

## **Khalil Andani**

*Ph.D., AM, MTS, CPA-CA, M.Acc, B.Math*

Assistant Professor of Religion

Augustana College

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### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Augustana College**

January 2020 – Present

##### **Assistant Professor of Religion**

- **Courses Taught:** Islam: An Introduction; Global Christianities: Christian-Muslim Encounters; Islamic Ethics; Sages, Mystics and Philosophers; Encountering Religion.
- **Service:** General Education Committee Member; Honors Committee Member; Academic Advisor to Religion Majors and Minors; Lead for Inter-religious Leadership & Development Minor; First Year Advisor.

#### **Harvard University**

January 2017 – May 2019

##### **Graduate Teaching Fellow**

- **2 Certificates of Distinction** in Teaching (Spring 2017, Spring 2018)
  - **Courses Taught:** Introduction to Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies, Islamic Mystical Traditions, Intro to Hebrew Bible, the Study of Religion.
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### **EDUCATION**

#### **Harvard University**

September 2014 – March 2020

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with Distinction (Histories and Cultures of Muslim Societies)

Master of Arts (A.M.) (Histories and Cultures of Muslim Societies)

##### **Dissertation Title – “Revelation in Islam: Qur’anic, Sunni, and Shi’i Ismaili Perspectives”**

- **Awarded Best Ph.D. Dissertation of the Year (2020) by The Foundation for Iranian Studies**
- This dissertation is an intellectual history and analytical study of Islamic theologies and philosophies of Qur’anic Revelation in premodern Islam, as presented in the Qur’an, prophetic tradition (*ḥadīth*), Qur’anic commentary, Sunni philosophical theology (*kalām*), and Shi’i Ismaili philosophy.

#### **Harvard Divinity School**

September 2012 – May 2014

Master of Theological Studies (Islamic Studies)

#### **Chartered Professional Accountants Ontario (formerly ICAO)**

June 2010

Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA-CA) Designation

#### **University of Waterloo**

January 2008 – August 2008 (Conferred: October 2008)

Master of Accounting

Bachelor of Mathematics/Accountancy (Co-op)

September 2003 – December 2007 (Conferred: June 2008)

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**AREAS OF FOCUS:** Classical & Contemporary Islamic Philosophy and Theology, Islamic Intellectual History, Premodern & Modern Shia Ismaili Muslim History & Thought, Quranic Studies, Islamic Mysticism (Sufism)

**LANGUAGES:** Classical Arabic, Persian, French (reading proficiency), German (reading proficiency)

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### **DISTINCTIONS/AWARDS**

- Best Ph.D. Dissertation of the Year (2020) from The Foundation for Iranian Studies ([Link to Award Letter](#)).
  - Harvard University Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$27,000), 2019-2020.
  - Social Science and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship (\$80,000 CAD), 2014-2018.
  - Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Spring 2018 Term)
  - Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Spring 2017 Term)
  - Harvard Divinity School Scholarship (\$15,000), Harvard University, 2013.
  - Harvard Association of Canada Scholarship (\$12,000), Harvard University, 2013.
  - Harvard Divinity School Scholarship (\$15,000), Harvard University, 2012.
  - Harvard Association of Canada Scholarship (\$12,000), Harvard University, 2012.
  - Aga Khan Fund for Iranian Studies (\$4,000), Harvard University, 2016.
  - Persian Summer Institute Scholarship (\$1,200), University of Maryland, 2016.
  - Roshan Institute Fellowship (\$500), University of Maryland, 2016.
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### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books:**

*Divine Speech, Prophetic Words: Quranic, Sunni and Ismaili Visions of Revelation* (manuscript in preparation)

#### **Peer Reviewed Articles in Journals & Encyclopedias:**

“Tawhid: A Survey of Muslim Theologies”, *St. Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology*, forthcoming.

“The Living Words of God: Al-Mu’ayyad al-Shīrāzī’s Shī’ī Ismā’īlī Theory of Revelation.” *Global Intellectual History*, Special Issue on Decolonising Islamic Intellectual History, ed. Sajjad Rizvi and Ahab Bdaiwi (2023): 1-27.

“Divine Simplicity and the Myth of Modal Collapse: An Islamic Neoplatonic Perspective.” *European Journal of Analytic Philosophy* 18/2 (2022): 5-34.

“Evolving Creation: An Ismaili Muslim Interpretation of Evolution,” *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 57/2 (June 2022): 443-466.

“Metaphysics of Muhammad: The *Nur Muhammad* from Imam Ja‘far al-Sadiq (148/765) to Nasir al-Din al-Tusi (672/1274).” *Brill Journal of Sufi Studies* 8 (2020): 99-175.

