**Matthew B. Lynch, Ph.D.**

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**EDUCATION**

2018 Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Department of Religious Studies: Islamic Studies

Advisor: Carl Ernst

Committee: Juliane Hammer, Omid Safi, Mohsen Kadivar, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak

2009 M.A., University of Chicago, Center for Middle Eastern Studies: Persian/Humanities

Advisor: Franklin Lewis

Readers: Heshmat Moayyad, Michael Sells

2006 B.A. with Honors, Marlboro College: Philosophy/Religion

Advisor: Amer Latif

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

2020-2021 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

2019-2020 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of the South, Sewanee, TN

2017-2019 Visiting Assistant Professor/Lecturer, Religion Program, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

2015-2016 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, Guilford College, Guilford, NC

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Refereed Journal Articles**

2020 “Teaching Rumi in a Time of Revolution”, *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching (SMART)*, Volume 27, Issue 2, Fall 2020.

2018 “Between Sincerity and Cynicism in the Study of Sufism”, *English Language Notes,* Volume 56, Issue 1, April 2018.

**Book Chapters**

2020 “He Has Come, Visible and Hidden: Jalal ad-din Rumi’s Poetic Past and Presence”, *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*, *Volume II,* ed. Kenneth Seigneurie.

**Reviews**

2020 Review Article: *Sufism*, by Alexander Knysh. For *Religious Studies Review*, ed. Whitney Bodman. (November, 2020).

**Publications in progress**

2021 “Hip Hop, Rap, and Islam”, *Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam in North America,* ed. Amir Hussain.

2021 Review: Aquil, Raziuddin. *Lovers of God: Sufism and the Politics of Islam in Medieval India*. For *Religious Studies Review*, ed. Whitney Bodman.

2021 Review: *The Routledge Handbook on Sufism*, ed. Lloyd Rigeon. For *Religious Studies Review*, ed. Whitney Bodman.

**INVITED TALKS**

2016 “Representing Resistance Culture Inside Iran’s Museum of the Holy Defence”, Religion and Modernity Lecture Series, University College Cork, Ireland (March 14, 2016)

2014 “Farough Farroukhzad and *Jasmine and Stars*: Contextualizing a Critique,” Duke University, Durham, NC (October 16, 2014)

**CONFERENCE ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION**

**Conferences and Workshops Organized**

2016 "Islam and Religious Identity: The limits of definition," University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (October 2016: Graduate Student Assistant)

2013 “(De-)Centering Islam and the Question of Authenticity,” 10th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference, Duke University, Durham NC (February 16-17, 2013: Lead Organizer)

2012 “Making Sense of Islam: Sensuality and Affect in the Muslim Humanities,” 9th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC (February, 2012: Lead Organizer)

2011 “How Ideas Win: Formations of Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy in Muslim Practice and Thought,” 8th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference, Durham, NC (February 2011: Lead Organizer)

**Papers Presented**

2021 “What Are the Ethics of Digital Humanities in the Context of Islamic Studies” (with Dr. Pranav Prakash), Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada (accepted proposal, presenting in October 2021)

2021 “A Claim to the Throne or Resistance’s Siren Song: Authority and Epistemology in Medieval Persianate Sufism”, Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, Sewanee, TN (April 2020: postponed to April 2021)

2020 “Dying Before You’re Dead, Stealing Your Face Off Your Head: Resonances of Sufism in the Lyrics of Robert Hunter,” Southwestern Popular Culture Association Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM (February 2020)

2019 “Doing Things with (God’s) Words: Self-Authentication in Rumi’s *Masnavi*”, Great Lakes Adiban Society Panel, 54th International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2019)

2018 “Mapping the Qur’an in the ‘Persian Qur’an’”, ‘Whither Islamicate Digital

Humanities’ Academy Colloquium: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, Netherlands (December 2018)

2018 “Medieval Scriptural and Literary Synthesis in Sufi Epic: Sources and Implications”, Mediterranean Seminar Winter Workshop, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN (February 2018)

2017“Teaching Rumi in a Time of Revolution”, Panel Discussion: Teaching a Diverse and Inclusive Middle Ages, 52nd International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2017)

