

SeyedAmirHossein Asghari, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-8850-7591

Email: amir_asghari@baylor.edu

812-369-9309

Current Positions

- 2022 – Present
Baylor University, Waco, TX. USA
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Religion
Affiliated Global Ethics Research Group
 - 2024 April-May
Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham, UK
Visiting Research Fellow
 - 2023 –Present
Indiana University Bloomington, IN. USA
Senior Fellow- Center for the Study of the Middle East (CSME)
-

Advisory Roles

Member of the Advisory Board

Muslim Voices Public Scholarship Project, Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University Bloomington

July 2024 - Present

Education

- **Ph.D.**
Indiana University (Bloomington, Indiana, USA, 2022)
Dissertation Title: “Philosophy and Şūfism in The Contemporary Shiʿī Seminary and Their Opponents”
 - **M.A.**
Middlesex University, United Kingdom, 2013. Comparative Philosophy (Islam and the West)
 - **BA**
Azad University (Tehran-Iran), Department of Islamic Law.2000
- Traditional education, Theoretical Sufism, Philosophy, Arabic Language, Islamic Jurisprudence. 2000 – 2007
-

Teaching Experience

Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham. United Kingdom, 2024

1

SeyedAmir Asghari, Ph.D.

- Wisdom in the Quran and Islamic Intellectual and Sufi Tradition, May 2024,
 - Developed and delivered four online lectures on the concept of Wisdom in Islamic teaching and its relevance in Islamic intellectual and Sufi traditions.

Baylor University, Department of Religion, Guest Lecturer Experience

- **"Tolerance in Islam"**, Biblical Heritage/Contemporary Ethics class (BIC 3358), February 23, 2024
 - Developed and delivered a lecture exploring the principles of tolerance within Islam, highlighting historical and contemporary perspectives.
- **"Women in the Quran"**, World Culture II, undergraduate class, January 31, 2024
 - Created and presented an analysis of women's roles and rights in the Quran, addressing misconceptions and cultural variations.
- **"Muslim Theories of Religions"**, Theories of Religion, graduate seminar, October 24, 2023
 - Delivered a lecture on Muslim theories regarding other religions, emphasizing theological foundations and interfaith dialogue.
- **"Jesus in the Quran"**, World Religions seminar, March 02, 2023
 - Crafted and presented a lecture on the portrayal of Jesus in the Quran, comparing Islamic and Christian perspectives.
- **"Islam's Interrelations with Christianity and Judaism"**, World Religion seminar, October 10, 2022
 - Prepared and presented a lecture on Islam's connections with Christianity and Judaism, underscoring shared roots and teachings.

Butler University, Indianapolis, USA

- **Adjunct Faculty & Future Faculty Teaching Fellow**, Fall 2021
 - Taught "First Year Seminar: Faith, Doubt, and Reason" and "Modern Middle East and North Africa," focusing on critical thinking and interdisciplinary analysis.
 - Mentored students in research methodology, guiding them through term paper processes including proposals and source selection.

Indiana University-Bloomington, Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures

- **Associate Instructor**, Fall 2020
 - Led "Quranic Studies" undergraduate seminar, employing synchronous and asynchronous methods to engage students.
 - Facilitated Arabic and English discussion sections, enhancing interactive learning and cross-cultural insights.
- **Guest Lecturer**, Safavid and Ottoman Relations Seminar, February 13, 2020
 - Delivered "Shia-Sunni Division: Theological Roots," noted for engaging content and delivery in student evaluations.
- **Associate Instructor**, Fall 2019
 - Designed and taught "Visions of Islam (Islam and the West)," enhancing understanding of Islam-West relations.
- **Teaching Assistant**, Fall 2014
 - Supported "Quranic Studies" and facilitated Arabic discussion sections.

Other Teaching Experiences

- **Lecturer**, Center for the Study of Contemporary Islam, Tehran, 2013
- **Lecturer**, Rumi Research Foundation, Albania, 2010-2012
 - Delivered lectures on philosophy, Sufism, and Islamic Studies.
- **Teacher & Headmaster**, Saadi High School, 2004-2008
 - Applied Socratic Method in teaching; oversaw administrative operations and contributed to the enhancement of the academic environment.