“Divine Diversity: The Aga Khan’s Vision of Pluralism.” *Journal of Islamic and Muslim Studies* Vol 4, No. 1 (2019), 1-42.

“The Merits of the *Bāṭiniyya*: al-Ghazālī’s Appropriation of Ismā’īlī Cosmology.” *Oxford Journal of Islamic Studies* Vol. 29, No. 2 (May 2018), 181-229.

“A Survey of Ismaili Studies (Part 2): Post-Fatimid Ismailism and Modern Ismailism.” *Religion Compass* Vol. 10, No. 11 (November 2016): 269-282.

“A Survey of Ismaili Studies (Part 1): Early Ismailism and Fatimid Ismailism.” *Religion Compass* Vol. 10, No. 8 (August 2016): 191-206.

### Chapters in Peer Reviewed Edited Volumes:

“Necessitated Evil: An Islamic Neoplatonic Theodicy from the Ismaili Tradition.” In *From the Divine to the Human: Contemporary Islamic Thinkers on Evil, Suffering, and the Global Pandemic*, edited by Muhammad U. Faruque and Mohammed Rustom. New York: Routledge, 2023.

“Neoplatonic Prayer: The Isma‘ili Hermeneutics of *salat* according to al-Sijistani and Nasir-i Khuraw.” In *Islamic Thought and the Art of Translation*, edited by Mohammed Rustom. Boston: Brill, 2022.

“Shi‘i Ismaili Approaches to the Quran: From Revelation to Exegesis.” In *Routledge Companion to the Qur’an*, edited by Daniel A. Madigan, Maria M. Dakake and George Archer. New York: Routledge, 2021, 303-318.

“Isma‘iliyya and Ismailism: From Polemical Portrayals to Academic Inquiry.” In *Deconstructing Islamic Studies*, edited by Majid Daneshgar and Aaron W. Hughes. Cambridge, MA: The Ilex Foundation and The Center for Hellenic Studies with Harvard University Press, 253-312.

“Reconciling Religion and Philosophy: Nāṣir-i Khusraw’s (d. 1088) *Jāmi‘ al-ḥikmatayn*.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy*, edited by Khaled El-Rouayheb and Sabine Schmidtke. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016, 169-190.

“Light upon Light – The Qur’ān and the Light of Muhammad: Sahl al-Tustarī’s *Tafsīr al-Qur’ān al-aẓīm*.” In *A Guide to Sufi Literature*, edited by Mohammed Rustom and Joseph Lumbard. Berkeley: University of California Press. Accepted. Forthcoming.

“When Philosophy of Religion Meets Islamic Philosophy: A Muslim Critique of Contemporary Christian Theism.” In *Global-Critical Philosophy of Religion*, edited by Timothy Knepper. Accepted. Forthcoming.

“The Modern Resurrection of Nizari Ismailism: The Reforms of the Aga Khans.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Reform*, edited by Emad Hamdeh and Natana Delong-Bas. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Accepted. Forthcoming.

### Other Publications:

“The Metaphysics of the Common Word: A Dialogue of Eckhartian and Isma‘ili Gnosis (part 1).” *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity* 26 (2011): 41-64.

“The Metaphysics of the Common Word: A Dialogue of Eckhartian and Isma‘ili Gnosis (part 2).” *Sacred Web: A Journal of Tradition and Modernity* 27 (2011): 61-83.

“They Killed Him Not: The Crucifixion in Shi‘a Ismaili Islam.” *The Matheson Trust*, 2011.

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### BOOK REVIEWS

Elizabeth R. Alexandrin, *Walāyah in the Fāṭimid Ismā‘īlī Tradition*. *Shi‘i Studies Review* Vol. 3, No. 1-2 (2019): 313-318.

Sayeh Meisami, *Knowledge and Power in the Philosophies Ḥamīd al-Dīn al-Kirmānī and Mullā Ṣadrā Shīrāzī*. *Iranian Studies* Vol. 52, No. 1-2 (2019): 242-247.

David Hollenberg, *Beyond the Qur’ān: Early Ismā‘īlī Ta’wīl and the Secrets of the Prophets*. *Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations* Vol. 29, No. 3 (2018): 404-406.

Shahab Ahmed, *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic. Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations* Vol. 28, No. 1 (2017): 114-117.

Alice H. Hunsberger (ed.), *Pearls of Persia: The Philosophical Poetry of Nasir-i Khusraw. Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations* Vol. 25, No. 2 (2014): 272-275.

