

Rosabel P. Ansari

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Harriman Hall 233
Department of Philosophy
Stony Brook University

Professional

Stony Brook University (State University of New York)
Department of Philosophy

2023 – current	Assistant Professor
2020 – 2023	Globalization Fellow

Education

2020 Ph.D., Islamic philosophy, Georgetown University

Prizes: Georgetown Global Medieval Studies Dissertation Award

Committee: Emma Gannagé, Thérèse-Anne Druart, David Bronstein

Education abroad:

- Istanbul, Turkey: EDEP/İSAR Institute, July-August, 2016 and August, 2015
- Cunda, Turkey: Intensive Ottoman and Turkish Summer School, June-July, 2015

2012 B.A. (1st class degree), University of Cambridge

Prizes: B.A. dissertation prize on Islamic theology

Education abroad:

- Damascus, Syria: Classical Arabic programs at Ma‘had Abī Nūr and Ma‘had al-Faḥ, 2010-11
- East Jerusalem: Internship, British School of Archaeology, Summer 2010
- Nabak, Syria: Arabic Bible studies, Mar Musa Monastery, Summer 2009

Research interests

Areas of Specialization: Classical and post-classical Islamic philosophy (especially metaphysics, philosophy of language, philosophical Sufism and the commentary tradition on Avicenna); Graeco-Arabic Studies

Areas of Competence: Ancient and Medieval philosophy; philosophy of religion

Publications

Published

Articles and book chapters

2023 “Necessary Existent Theology,” *Religious Studies* (co-authored with Billy Dunaway and Jon McGinnis), published online, 3/23/2023, 1-15

- 2023 “The Existential Threat of Climate Change: A Practical Application of Avicenna’s Theory of Evil” in ed. M. Faruque, *Evil and Suffering and the Global Pandemic* (London: Routledge, 2023), 14-28
- 2023 “A discussion of Jawdath Jabbour, *De la matière à l’intellect. L’âme et la substance de l’homme dans l’oeuvre d’al-Fārābī*,” *Les Mélanges de l’Université Saint-Joseph* 69 (2023), 439-448
- 2023 “Greek Philosophy and Sufism in Mecdi’s Ottoman Turkish *Gardens of Peonies*” in ed. M. Rustom, *Islamic Thought and the Art of Translation: Essays in Honor of William Chittick and Sachiko Murata* (Leiden: Brill, 2023), 311-322
- 2022 “One Way of Being Ambiguous: The Univocity of ‘Existence’ and the Theory of *Tashkīk* Predication in Rāzī and Ṭūsī,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* (co-authored with Jon McGinnis) 96.4 (2022), 545-570
- 2022 “Taftāzānī’s refutation of Akbarian metaphysics and the identification of absolute being with the Necessary Being,” *Oriens* 50.3-4 (2022), 207-243
- 2022 Book review: Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi, *The Translator of Desires: Poems*, tr. Michael Sells (Princeton University Press, 2021) in *Journal of Islamic and Muslim Studies* 6.2 (2022), 137-141
- 2018 “Ibn Kemal, Dawānī and the Avicennan lineage,” *Les Mélanges de l’Université Saint-Joseph* 67 (2017-2018), 237-264

Forthcoming

- Book chapter: “Al-Fārābī, *The Book of Letters* I.13”
- Book chapter: “The psychology of popular Eleatic monism according to al-Fārābī”
- Monograph: *Language and Being in the Philosophy of al-Fārābī*

In progress

- Translation: Avicenna’s *Treatise on Love*

Public scholarship

- 2022 “People are Equal like the Tooth of a Comb: Humanity, Equality and Individuality in Classical Islamic Philosophy”, *Renovatio Journal* 5.1, 65-68
<https://renovatio.zaytuna.edu/article/people-are-equal-like-the-teeth-of-a-comb>
- 2020 “The Oneness of Being”, *Renovatio Journal* 3.2, 25-29
<https://renovatio.zaytuna.edu/article/the-oneness-of-being>

Grants and Fellowships

External

- 2019-20 John Templeton Foundation
 “The Christian West and Islamic East: Theology, Science, and Knowledge” Project

University of Missouri-St. Louis, Department of Philosophy
Dissertation fellowship

2015 Institute of Turkish Studies, Washington D.C.
Summer Study Grant

2015 U.S. Department of Education
FLAS Fellowship

Georgetown University

2019-20 Center for Advancing Muslim-Christian Understanding Fellowship

2018-19 Graduate School Fellowship

2014-18 Graduate School Assistantship

Presentations

Invited Presentations (selected)

2023 “Avicenna and the Foundations of Philosophical Sufism”, Post-Classical Islamic Philosophy: New Directions conference, Princeton University, May 18, 2023

2023 Faculty Discussant at the Early Career Workshop in Islamic Philosophy, Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion, Princeton University, May 17, 2023

2023 “*Tashkik* and the refutation of monism in post-classical Islamic philosophy”, Arabic Philosophy workshop series, Department of Religion, Yale University, April 7, 2023

2023 “The Existential Threat of Climate Change: Islamic Philosophical Problems”, Contemporary Islamic Philosophy Workshop, Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, March 27, 2023

2021 “Multiplexity in Islamic metaphysics”, İbn Haldun Üniversitesi, Istanbul, Turkey, September 12th, 2021

2019 “An Islamic refutation of monism”, Department of Religion, Florida International University, March 25th, 2019

2018 “The ambiguity of being in Arabic metaphysics” Marquette University Philosophy Department, The Midwest Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, March 1st, 2018