Forthcoming Books

- Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein. *Sufism and Philosophy in the Contemporary Shia Seminary: The Thought of Scholars and Mystics*. Bloomsbury University Press, 2025.

Current Book Project

- **2025 (Expected):** Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein; Martens, Paul. *Natural Law: Islamic and Christian Approaches*. This book project aims to delve into the concepts of natural law within Islamic and Christian thought, offering comparative insights and fostering a deeper understanding of each tradition's approach to universal moral principles and inter-religious understanding.
- **Forthcoming Book:**
- 2026 (Expected) Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein, *Bridging Cultures: Ma Dexin's Insights on Liu Xhi and the Rise of Islamic Philosophy and Sufism in China*. AMI Press (Al-Mahdi Institute Publication), 2026

Books Published

- 2010: The First Persian-Albanian-English Standard Dictionary (Fjalor Persisht- Shqipe), Toena Publication, Albania.
Role: Project Leader. Responsibilities included writing the proposal, assembling and coordinating the team, defining tasks, and overseeing project development to ensure timely and quality completion.

Academic Publications

2025

- Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein. "From Text to Transcendence: Exploring Khwāja Khurd's 'Risāla-yi Nūr-i Waḥdat' and Its Role in Shia Sufism." In *The Oneness of Being (Waḥdat al-Wujūd): Interpretation, Reception, and Implications*, Conference Proceeding, Al-Mahdi Institute, AMI Press, expected 2025.
- "Governance in Shia Islam: Ṭabāṭabā'ī's Integration of Philosophy, Sufism, and Political Theory." In *Proceedings of the Conference by the Center for the Study of the Middle East*, Indiana University Press, expected 2025.

2024

- Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein. "Pilgrimage Theology and Interreligious Dialogue: Exploring Divine Presence in Shi'i Visitation Prayers." *Journal of Islam and the Contemporary World*, Spring 2024. 1 (2).

2023

- Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein. "Bridging Cultures: Sufi Underpinnings in the Han Kitab School of China: Ma Dexin's Commentary on Liu Zhi's 'Nature and Principle in Islam'." *SUREK Alevism, Bektashism and Journal of Cultural Studies*, 1(1).
- Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein. "Sufism in the Contemporary Shii Seminary?" *Journal of Religions*, 14(10): 1248. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14101248>
- Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein. "Understanding Human Dignity in Shi'i Islam: Debates, Challenges, and Solutions for Contemporary Issues." *Journal of Religions*, 14(4), 505. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14040505>
- Asghari, SeyedAmirHossein. "Baba Rexheb and Bektashism, Notes of Bektashi-Shii Convergence." *Conference Proceedings of International Bektashism Symposium in the Balkans*, April 26-27, Ankara, Turkey. ISBN 978-625-99787-0-3.

2021

- Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "Replacing Sharīʿa, Ṭarīqa and Ḥaqīqa with Fiqh, Akhlāq and Tawḥīd." *Journal of Sufi Studies*, 9(2): 202-214. <https://doi.org/10.1163/22105956-bja10010>
 - Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "Presence, Manifestation, and Visitation in Abrahamic Religions: The Notion of 'Presence' in Shiʿism." *Journal of Religious & Theological Information*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10477845.2021.1926629>
 - Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "The Bektashi Order, Sufism, and Shiʿism in the Work of Baba Rexheb, a Bektashi Sufi of the 20th Century." *Turkish Journal of Shiʿite Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.48203/siader.799560>
 - Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "Sufism and Philosophy of Modern Science; Notes on Nasr's Philosophy." *Journal of Turkish Culture and Haci Bektash Veli Research Quarterly*, (98). <https://doi.org/10.34189/hbv.98.011>
- 2020**
- Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "Shiʿa Mystical Theology: Notes on Sayyid Ḥaydar Āmulī's Jāmiʿ al-Asrār wa Manbaʿ al-Anwār." *Kom Casopis Za Religijnske Nauke*, 9(3): 65-80. <https://doi.org/10.5937/kom2003065A>
- 2017**
- Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "Ontology and Cosmology of ʿAql (Intellect) in Ṣadrā's Commentary on Uṣūl al-Kāfi." *Journal of Shiʿa Islamic Studies*, 10(2): 157-182. <https://doi.org/10.1353/isl.2017.0011>
- 2016**
- Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "Mystical Interpretation of the Qurʿān." *Burban Journal of Quranic Studies*, Vol 01, No.01. Translated into Arabic by Ali al-Saʿīdī, July 13, 2019. <http://tawaseen.com/?p=3910>.
- 2012**
- Asghari, Seyed Amir Hossein. "Modern and Traditional Science and Technology in the Philosophy of S. H. Nasr." *Metafizika dhe Morali*, Vol 01, No. 01, pp. 83-96.
-

