

NOAH DAEDALUS GARDINER  
Curriculum Vitae, November 2019

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**EDUCATION**

- 2014      Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies with a concentration in Islamic Studies, Department of 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**

- 2018-      Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina.
- 2016-18   Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of South Carolina.
- 2015-16   Junior Fellow, 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 in the Arabic-speaking Mediterranean and Middle East of the 12-15<sup>th</sup> centuries C.E.; Sufism; Islamic esotericism and occult sciences; the science of letters and names; Islamic manuscripts and manuscript culture; Mamluk studies; ontologies and religious thought; the fantastic in religious studies scholarship.

**Teaching:** Premodern and modern Islam; Quran and Hadith; Sufism; Islamic theology and philosophy; magic, science, and religion; millenarianism; Islamic cultures of learning; American Islam; the fantastic; theory and method in the study of religion.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Edited volumes

- 2017 Co-edited with Matthew Melvin-Koushki. *Islamicate Occultism: New Perspectives*. Special issue *Arabica* 64/3-4 (2017). 406 pages.

### Articles

- 2019 “Books on Occult Sciences.” In *Treasures of Knowledge: An Inventory of the Ottoman Palace Library (1502/3-1503/4)*, ed. Gülru Necipoğlu, Cemal Kafadar, and Cornell Fleischer. Leiden: Brill, 2019. Vol. I, pgs. 735-765.
- 2017 “The Occultist Encyclopedism of ‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Biṣṭāmī.” *Mamluk Studies Review* 20 (2017): 3-38.
- 2017 “Esotericist Reading Communities and the Early Circulation of the Sufi Occultist Aḥmad al-Būnī’s Works.” *Arabica* 64/3-4 (2017): 405-441.
- 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.

### Encyclopedia entries, reviews, et cetera

- 2019 Review of *The Mystics of al-Andalus: Ibn Barrajan and Islamic Thought in the Twelfth Century*, by Yousef Casewit. *Nazariyat*, Vol. 5 no. 2, 2019: 221-227.
- 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 Press. Fascicle 2016-2.
- 2015 Review of *Manuscript Notes as Documentary Sources*, ed. Andreas Görke and Konrad Hirschler. *Der Islam*, Vol. 92 no. 1 (April 2015): 253-259.
- 2014 “Dar al-Kutub Manuscript Collections, Cairo [review].” Part of the “Fresh from the Archives” series at dissertationreviews.org, <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7355>.
- 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.

## In press

*Ibn Khaldun versus the Occultists at Barqūq's Court: The Critique of Lettrism in al-Muqaddimah.* Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, Ulrich Haarmann Memorial Lecture series. Berlin: EB-Verlag, 2020. 90 pages.

"Lettrism and History in 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Bisṭāmī's *Naẓm al-sulūk fī musāmarat al-mulūk*." In *Islamic Occultism in Theory and Practice*, ed. Liana Saif, Francesca Leoni, Matthew Melvin-Koushki, and Farouk Yahya. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

"Diagrams and Visionary Experience in al-Būnī's *Laṭā'if al-ishārāt fī al-ḥurūf al-'ulwīyat*." In *Visualizing Sufism*, ed. Giovanni Maria-Martini. Leiden: Brill, 2020.

"Jafr," forthcoming in *Encyclopædia of Islam THREE*, ed. Kate Fleet *et al.* Leiden: Brill.

Review of *Teaching and Learning the Sciences in Islamicate Societies (800-1700)*, by Sonja Brentjes. *Renaissance Quarterly*.

## In progress

*The Revelation of Lettrism: The Sufi Occultist Aḥmad al-Būnī and His Readers* (working title). A monograph expanding on my dissertation research.

"Cosmogony and Eschatology in Sufism." A full-length article for dual publication in Brill Press' new *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Mysticism* and *Handbook of Sufi Studies* series, ed. Alexander Knysh.

"Occult Literature in Sufi Contexts." A full-length article for dual publication in Brill Press' new *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Mysticism* and *Handbook of Sufi Studies* series, ed. Alexander Knysh.

"Between Neoplatonism and the Dogon Egg: Al-Būnī's Cosmological Diagrams and the Problem of 'Mystical Philosophy'." For the volume *Deleuze and Islam*, ed. Michael Muhammad Knight.

"Mahā'imī, 'Alī b. Aḥmad." For *Encyclopaedia of Islam THREE*, ed. Kate Fleet *et al.* Brill Press.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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| 2018 | Dahlem Junior Host Program, Dahlem Humanities Center, Freie Universität Berlin. An invited ten-day visit to Freie Universität Berlin to give a public lecture and lead a workshop with graduate students on the study of Islamic manuscript culture. |
| 2014 | Bruce D. Craig Prize for Mamluk Studies, awarded by the editors of <i>Mamluk Studies Review</i> 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**

- 2019 “The Science of Letters and Names: ‘Cosmos-Making’ in Mature Islamic Thought.” For the public workshop “The Origins of Language, Findings from Linguistics, Mathematics and Mysticism.” Hub Foundation, San Ramon CA. June 22.

