

NOAH DAEDALUS GARDINER
Curriculum Vitae, July 2017

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<http://thehoopoe.org> (August 2017)

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.
Dissertation: "Esotericism in a manuscript culture: Aḥmad al-Būnī and his readers through the Mamlūk period." Winner of the 2014 Bruce D. Craig Prize for Mamluk Studies.
- 2012 Certificate in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2010 M.A. in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2007 B.A., Independent Concentration in Western Esoteric Studies, Brown University.
- 1989-91 Coursework at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2016- Visiting Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina.
- 2015-16 Junior Fellow (postdoctoral), Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, "History and Society during the Mamluk Era (1250-1517)," Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn.
- 2014-15 Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Research: Islamic thought and culture, particularly with regard to the Arabic-speaking Mediterranean of the 12-15th centuries C.E.; esotericism and the occult sciences; Sufism; the science of letters and names; manuscript and manuscript culture studies; materiality and ontologies theory.

Teaching: Premodern and modern Islam; Sufism; Islamic theology and philosophy; Quran and Hadith; American Islam; world religions; magic, science, and religion in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean thought; Islamic manuscript studies; materiality and material texts; theory and method in the history of religion.

PUBLICATIONS

In press

Co-editor with Matthew Melvin-Koushki. *Islamicate Occultism, New Perspectives*. The proceedings of a 2014 workshop at Princeton University. Forthcoming in 2017 as a special issue of *Arabica*.

“Esotericist reading communities and the early circulation of Aḥmad al-Būnī’s works.” Forthcoming in 2017 in *Islamicate Occultism, New Perspectives/Arabica*.

“The occultist encyclopedism of ‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Biṣṭāmī.” Forthcoming in 2017 in *Mamluk Studies Review*.

“Ibn Khaldun versus the occultists at the court of al-Malik al-Zāhir Barqūq.” Forthcoming in 2017 in the *Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg Working Papers* series.

Entries on Ibn Masarraḥ al-Jabalī and Aḥmad al-Būnī in *The I.B. Tauris Biographical Dictionary of Islamic Civilization*, ed. Mustafa Shah.

Articles

2017 “Stars and saints: The esotericist astrology of the Sufi occultist Aḥmad al-Būnī.” *Journal of Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* Vol. 12, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 39-65.

2012 “Forbidden knowledge? Notes on the production, transmission, and reception of the works of Aḥmad al-Būnī.” *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies*, Vol. 12 (2012): 81-143.

2011 With Frédéric Bauden, “A recently discovered holograph fair copy of al-Maqrīzī’s *al-Mawā‘iz wa-al-i‘tibār fī dhikr al-khiṭaṭ wa-al-āthār*: University of Michigan Islamic MS 605.” *Journal of Islamic Manuscripts*, Vol. 2 (2011): 123-131.

Reviews

2015 Review of *Manuscript Notes as Documentary Sources*, eds. Andreas Görke and Konrad Hirschler. *Der Islam*, Vol. 92 no. 1 (April 2015): 253-259.

2010 Review of *Dreaming across Boundaries: The Interpretation of Dreams in Islamic Lands*, ed. Louise Marlow. *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Vol. 27 no. 2 (Spring 2010): 122-124.

Encyclopedia entries

2016 “Occult Sciences,” in *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World, 2nd Edition*, ed. Richard C. Martin. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2016: 815-817.

2016 “‘Abd al-‘Azīz al-Mahdawī,” in *Encyclopædia of Islam THREE*, ed. Kate Fleet et al. Leiden: Brill. Fascicle 2016-2.

Digital

- 2017 Webmaster, “The Hoopoe: Adventures in Islamic Occultism” (thehoopoe.org). A joint undertaking with a handful of colleagues to make a new hub for the academic study of Islamic occultism.
- 2017 Coordinator, “The Hoopoe’s Islamic Occultism Bibliography Project,” a Zotero.org-based project to compile comprehensive, publicly available bibliography of primary and secondary sources for the study of Islamic occultism.
- 2014 “Dar al-Kutub Manuscript Collections, Cairo [review].” Part of the “Fresh from the Archives” series at dissertationreviews.org, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7355>.

In progress

Secret Books and Hidden Worlds: The Sufi Occultist Aḥmad al-Būnī and His Readers. A monograph expanding on my dissertation research.

“Diagram and cosmos in Aḥmad al-Būnī’s *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fī al-ḥurūf al-‘ulwiyāt*.” For submission to *History of Religions*.

“Jafr.” For *Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE*, ed. Kate Fleet et al. Leiden: Brill.

“Sufi Cosmogony and Eschatology.” For dual publication in Brill’s new *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Mysticism and Handbook of Sufi Studies* series, ed. Alexander Knysh.