Academic Engagements

- **Interreligious Dialogues Contributor**, 2023-2026
Engaged actively in "Shia Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning in Dialogue," a program by the Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University. Contributed to expanding interfaith understanding through participation in dialogues aimed at fostering deeper connections between diverse religious traditions.

Academic Contributions and Research Experience:

- **Forthcoming Work on Islamic Extremism Philosophy**
In collaboration with Dr. Hassan Ansari (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton), co-authoring a study titled "*Ghulumw* (Extremism) as a Philosophical School." This research focuses on analyzing manuscripts attributed to the 13th-century scholar Hasan b. Hamza al-Shīrāzī al-Balāsī, exploring his contributions within the Shīʿī-Sufi and Nusayri traditions. This work aims to shed light on the philosophical underpinnings of extremism through historical texts.
- **Editorial and Research Assistant Roles**
- Editing Historic Arabic Medical and philosophical Texts (2015 – 2016)
Served as a Research Assistant to Dr. John Walbridge, contributing to the editing process of "*The Alexandrian Epitomes of Galen*" (Volume 2). This role involved meticulous review and annotation of Arabic manuscripts, facilitating a deeper understanding of Galenic medicine in its historical and cultural context.

- **Cataloging Islamic Philosophical Manuscripts**

As a Research Assistant for Dr. John Walbridge, I specialized in identifying and cataloging manuscripts related to the *Isbrāqī* (Illumination) school of Islamic philosophy. This project focused on manuscripts housed in Middle Eastern libraries, enhancing academic access to and knowledge of this significant philosophical movement.

Interviews

2024: "Revelation, Philosophy and Sufism": A Conversation with SeyedAmirHossein Asghari, featured in Al-Mahdi Institute Podcast Series. May 13, 2024.

2023: "Natural Law and Interreligious Dialogue: A Conversation with Seyed Amir Hossein Asghari," featured in *Currents in Religion*, March 10, 2023. Discussed the intersection of natural law principles with interreligious dialogue, emphasizing the importance of understanding and cooperation across different faith traditions.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024

- Forthcoming: [Beyond Jurisprudence: Imagination as a Catalyst in Shia Political Philosophy](#), Middle Eastern Studies Association, November 11-14, 2024. Virtual
- Understanding Self/Soul in Islamic Tradition in Conversation with Jewish Tradition, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University Bloomington, June 24-26, 2024, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.
- "Contrasting Approaches of the Sufi/'Irfānī School of Najaf and the Maktab-i Tafsīk (School of Separation)" Al-Mahdi Institute, May 8, 2024, Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- "From Text to Transcendence: Exploring Khwāja Khurd's 'Risāla-yi Nūr-i Waḥdat' and Its Influence on Shia Sufism," Al-Mahdi Institute, April 22-23, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

2023

- "Governance in Shia Islam: Ṭabāṭabā'ī's Integration of Philosophy, Sufism, and Political Theory", Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University Bloomington, December 1, 2023, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.
- Natural law in Shia Islam, Presented in "Shia-Jewish Legal Reasoning Dialogue", Indiana University, June 27-29, 2023. Bloomington, Indiana, USA.
- "Notes on Spiritual convergence between Shi'i and Bektashi Traditions", International Symposium on Bektashi in the Balkans as a Turkish Islamic Heritage, April 26-27, 2023. Ankara, Turkey.
- Question of Natural law in the Shia Islam, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University, January 4, 2023. Bloomington, Indiana.
- Natural Law in Islamic Resources, *Interreligious Understanding and Natural Law: Toward Justice and Human Dignity*, Villanova University, February 28-29, 2023, Philadelphia, USA.