- 2018 “Manuscripts, Reception Networks, and Islamic Intellectual History: The Case of the Occult Sciences.” Dahlem Humanities Center, Freie Universität Berlin. October 25. Scheduled.
- 2016 “The Bunian Corpus and the Materiality of Invisible Worlds.” School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. February 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

- 2020 “Al-Būnī as Inheritor of Andalusian Bāṭinism.” For the workshop “Power, Religion and Wisdom: Bāṭinism between Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy in Tenth-Century al-Andalus.” Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University. June 2-5. Scheduled.
- 2019 “Analogism and the Commensurability of the Islamicate (Occult) Sciences.” For the workshop “Current Trends in the History of Science in Muslim Societies: Debates, Approaches, and Stakes.” New York University. December 12. Scheduled.
- 2018 “Diagrams as Keys to the Kingdom in Aḥmad al-Būnī’s *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fī al-ḥurūf al-‘ulwīyāt*.” For the workshop “Visualizing Sufism.” Universität Bonn. May 4.
- 2017 “Mapping the *malakūt* 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 Khaldūn 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 University. 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 (13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 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-Ismā‘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.

### Conference 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.

### Conference Papers & Roundtables

- 2019 Participant in the roundtable “An Encyclopaedic Collection of Early Modern Knowledge: The Library Inventory of Bayezid II,” organized by Ferenc Csirkes. Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans. November 16.
- 2019 “Are Islamic Books of Magic Magical books? Materiality and Textuality in Medieval Arabic Occult Texts.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans. November 15.
- 2019 “Lettrism, an Islamic Kabbalah?” International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. May 12.
- 2018 “Diagrams, Visions, and Cosmological Exegesis in al-Būnī’s *Laṭā’if al-ishārāt fī al-ḥurūf al-‘ulwiyāt*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. November 17.
- 2018 Participant in the roundtable “Islamic Political Thought and Mobilization of the Sciences in the Long Fifteenth Century,” organized by M. Green-Mercado and C. Fleischer. Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting. New Orleans. March 22.
- 2017 “Al-Malik al-Zāhir Barqūq as Millennial Sovereign?” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. November 20.
- 2017 “Lettrism at Sultan Barqūq’s court and beyond: Cairo as occult capital at the turn of the fifteenth century.” International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. May 11-14.
- 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-ulwīyāt* 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 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference. College of Charleston. May 29.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2017 “Muslims, Jews, and Christians in the Middle East, Past and Present.” St. Joseph’s Church, Columbia. October 27.
- 2017 “Why the Past of Islamic Thought Matters.” For “The Monday Luncheon Group,” a 30-year Columbia institution. August 14.
- 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 semester, 2016-19.
Quran and Hadith	Fall semester, 2016-18, 2020.
Exploring Religion: Religion and the Book	Fall and Spring semesters, 2016-18.
Exploring Religion: Beyond Belief	Fall semester, 2019
Sufism	Spring semester, 2017-2020.
American Islamic Thought	Spring semester, 2018-19.
Religion and the Fantastic	Spring semester, 2020
Religion and Culture	Fall semester, 2020.

### **As Instructor of record, University of Michigan**

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

### **As Graduate T.A., University of Michigan**

Introduction to Arab Culture	Winter semester, 2009 and 2011
Introduction to Islam	Winter semester, 2010
Peoples of the Middle East	Fall semester, 2008-9

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2019-	Department representative to the University of South Carolina Faculty Senate
2018	Organizer, Rudolph C. Barnes Sr. Symposium on "Islam and Freedom of Expression," with guest speaker Mustafa Akyol. February 8-9.
2016-19	Primary or secondary reader on senior theses for students in the University of South Carolina Honors College.
2016-	Committee member, Provost's Diversity Forum on Muslims and Islam. University of South Carolina.
2016-19	Member of the Faculty Editorial Board, University of South Carolina Press.
2016-18	Undergraduate Academic Adviser, Department of Religious Studies. University of South Carolina.
2015-19	Article reviewer for <i>British Journal for the History of Science</i> , <i>Journal of Sufi Studies</i> , <i>International Journal of Islamic Architecture</i> , and <i>Philological Encounters</i> .
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.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Religion  
Middle East Studies Association  
Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society  
Societas Magica

## REFERENCES

Alexander Knysh  
Professor of Islamic Studies  
Department of Near Eastern Studies  
University of Michigan  
202 S. Thayer Street  
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Professor of Islamic Archaeology  
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Frédéric Bauden  
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