

David Hollenberg

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EDUCATION

- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 2006
PhD in classical Arabic and Islamic Studies, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Advisor: Everett Rowson. Dissertation: "Interpretation after the End of Days: Ja'far b. Mansur al-Yaman's universal prophetology in service of the Fatimid mission."
- The University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 1996
MA in Religious Studies. Advisor: Juan Campo. Master's thesis entitled "The Qurayza Cycle in Ibn Hisham's 'The Life of the Prophet.'"
- Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT 1990
Honors in Religious Studies.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS HELD

- Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Religious Literature
2010-
Department of Religious Studies, University of Oregon,
Eugene, Oregon
- Assistant Professor, Dept. of Religion, James Madison University, 2006-2010
Harrisonburg, VA
- Visiting Lecturer, Dept. of Religion, Carleton College, Northfield MN 2004-2006

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- General Director, Enriching Digital Collections Grant: Yemen Manuscript Digitization Initiative (YMDI) Princeton University/Free University, Berlin. 2010-2012
Composed grant, drafted budget, and assembled international advisory board for 330k National Endowment for the Humanities/DFG "Enriching Digital Collections" to digitize Arabic manuscripts in the private libraries of Yemen.
- American Academy of Religion Summer Fellow, Sanaa, Yemen Summer, 2010
Received fellowship to continue 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Awarded funding to investigate unpublished Zaydi manuscripts in the Great Mosque in Sana'a, Yemen.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, Brown University, Providence, RI	2000
Completed intensive summer course on Arabic paleography 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.	
Visiting Graduate Student, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. 1992	1991-
Intensive Hebrew and Palestinian Arabic Program. Funded by the American Friends of Hebrew University.	
Teaching Award Nominee, University of Pennsylvania	2003
Nominated for teaching award by the Penn Writing Center based on student evaluations for "Writing about Islam" course.	
Janet Lee Stevens Award for Excellence in Islamic Studies,	1999
Shabahang Prize for Excellence in Persian Language,	1998
Dropsie Essay Prize in Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania	1997
Foreign Language Area Study Fellow, Arabic and Persian 1998	1997-
U.S. Department of Education; University of Pennsylvania	

PUBLICATIONS

Articles:

"The curious objects of early Ismaili ta'wil: eclecticism as an interpretive strategy." In *The study of Shi'i Islam: the state of the field, issues of methodology and recent*

developments Edited by Gurdofarid Miskinzoda (Oxford University Press in conjunction with the Institute of Ismaili Studies) (forthcoming).

“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’wil) in service of the Fatimid mission,” *Religion* (April, 2004).

Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles:

“Ishmaelites.” In *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, Princeton University Press (forthcoming).

“Kitab al-‘alim wal-muta’allim.” In *Encyclopedia Iranica*, Columbia University Press (forthcoming).

(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).

Short Reviews:

The Book of Strangers: Medieval Arabic graffiti on the theme of nostalgia by Abu al-Faraj al-Isfahani, translated by Patricia Crone and Shmuel Moreh. (Princeton 2000). *Religious Studies Review* (2000).

The Jews and the sciences in the Middle Ages by Tzvi Langermann. (London 1999). *Religious Studies Review* (2000).

The Berbers and the Islamic State by Maya Shatzmiller. (Princeton 2000). *Religious Studies Review* (2002).

PAPERS PRESENTED/PANEL PARTICIPATION

Chair, “Belles-Lettres and Beast: Representation of Animals in Arabic Literature,” A panel at the Middle East Studies Association, San Diego, November, 2010.

“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 Varieties of Islam in Contemporary Yemen,” A Presentation for the US Department of State Foreign Service Institute, May 11, 2010.

- “The Manuscripts in Forty Private Libraries in Northern Yemen: A Descriptive Analysis.” Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March, 2009.
- The Status of Science in Classical Islam.” Presented at Isik University, Istanbul Turkey, May, 2008.
- “The Aesthetics of Islamic Esotericism,” presented at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Philadelphia, PA, May, 2007.
- “Fatimid hiero-history in its Ismaili context,” presented at the Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, Boston, MA, November, 2006.
- “Interpretation after the End of Days: Tenth-Century Fatimid-Ismaili ta’wil (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 ta’wil” presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March, 2004.
- “Disrobing judges with veiled truths: An early Isma’ili 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.