2022

- "Presence and Sacred in Abrahamic Religions with a focus on Shia Islam", Middle Eastern Studies Association, December 2022, Denver, USA.
- Thoughts on Human Dignity in the Shia Islam, Human Dignity and Religious Traditions, November 5, 2022, Hindu University, Bali, Indonesia.

- Islamic Studies in North America, Tehran University, Iran, March 15, 2022, Online Opposition to Philosophy and Sufism in the Contemporary Shia Seminary, Shia Studies in the Twenty-First Century, Organized by Massey University (New Zealand) and Indiana University (USA), May 30, 2022, online.
- Diversity and Unity in Transnational Shi'a Islam, The Second International Symposium on Intra-Shi'a Dialogue & Confessional Diversity within Shi'ism at Harvard University. May 9-13, 2022.

2021

- Transforming Sufism in the Modern Shi'i Seminary and Vocabularies of Authority, STIFUNG FÜR ISLAMISCHE STUDIEN, Germany, November 28, 2021, online.
- “Replacing *Sharia*, *Tariqah*, and *Haqiqah* with *Fiqh*, *Akblāq*, and *Tawḥīd*: Notes on Shaykh Muḥammad Bahārī (d.1325/1908) and His Sufi Affiliation”, Midwest American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual meeting, April 23, 2021, online.
- Sufism in the Shia Seminary, Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), December 1, 2021, online.

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 Association for Jewish Studies (AJS). December 15-17, 2019, San Diego, California.

2018

- “A Millennium after al-Fārābī; Utopia Among Shia Philosophers,” 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.
- “Shi'a Salafis?!” 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 Shi'a Seminary: ‘The Self- Knowledge Order’ Since Its Beginning to the Date,” Presented in the Shi'i Studies: The State-of-the-Art Conference, December 8-9, 2017, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, USA.

2016

- “*Maktab-i Tafkik* (School of Separation) and Its Opponents in the Contemporary Shi'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 Shi'a Studies, Islamic College for Advanced Studies, May 7-8, 2016, London, UK.

- “Mullā Sadrā and His Interpretation of *ʿAql* (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 (Online)
- 2009**
- “Methods and Experience of Practicing Philosophy with Students,” Presented at the poster session at the 14th Biennial International Council of Philosophical Inquiry with Children (ICPIC) conference. July 2-4, 2009. Università Degli Studi Di Padova, Padova Italy.
- 2008**
- “Philosophizing in 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.
-

Public Talks

- 2024: Delivered a lecture on "Natural Law and the Quranic Concept of Fitrah: A Bridge to Inter-religious Understanding and Collaboration" Salam Center, London, UK, April 26, 2024.
- 2024: Developed and delivered ten lectures on "Self-Knowledge and Self-Improvement in a Religious Context," Saba Islamic Center, San Jose, CA, March 25 - April 5.
- 2023: Developed and delivered six lectures on "Religion and Faith in the Modern Era," Saba Islamic Center, San Jose, CA, September 1-7.
- 2023: "Imam and the Revival of Intellect," Northwestern University Shia Muslim Association, July.
- 2022: Developed and delivered ten lectures on "Reason and Revelation," Saba Islamic Center, San Jose, CA, July 28 - August 9.