Review of *The Mystics of al-Andalus: Ibn Barrajan and Islamic Thought in the Twelfth Century*, by Yousef Casewit. For *Nazariyat: Journal for the History of Islamic Philosophy and Sciences*.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2014 Bruce D. Craig Prize for Mamluk Studies, awarded by the editors of *Mamluk Studies Review* for the dissertation “Esotericism in a manuscript culture: Aḥmad al-Būnī and his readers through the Mamlūk period.”
- 2011 George and Celeste Hourani Award in Arabic, Armenian, Persian, Turkish and Islamic Studies. Awarded by the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2010 Great Books of Islamic Civilization Prize. Awarded by the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2008 K. Allen Luther Award in Persian Language Studies. Awarded by the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- 2008 Thesis publication prize. Awarded by the Office of the Dean of the College, Brown University.
- 2007 First Place, Bishop McVickar Prize for Excellence in Religious Studies. Awarded by the Brown University Religious Studies department for the honors thesis “Imagination, Optics and Mediations: John Dee and the Art of Skrying.”

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2015-16 Junior Fellow at Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms Universität Bonn.
- 2014 Rackham Graduate School (Univ. of Michigan) One-Term Dissertation Fellowship
- 2013 Department of Near Eastern Studies (Univ. of Michigan) Hourani Semester Fellowship.
- 2012-13 Rackham Graduate School (Univ. of Michigan) Pre-doctoral Fellowship.
- 2012-13 American Research Center in Egypt Research Fellowship (declined, though I was an associated researcher with ARCE in Cairo that year).
- 2011-12 Mary Fair Croushore Graduate Fellow at the University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities.
- 2011 Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program (Univ. of Michigan) Summer Research Grant.
- 2009 Rackham Graduate School (Univ. of Michigan) Doctoral Candidate Research Grant.
- 2010 Department of Near Eastern Studies (Univ. of Michigan) Hourani Semester Fellowship.
- 2009 The Islamic Manuscript Association. Funding for attending the Islamic codicology workshop at Cambridge University.
- 2009 Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program (Univ. of Michigan) Summer Research Grant.
- 2009 Rackham Graduate School (Univ. of Michigan) Pre-candidate Research Grant.
- 2007-8 U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship in Persian.
- 2007 U.S. Department of State/Council of American Overseas Research Centers Critical Language Scholarship for participation in the Intermediate/Advanced Arabic program in Sana'a, Yemen.

INVITED TALKS

- 2016 "The Bunian corpus and the materiality of invisible worlds." School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Feb 29.
- 2013 "Esotericism in a Muslim manuscript culture: Paratexts, intertexts, and the early transmission of the works of Aḥmad al-Būnī." Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, University of Hamburg. May 2.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Invited Conference Papers

- 2017 "Lettrism at Sultan Barquq's court and beyond: Cairo as occult capital at the turn of the fifteenth century." International Congress of Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. May 11-14.

- 2017 “Mapping the *malakūt* in in al-Būnī’s *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fī al-ḥurūf al-’ulwīyāt*.” For the workshop “The Islamic Multiverse and Histories of Everyday Social Discourse.” New York University, Abu Dhabi. May 1.
- 2017 “Diagrammatic practice in al-Būnī’s *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fī al-ḥurūf al-’ulwīyāt*.” For the workshop “*’Ilm wa-’amal*: Acting Bodies-Conceiving Space in Medieval and Early Modern Islamicate Societies.” Stanford University. April 14-15.
- 2017 “Ibn Khaldun versus the occultists at Barqūq’s court.” For the conference “Magic and the Occult in Islam and Beyond.” Yale University. March 2.
- 2017 “The occult library of the Mamluk Sultan al-Malik al-Zāhir Barqūq.” For the conference “Islamic Occultism in Theory and Practice.” Ashmolean Museum (Oxford). January 7.
- 2016 “Esotericism as intervention on the hierarchy of the sciences in the thought of Aḥmad al-Būnī.” For the workshop “Classification of the Sciences in the Medieval Islamic West.” Madrid. November 29.
- 2016 “Occult manuscript cultures in late-medieval Egypt.” For the Manuscript Cultures Minicon, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. October 29.
- 2015 “Esotericist astrology in Aḥmad al-Būnī’s *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fī al-ḥurūf al-’ulwīyāt*.” For the conference “Characterizing Astrology in the Medieval Islamic World,” University of Chicago Divinity School. May 12-14.
- 2014 “Al-Būnī’s Lettrist Cosmology: Writing and Diagramming the Invisible Worlds.” For the workshop “The Occult Sciences in Islamicate Cultures (13th-17th Centuries).” Princeton University. February 14-15.
- 2011 “Reassessing the ‘magician’ Aḥmad al-Būnī.” For the workshop “The Making of ‘Scholars’ in the Medieval Islamic West.” University of Chicago Divinity School. November 18.
- 2011 “Neither sultan nor *shayṭān* shall oppress you: Talismanic exegesis and crypto-Islmā’īlism in the works of Aḥmad al-Būnī (d. 622/1225) and Ibn ‘Arabī (d. 638/1240).” For the conference “Late Medieval Exegesis as Interfaith Discourse.” University of Michigan. October 18.