2017 “Between Sincerity and Cynicism in the Study of Sufism”, Mysticism and Politics Round Table, The Mediterranean Seminar Spring Workshop, University of Colorado at Boulder (April 2017)

2016“Sufism in Shahab Ahmed’s *What is Islam?”,* Study of Islam Round Table, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX (November 2016)

2016 **“**Living Islam in the Medieval Mediterranean: A Constructive Approach to Rumi’s *Masnavi*”, The Mediterranean Seminar Spring Workshop, Fresno State University, Fresno, CA (April 2016)

2015 **“**Recite the *Masnavi*, Excite the Community”, Study of Islam Section, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA (November 2015)

2015 “Mediterraneanizing the *Masnavi* and ‘Mevlevi-tating’ the Mediterranean”, National Endowment for Humanities Summer Workshop, Barcelona, Spain (July 2015)

2015 “The Metaphor and Meaning of Kingship in ‘Attar’s *Ilahi-Name*”, Princeton Medieval Studies Graduate Conference, Princeton, NJ (April 2015)

2015 “Judgments of Taste in Translating the Persianate”, Duke-UNC Islamic Studies Graduate Conference, Chapel Hill, NC (March 2015)

2014 “Stomaching Satan: 'Attar's Alternative Discourse on Evil”: Islamic

Mysticism Panel, American Academy of Religion: Annual Conference, San Diego, CA (November 2014)

2014 “Making a Spectacle of the Knowledge Economy: The 2011 Festival of Thinkers and U.A.E.’s 40th Anniversary”: Shifting Centers of Capital in the Arab World Panel**,** American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, New York, NY (March 2014)

2012 “Dude, You Have No Qur’an: An Examination into the History and Stability of Various Definitions of the Qur’anic Text”, McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Graduate Symposium, Montreal, Canada (April 2012)

**Discussant**

2019 “Self and Other in Sufism: Moments of Identification,” Respondent, Islamic Mysticism Panel, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (November 24, 2019)

**CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS**

2020 “Iran: Thoughts in a Moment of Crisis”, The University of the South, Sewanee, TN (February 2020)

2019 “Shahab Ahmed’s *What is Islam?* and the Contemporary Field of Islamic Studies”, Religion Colloquium, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (April 2019)

2018 Panelist, Capitalism in Arabic Panel, Middle Eastern Studies Program, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (November 2018)

2017 “Monuments and Iconoclasm in the Era of ‘Fake’ News", Religion Colloquium, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (December 2017)

2015 Panelist: “Nowruz 2015—Persian New Year at UNC”, Persian Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill (March 2015)

2013 Panelist: “Studying Arabic Abroad”, Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists, Carolina Center for Middle East and Muslim Civilizations

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

2016 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill

2016 Summer Dissertation Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill

2015 Religion and the Arts Travel Grant, American Academy of Religion, Annual Conference: Atlanta, GA

2014 Miller Travel Award, Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

2014 Research Grant: Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul, Turkey. Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill

2014 Graduate Student Travel Grant, American Comparative Literature Association, Annual Conference, New York, NY

2012 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill, Center for Global Initiatives

2010 Graduate Student Recruitment Fellowship, Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program, UNC-Chapel Hill

2008 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, University of Chicago

2004 Christopher Boethe Prize for Writing, Marlboro College

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Rutgers University: Visiting Assistant Professor (2020-2021)**

“Islam” (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

“Islamic Mystical Literature” (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

“Seminar: Islamic Spirituality/Rumi” (Spring 2021)

**The University of the South: Visiting Assistant Professor (2019-2020)**

“Contemporary Muslim Philosophy” (Spring 2020)

“Sufism” (Spring 2020)

“Studying Islam in the West” (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

“Modern Questions about the Quran” (Fall 2019)

**Bard College: Visiting Assistant Professor (2019), Visiting Lecturer (2017-18)**

“Introduction to Islam” (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

“Introduction to Sufism” (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

“Religion and Culture in Iran” (Spring 2019)

“The Quran” (Fall 2018)

“First Year Seminar: Political Freedom” (Fall 2018)

“Contemporary Islam” (Spring 2019)