Book Translations

- 2017: Chittick, William C. *In Search of the Lost Heart: Explorations in Islamic Thought*. Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 2012. Translated to Persian, Tehran, Intishārāt-i Falāt.
- 2015: Chittick, William C. *Divine Love: Islamic Literature and the Path to God*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013. Translated to Persian, Tehran, Intishārāt-i ʿilmī wa Farhangī.
- 2011: Nasr, Seyyed Hossein, Muzaffar Iqbal, and Amīr Ḥusayn Aṣgharī. *Islām, ʿilm, Musalmānān va fanʿāvarī (Islam, Science, Muslims, and Technology)*. Tehran, Intishārāt-i Ittīlāʿ
- 2009/2016: Chittick, William C. *Science of the Cosmos, Science of the Soul: The Pertinence of Islamic Cosmology in the Modern World*. Oxford: Oneworld, 2007. Translated to Persian, Tehran, Intishārāt-i Ittīlāʿ.

Forthcoming

- **In Press:** Madelung, Wilfred. *Studies in Medieval Shiʿism*. Routledge; New edition, 2012. Translated by SeyedAmirHossein Asghari.

- **In Press:** Murata, Sachiko, William C. Chittick, Weiming Tu, and Jieliang 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. Translated by SeyedAmirHossein Asghari.
-

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

- **Graduate Research Assistant**, Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana University Bloomington, Spring 2022
Developed outreach content and assisted with grant development for the "Muslim Voices" project.
 - **Graduate Research Assistant**, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University Bloomington, 2017-2021
Supported outreach through event organization, social media, and website updates, etc.
 - **Research Assistant**, Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University, 2015-2018
Worked on Arabic philosophical and medical manuscripts.
 - **Project Collaborator**, "Internationalizing the Academic Standards", Summer 2017 Enhanced Middle Eastern components of the academic standards project.
 - **Summer Intern**, "The Linguist List", Indiana University Bloomington, 2015 Focused on computational linguistics, researching the Baharlu Turkish dialect.
 - **Founding Director**, Rumi Research Foundation, Albania, 2007-2012 Established a research foundation focusing on Sufi heritage in the Balkans and published "The First Persian-Albanian-English Standard Dictionary" in 2010.
-

Professional Services

Peer Review Contributions:

- Journal of Sufi Studies (Brill)
- Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society
- Journal of Religions (MDPI)
- Sophia, International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions (Springer)
- Journal Degli Studi Orientali (Sapienza University, Italy)

Editorial Board Membership Professional Memberships & Roles

- **Editorial Board Member**, Journal Tarbiyatuna, Indonesia, 2021-present
Serving on the editorial board, contributing to the scholarly direction and content review.
 - **Awards Committee Member**, Graduate and Professional Student Government, Indiana University, 2020-2021
Participated in the awards committee, overseeing the distribution of recognitions among graduate and professional students.
 - **Assistant Journal Editor**, Rumi Research Foundation
Contributed to three volumes of "*Metafizika dhe Morali*" (Metaphysics and Morals), enhancing the journal's academic rigor and outreach.
-

Languages

- **Persian:** Native
- **English:** Advanced

- **Turkish:** Advanced
 - **Arabic:** Advanced
 - **Albanian:** Advanced (Speaking and Reading; co-authored "The First Persian- Albanian-English Standard Dictionary")
 - **French:** Reading Knowledge
 - **Azerbaijani:** Intermediate
 - **Bulgarian:** Elementary
-

Fellowships

- **Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship,** Indiana University, 2021-22, \$12,000
- **Wonkai Lee Fellowship,** Indiana University, 2021-22, \$12,000
- **The Linda S. Walbridge Fellowship,** Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC), Indiana University, \$6,000, 2020 and 2019
- International Student Fellowship Burnham GR, Indiana University, \$2,500, 2017

Honors and Awards

2019

- Conference Funding, Jewish Studies, Gurion Family Fund, Indiana University
- Knapp Foundation Travel Grant / MESA Travel Award
- Travel Award, Islamic Studies Program, Indiana University

2018

- Travel Award, Islamic Studies Program, Indiana University
- International Services Award GR, Indiana University

2016

- NELC Department's Travel and Expenses Award, Indiana University
- Travel Award, 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, MELC, Indiana University
-

Affiliations

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