2015 “Ibn Kemal, Dawānī and the Avicennan lineage,” Inaugural Workshop of the International Associated Laboratory (LIA): "The Reception of Arabic Philosophy in the Ottoman World" (CNRS-IFEA-Yıldız Technical University - Istanbul, 2-4 November 2015)

Conference presentations

2023 Commentator for Ferhat Taşkin, “A Problem for Avicenna’s Account of Divine Simplicity and Freedom: Omnirationality”, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO, February 22-25, 2023

- 2022 “Can human language represent reality? A discussion of ‘doubt-inducing terms’ (*asmā’ mushakkikah*) in al-Fārābī and Maimonides”, Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, November 13th-15th, 2022
- 2022 “The psychology of popular Eleatic monism according to al-Fārābī”, The XVth International Congress of the SIEPM (La Société Internationale pour l’Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale), Paris, August 22nd-26th, 2022
- 2022 Discussant for Kara Richardson, “The Principle of Sufficient Reason in Medieval Philosophy”, Principle of Sufficient Reason and its History Conference, Department of Philosophy, Yale University, June 24-26, 2022
- 2021 “Esoteric Intersections: Avicennan Philosophy, Ismaili Shi’ism, and Theoretical Sufism”, panel respondent, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19th-22nd, 2021
- 2021 “*Tashkik* as an epistemological problem”, Aquinas and the ‘Arabs’ International Working Group International Meeting, “Philosophy in the Abrahamic Traditions: Structures of Being, World and Ming”, May 26th, 2021 [online]
- 2020 “*Tashkik* and sophistry in Fārābī’s philosophy of language”, American Philosophical Association Central Meeting, Chicago, February 26th-29th, 2020
- 2019 “The Abbasids: society and culture”, panel discussant and chair, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 14th-17th 2019
- 2019 “Al-Fārābī’s refutation of Parmenides,” Workshop on *Classical Philosophy in the Lands of Islam and its Influence* sponsored by the Aquinas and the ‘Arabs’ International Working Group at the 54th Annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 9th-12th, 2019
- 2019 “Al-Fārābī’s refutation of monism,” Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 15th-18th 2019
- 2018 “Ṭūsī, Qūnawī and *tashkik al-wujūd*,” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 15th-18th 2018
- 2017 “Greek into Ottoman via Arabic: Greek scientific and philosophical vocabulary in Meccī’s Hadaiku’s-Sekaik” Thirteenth Graduate Student Conference in Turkish and Turkic Studies, held in Washington, D.C., on November 18th, 2017.
- 2017 “Conversations between Avicennans, Ash‘arīs and Akbarians: To whom does the Avicennan legacy belong?” 7th annual McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Graduate Student Symposium at McGill University, April 26th-27th 2017.
- 2016 “Taftāzānī’s Refutation of *waḥdat al-wujūd* [the oneness of being]: A new perspective on intellectual history,” 31st Annual meeting of the Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) Conference at the University of Chicago, May 6th-7th 2016

Teaching

Stony Brook University

- Medieval Philosophy PhD Seminar (PHI 601) [Fall 2023]
- Moral Reasoning (PHI 108) [Fall 2023]
- Topics in Islamic Philosophy (AAS/PHI 472) [Fall '20, 21, 22; Spring '21, 22, 23]
- Global Islam (GLI 212) [Fall '20, 21, 22]
- Women in Islam (GLI 391) [Spring '21, 22, 23]

Loyola University Chicago

- Philosophy & Persons (PHIL 130) [Spring 2019]

Service

Student Advising

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| Fall '21 –
Spring '23 | Undergraduate teaching practicum |
| Fall '20 -
Spring '22 | Stony Brook graduate Avicenna reading group |
| Spring 2022 | Reader for Philosophy undergraduate honor's thesis, "The Search for Explanations: Platonic Replies to Aristotle's Criticisms of Separation and Regress" |
| Fall '21-
Spring '22 | MA thesis director for Haseena Sahib, "The Mystical Philosophy of 'Ā'isha al-Bā'ūniyya" |
| Fall 2021 | Reader for Philosophy PhD Interface Paper, Mohsen Saber "Intentionality in Avicenna: Foundation and Structure" |
| Spring 2021 | MA thesis director for Mohammed Mehdi Ali, "Examining the Role of Religion in al-Fārābī's <i>Mabādi'</i> [the Perfect State]: A New Approach" |

Stony Brook University

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| Fall '21-
Spring '22 | Interim Program Director for Religious Studies |
| Spring 2021 | Interim Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies |

Service to the Field

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| 2021-Present | New Members Committee, Aquinas and the 'Arabs' International Working Group |
| 2021-Present | External reviewer for: |

- *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*
- *Al-Qantara: Revista de Estudios Arabes* published by the Spanish national research center, CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)
- *Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society*

Georgetown University

- 2016-17 Organizer, Georgetown Association of Arabic and Islamic Studies Graduate Student colloquium series consisting of nine interdisciplinary colloquia, including presentations, guided readings and round-tables
- 2016-17 Founder/President, Georgetown Association of Arabic and Islamic Studies
- 2016 Codicologist of Arabic manuscripts in the Süleymaniye Manuscript Library (Istanbul) for the French Centre national de la recherche scientifique as a part of the project *Philosophy in Context: Arabic and Syriac manuscript transmission in the Mediterranean World* run by Prof. Maroun Aouad

Languages

English	native	German	reading knowledge
French	near-native	Ancient Greek	reading knowledge
Arabic	near-native	Persian	reading knowledge
Turkish	advanced	Ottoman Turkish	reading knowledge
Spanish	advanced	Maltese	heritage speaker

Professional Affiliations

La Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale
 Aquinas and the 'Arabs' International Working Group
 American Philosophical Association