TEACHING

<u>The University of Oregon</u>	2010-
Reading classical Arabic	
Classical Arabic Texts: Shiism	
Classical Arabic Texts: Qur’anic Exegesis	
Islamic Law and Society	
<u>James Madison University</u>	2007-2010
Methods in the Study of Religion: The case of classical Islam and Society	
Islamic Civilization	
Islamic Theology and Philosophy	
Islamic Law	
Shiism	
Approaches to Islamic Studies	
<u>Carleton College</u>	2004-2006
Introduction to Islam	
God’s Rule: Politics and Islam	
Orthodoxy and Heresy in Islam	
Islamic Law	
The Life of the Prophet	
Introduction to Judaism	
<u>University of Pennsylvania (1998-2004)</u>	
Elementary Arabic	

Second-year Arabic
Intensive Arabic
Knowledge Triumphant: An Introduction to Classical Islam
Religion and Authority in Classical Islam

Teaching Interests

Classical Islam; Classical Arabic; Shiism; medieval Judaism;
scholasticism; hermeneutics; heresy; history of religion; oral
literature; manuscript culture.

ARABIC LANGUAGE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Arabic Studies Supervisor, the University of Oregon, 2010-

Faculty Supervisor, Arabic Intensive in Yemen, Amman, Jordan. 2010

Faculty supervisor for Arabic intensive language program in
Amman, Jordan. Composed and administered 45 thousand dollar budget

and

negotiated contracts with school in Jordan. In Amman I will supervise
language instruction.

Faculty Mentor, Critical Language Intensive Summer Institute, Sana'a Yemen. 2007

Mentored graduate students and assisted in the administration of the
Arabic program.

Arabic Translator and Interpreter, Refugee & Immigrant Program, 2004-
2006

Minnesota Advocacy for Human Rights, Minneapolis, MN
Interpreted Arabic to English for refugees seeking asylum in the United
States.

Berger & Montague, P.C., Philadelphia, PA 2002-2003

Translated handwritten documents for international law cases.

Manuscript Investigator, American Committee on South Asian and 2000

Arabic Manuscripts. Providence, Rhode Island

Administrator, Arabic Summer program, The Univ. of Pennsylvania 1998-
2000

Founded, advertised, and programmed Arabic summer intensive program.

Arabic Instructor, The University of Pennsylvania;

1998-2001

SERVICE

Programs Organized

Co-organizer of American Academy of Religion "Wildcard Session" with Tariq
al-Jamil, Swarthmore College, *Mapping the social and intellectual
boundaries of pre-modern Shi'ism*, The American Academy of Religion,
November, 2010.

Summer Intensive Arabic Program in Yemen, James Madison University,
(current) Director of 5 week intensive Arabic program for the
summer of 2010.

"Arabic intensives in the U.S. and abroad." James Madison University,

January, 2007; Carleton College, October, 2004.
“University of Pennsylvania Middle East Center’s Classical Islam Speaker Series,” 2003-2004. Invited notable scholars from various universities to speak on “Religion and Authority in Classical Islam” and to co-teach the Freshman seminar on the topic.
“International Symposium of Classical Islamic Studies: Knowledge and Politics in Classical Islam.” University of Pennsylvania, March 27-29, 2003. Arranged panels, housing, and board for fifteen scholars from England, Europe, Canada, and the U.S. Raised \$9,000.00 from various university departments and institutions.
“Arabic codicology and paleography” workshop with guest presenter Dr. Adam Gacek from McGill University, Montreal, Canada, April, 2002.
“Islam in Comparative Perspective” Organized panel at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, TN, November, 2000.

Professional Organizational Affiliations:

Member, American Academy of Religion 1996-present
Member, Middle East Studies Association 1999-present
Member, American Oriental Society 2001-present

LANGUAGES

Classical Arabic. Knowledge of Egyptian, Levantine, Yemeni (Sana’ani) colloquial, and Judaeo-Arabic. Reading knowledge of Hebrew, Aramaic/Syriac, French, and German.

Letters of reference from Everett Rowson, Joseph Lowry,
Bernard Haykel, and David Stern
available upon
request