk. August 30, 2014.
- “Authenticating Early Ismaili doctrine: The Risālat taʿwīl al-ḥurūf,” Presented at the Speaker Series for the Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, UK. July 16, 2014.
- “Preserving Manuscripts Under Erasure: The Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative,” NEH Sponsored Middle East Digital Humanities Meeting, Brown University Providence Oct. 24, 2013.
- Panel Chair, “The Ethics of Reading in Manuscript Culture,” Annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans, October 10, 2013.
- “Ships of faith, islands of salvation: Stories of the prophets as intra-sectarian Shiite polemic” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November, 2013.
- “Scholars Under Siege: Zaydi Scholasticism in Modern Yemen,” presented at the Institutet of Ismaili Studies Department of Academic Research and Publications, London, UK Dec. 13, 2012.
- “Studied Continuities: The Zaydi ‘ulama’ of the Yemeni highlands,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in Boston, MA, March, 2012.
- “History of YMDI,” Presented at the International Workshop of the Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, 9-1, May 2012.
- “The Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative: Preserving manuscript collections through virtual archives,” presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Washington DC, November, 2011.
- “The nature of Fatimid universalism: Jaʿfar ibn Mansur al-Yaman’s *taʿwīl* of non-Islamic sources,” presented at the meeting of the International Society of Biblical Literature, London, UK, June, 2011.
- “Perspectives on Yemen's Contemporary Crisis: Zaydi Scholasticism.” The Annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, San Diego, November, 2010.
- “Toward a Portrait of a Scholastic community: Oral Histories of the Owners and Patrons of the Zaydi Private Manuscript Libraries of Northern Yemen,” The Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November, 2010.
- “The Manuscripts in Forty Private Libraries in Northern Yemen: A Descriptive Analysis.” Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March, 2009.
- “Interpretation after the End of Days: Tenth-Century Fatimid-Ismaili *taʿwīl* (interpretation) of Jewish and Christian Scripture and Ritual” presented at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Philadelphia, PA October, 2006.
- “Ornamental Neoplatonica in pre-Kirmānian Fātimid *taʿwīl*” presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March, 2004.
- “Disrobing judges with veiled truths: An early Ismaʿili missionary on the biblical Judah-Tamar story” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, TN, November, 2000.
- “Summoning the Majzub (enchanted one): Poetry and wonders in a Yemeni mountain village,” Presented at the Conference of Poetry and the Public Sphere, Rutgers University, January, 1998.
- “The Interface between written and oral pre-modern narrative in light of field-work: Problems and prospects,” presented at the Social Science Research Conference, Cairo, Egypt, January, 1998.

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

UNESCO Senior Research Fellow	2021-present
Initiated project to translate stories on Yemen from Arabic to English to facilitate well-sourced news on humanitarian crisis.	2021-present
Department Assessment reviewer	2022, 2019-2020
Faculty advisor, Muslim Student Association	2023-2024
Search Committee Member, Biblical Studies search	2023-2024
Formulated departmental application for Judaic Studies position	2023
Jack Sanders Award Committee Member	2020-2023
Tenure Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies,	2021
Head, Department of Religious Studies	2017-2020
Director, Arabic Language & Literature, the University of Oregon	2010-present
Head, Faculty led GEO Study abroad intensive Arabic program to Amman	2016-2019
Head, Islamic Studies Initiative	2015-present
Faculty Advisor, Arabic Studies Minor	2013-present
Founded Arabic Studies Minor in 2012	
Search Committee Member, Bible search	2023
Chair, Arabic Advisory Committee	2010-present
Faculty Advisor for International Studies students	2012-present
Search Committee member, Arabic	2014
Search Committee, Hebrew	2013
Search Committee, Religious Studies GTFs	2015
Member, Middle East Studies Minor Faculty working group	2015
Member, Oregon Language Council	2015
Consultant, “Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative Grant”	2015
Center for Applied Second Language/Global Studies Institute	
Consultant, “Islamic Initiatives at UO,” Global Studies Institute	2014-2015
Search Committee Chair, Arabic	2010-2013

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Reader, International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH)	2023
Editorial Board Member, <i>Ismaili Texts and Translations Series</i> , IIS/I.B. Tauris	2023-
Reader, <i>Cultural Emergency Response Grants</i> , Amsterdam, the Netherlands	2022
Advisory Board, The Yemen National Archive, www.yemennationalarchive.org	2022-
Editorial Board Member, <i>Oxford University Press Qur’anic Studies Series</i>	2022-
Director, Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative	2010-
Faculty Supervisor, Arabic Intensive, Qasid Institute; Amman, Jordan	2017-2019
Reader, CNRS fellowship, Paris, France	2018
Co-organizer, Conference of the Yemeni Manuscript Digitization Initiative	2012
Faculty Mentor, Critical Language Intensive Summer Institute, Sana’a Yemen.	2007

NATIONAL

External Evaluator for tenure case, SUNY Binghamton,	2018
Asylum Consultant for Yemeni applicant for asylum (Immigration Counseling Services), Portland, OR	2015; 2017; 2021
Asylum Consultant, ICS (Yemen consultant, International Center for	2014

Religion and Diplomacy Washington, DC.	
Yemen Consultant, US Department of State, Foreign Service Institute	2012
Reader, <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>	2011
Reader, <i>Yale University Press</i>	2011-12
Co-organizer of American Academy of Religion wildcard session	2010
With Tariq al-Jamil, Swarthmore College, <i>Mapping the social and intellectual boundaries of pre-modern Shi'ism</i> , The American Academy of Religion.	
Arabic codicology and paleography workshop. Guest presenter Adam Gacek from McGill University.	2002

LANGUAGES

Classical Arabic. Knowledge of Egyptian, Levantine, Yemeni (Sana'ni) dialects of Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic. Reading knowledge of Hebrew, Aramaic, Persian, French, German.