**Guilford College: Visiting Lecturer (2015-2016)**

“Rumi and Revolution” (Spring 2016)

“Introduction to Islam” (Fall 2015, Spring 2016)

“Religion and the New Media” (Fall 2015)

**University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: Instructor of Record (2014-2016)**

“Introduction to Islamic Civilization”: online. (Fall 2015, Spring 2016)

“Religious Things” (Spring 2015)

“Muhammad and the Quran” (Fall 2015)

“Modern Muslims and the Qur’an” (Spring 2014)

**University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: Teaching Assistant (2010-2014)**

“Religion and Culture in Iran: 1500-present”: Mohsen Kadivar (Fall 2014)

“Introduction to Jewish Studies”: Yaakov Ariel (Spring 2013)

“Introduction to the Hebrew Bible”: David Lambert (Fall 2013)

“Introduction to Islamic Civilization”: Carl Ernst (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

“Introduction to Islamic Civilization”: Omid Safi (Spring 2010)

“Introduction to Early Judaism”: Jodi Magness (Fall 2010)

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2016 Research and Editorial Assistant: Dr. Carl Ernst, Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

2015 Researcher and Participant, NEH Summer Workshop: “Negotiating Identities in Christian-Jewish-Muslim Medieval Mediterranean”, Barcelona, Spain (July-August 2015)

2014 Research and Editorial Assistant: Dr. Mohsen Kadivar, Dept. of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

2014 Archival Research: Istanbul, Turkey: Süleymaniye Library and Center for Islamic Studies (March 2014)

2013 Site-based Research on Sufi Shrines, Mosques, Churches, Synagogues: Istanbul, Bursa, and Cappadocia, Turkey (May 2013)

2011 Researcher and Invited Participant, Festival of Thinkers, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (November 2011)

2009 Research Assistant: “Teaching the Middle East: Resource for Educators”,

University of Chicago

2008 Research and Editorial Assistant: Dr. Michael Sells, Divinity School, University of Chicago

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

2021 Moderator, Contemporary Islam Panel, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX (November 2021)

2021 Team Member/Social Media Coordinator, Islamicate Digital Humanities Network (2019-2021)

2018 Travel Grants Jury, American Academy of Religion Annual Conference (2016-2018)

2016Moderator, Judaism Panel, Southeast Conference on the Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA (March 2016)

2015 Treasurer, Islamicate Graduate Student Association, UNC-Chapel Hill (2012-2015)

2009 Public Relations Coordinator, Middle Eastern Studies Student Association, University of Chicago (2007-2009)

2005 Curriculum Committee, Marlboro College, Marlboro, VT (2004-2005)

**PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2018 Teaching Against Islamophobia Workshop: Wabash Center, AAR Annual Conference (November 2018)

2017 NAASR Job Market Workshop: AAR Annual Conference (November 2017)

2014 Islamic Studies Workshops: AAR Annual Conference (2012-2014)

2012 Research Ethics Certification: UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2012)

2011 Safe Zone Training: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity. UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2011)

2007 Americorps VISTA Trainings: Poverty, Diversity, Non-Profit Management, Grant Applications, Disability Awareness, Montpelier, VT (2006-2007)

**AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion

Middle Eastern Studies Association

American Comparative Literature Association

The Mediterranean Seminar

Great Lakes Adiban Society

Grateful Dead Scholars Caucus

**REFERENCES**

Dr. Carl Ernst, Kenan Distinguished Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, UNC-Chapel Hill

Dr. Juliane Hammer, Associate Professor and Kenan Rifai Scholar of Islamic Studies, Department of Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

Dr. Omid Safi, Professor, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University

Dr. Jawid Mojaddedi, Professor, Department of Religion, Rutgers University

Dr. Eric Thurman, Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies,

The University of the South (Teaching Reference)

Dr. Bruce Chilton, Bernard Iddings Bell Professor, Religion Program, Bard College (Teaching Reference)

Dr. Jill Peterfeso, Chair and Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Guilford College (Teaching Reference)

Dr. Sharon Kinoshita, Professor of Literature and Co-director of Mediterranean Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Dr. Brian Catlos, Professor, Department of History, University of Colorado, Boulder