Panels organized

- 2013 “The ethics of reading in Islamic manuscript culture.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans. October 12.
- 2011 “Sufism and the occult sciences.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. December 2.

Juried Conference Papers

- 2017 “Al-Malik al-Zāhir Barqūq as Millennial Sovereign?” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November. Scheduled.
- 2016 “Occultist encyclopedism in ‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Biṣṭāmī’s *Shams al-āfāq fī ‘ilm al-ḥurūf wa-al-awfāq*.” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting. Boston. March 31.

- 2013 “The ethics of esotericism and the early transmission of the works of Aḥmad al-Būnī.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans. October 12.
- 2011 “New information on the life, education, and major works of Aḥmad al-Būnī.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. December 2.
- 2010 “Aḥmad al-Būnī, Ibn ‘Arabī, and the ‘Hallājīan conspiracy’: Notes on al-Būnī’s *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fī ‘ilm al-ḥurūf al-‘ulwiyāt* and its reception.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Diego. November 19.
- 2010 “Diagrams and talismans in Mamlūk-era manuscripts on magic attributed to Aḥmad al-Būnī.” Marco Manuscript Workshop, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. February 5-6.
- 2008 “*Fī ru ‘yā bayn al-nawm wa-al-yaqazah* (in a vision between sleeping and waking): Embodying Corbin’s *mundus imaginalis*.” Association for the Study of Esotericism 3rd International Conference. College of Charleston. May 29.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2012 “Thinking big with Islamic manuscripts: Archive fieldnotes and future plans.” Near Eastern Studies Graduate Student Colloquium. University of Michigan. March 10.
- 2010 “Manuscripts, magic, and materiality: Methodological notes for a study of manuscripts of texts on the occult science of letters (*‘ilm al-ḥurūf*) attributed to the Sufi Aḥmad al-Būnī (d. 622/1225).” Interdisciplinary Seminar on Islamic Studies. University of Michigan. April 14.
- 2010 “Manuscripts of *ḥadīth* collections as actors and archives: Michigan Islamic MS 479.” Invited presentation at the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program’s Medieval Brownbag series. University of Michigan. October 25.
- 2010 “Why magic matters: Defining ‘Islamic magic’ as an object of study.” Invited presentation at the Socratic Club, Department of Philosophy. University of Michigan. April 7.
- 2010 “God came to be in a cloud: Shared cosmologies and social networks between Muḥyī al-Dīn Ibn ‘Arabī, Aḥmad al-Būnī, and their followers in Cairo.” Near Eastern Studies Graduate Student Colloquium. University of Michigan. March 27.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2017 “Muslims, Jews, and Christians in the Middle East, Past and Present.” St. Joseph’s Church, Columbia. TBD.
- 2017 “Why the Past of Islamic Thought Matters.” For “The Monday Luncheon Group,” a 30-year Columbia institution. 14 August. Scheduled.
- 2017 “Dinner and Dialogue: Understanding Islam.” With Imam Omar Shaheed of Columbia’s Masjid as-Salaam and Dr. Akif Aydin of the Atlantic Institute. Columbia Museum of Art. June 11.
- 2017 “Islam and reformation.” St. David’s Episcopal Church. Columbia. January 19.

TEACHING

At University of South Carolina

Introduction to Islam	Fall 2016
Qur'an and Hadith	Fall 2016
Exploring Religion – Religion and the Book	Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Sufism	Spring 2017

As Lecturer, University of Michigan

Introduction to Islam	Spring-Summer 2014, Fall 2014
Islamic Mysticism (graduate level)	Fall 2014
Magic, Science, and Religion in the Middle East	Winter 2015
Introduction to Arab Culture	Winter 2015

As Graduate T.A., University of Michigan

Introduction to Arab Culture	Winter 2009, Winter 2011
Introduction to Islam	Winter 2010
Peoples of the Middle East	Fall 2008, Fall 2009

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2016- Committee member, Provost's Diversity Forum on Muslims and Islam. University of South Carolina.
- 2016- Member of the Faculty Editorial Board, University of South Carolina Press.
- 2016 Article reviewer for the *British Journal for the History of Science*.
- 2015 Article reviewer for the *Journal of Sufi Studies*.
- 2014 Organizer and instructor (with Near East librarian Evyn Kropf) of the workshop "Islamic manuscripts: A beginners' practicum on handling and interpretation." University of Michigan. October 27-28.

- 2009 Initiated, raised funds for, and organized the workshop “Of making many books there was no end in medieval Islam: An introduction to manuscript studies,” designed and led by Adam Gacek of McGill University. University of Michigan. May 11-15.
- 2008-10 Graduate student representative to the faculty. Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan.

LANGUAGES

Classical Arabic, fluent.
Egyptian Arabic, proficient.
Persian, modern Turkish, French, and German, reading knowledge.

REFERENCES

Alexander Knysh
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