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### SERVICE TO AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

**First-Year Advisor** September 2023 – Present

**Honors Committee** September 2022 – Present

At-Large Representative

▪ Honors Committee Functions include:

- To approve curriculum of the honors programs, First Year Honors and the Interdisciplinary Honors Minor, and make curricular recommendations to the Educational Policies Committee.
- To set policies and criteria governing admission to and retention in all levels of the Honors Program. The committee should assess and work to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of the Honors Program, including coursework, staffing, student recruitment and review, and the composition and work of the committee itself.
- To review and evaluate candidates for admission to the programs; employing a feedback loop with a representative from the admissions office when a faculty interviewer's recommendation is less than emphatic.

**General Education Committee** September 2020 – May 2022

Division Representative for History, Philosophy, and Religion

▪ General Education Committee Functions include:

- Specifying criteria for General Education Courses as guided by Gen Ed Outcomes
- Review all proposed General Education courses
- Set up ongoing assessment procedures for Gen Ed Outcomes
- Collaborate with faculty in the design and revision of courses
- Review and propose changes to General Education program

**Academic Advisor** September 2020 – Present

Advisor to Religion Majors

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### SERVICE TO PROFESSION

**American Academy of Religion Seminar  
Constructive Muslim Thought and Engaged Scholarship** December 2019 – Present  
Steering Committee Member

**International Quranic Studies Association** December 2019 – Present  
Co-Chair of Methodology and Hermeneutics Unit

**Brill** June 2024 – Present  
Peer Reviewer

**Religions** February 2022 – Present  
Peer Reviewer

**European Journal of Analytic Philosophy** July 2022 – Present

Peer Reviewer	
<b>Journal of Islamic Philosophy</b> Peer Reviewer	September 2021 – Present
<b>Journal of the American Oriental Society</b> Peer Reviewer	November 2020 – Present
<b>The Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society</b> Digital Humanities Consultant Peer Reviewer	May 2020 – Present
<b>Brill Journal of Sufi Studies</b> Peer Reviewer	September 2020 – Present

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### INVITED TALKS (EXTERNAL)

“Shī‘ī Ismā‘īlī Tawḥīd: From Dual Negation to Metonymic Affirmation.” *Islamic Perspectives on God and (Other) Monotheism(s)*. Al-Mahdi Institute. February 20, 2023.

“Necessitated Evil: An Islamic Neoplatonic Theodicy from the Ismaili Tradition.” *Evil, Suffering and the Global Pandemic*. University of Cincinnati. June 28-30, 2022.

“Ismaili Neoplatonism as Esoteric Cosmopolitan Theology.” *Fatimid Cosmopolitanism*. The Institute of Ismaili Studies. December 6-9, 2021.

“Different Shi‘i Traditions.” Invited Lecture in the International Intensive Academic Course on Shi‘i Studies. Ahl-ul-Bait University and Ferdowsi University. July 18, 2021.

“The Shia Ismaili Muslims.” Invited Lecture at the Hawza Ilmiyya Qom, Qom, Iran. May 1, 2021.

“Re-examining the Meaning of Kitab Allah in Hadith al-Thaqalayn.” Invited Lecture at University of Al-Kafeel, Najaf, Iraq. March 13, 2021.

“The Fatimids and the Ismaili Tradition.” Invited Guest Lecture in Course NMC-273 (“Early Islamic History”), University of Toronto, March 8, 2021. ([Link to Video](#))

“What is Shia Islam?” Invited Guest Lecture at Virginia Commonwealth University. August 25, 2020.

“Sufism and Ismailism: Interactions and Intersections.” Invited Guest Lecture in Course RLST 37513-01 (“Islamic Mysticism”), Ithaca College, March 2018.

“The Speaking Qur’an: Revelation in Sunni and Shi‘a Islam.” Invited Departmental Guest Lecture, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas, Austin, Texas April 7, 2017. ([Link to Video](#))

“Visions of Jesus in Esoteric Islam: Shi‘i Isma‘ili Christology.” *The Society for Comparative Theology at Harvard Divinity School*, Harvard University, March 1, 2013. ([Link to Video](#))

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### CREATION OF TEACHING AND COURSE MATERIALS

“A Teaching and Learning Guide for: ‘A Survey of Ismaili Studies Part 1’ and ‘A Survey of Ismaili Studies Part 2’,” *Religion Compass*, Vol. 10, Issue 11, November 26, 283-291. ([Link to PDF](#))

*Shi'i Ismaili Ta'wil (Spiritual Interpretation) of the Qur'an: The Cycles of Prophecy and Imamatus*, Course Materials prepared for Course HDS 3221.4x ("Islam Through Its Scriptures"), Harvard University, June 2016.

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### INVITED CLASS LECTURES (HARVARD)

"The Quran: From Revelation to Scripture to Interpretation." Invited Guest Lecture in Course CULTURE & BELIEF 15 ("Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies"), Harvard University, February 2019.

"Ismaili Theology in the Context of *Kalam* and *Falsafah*." Invited Guest Lecture in Course RELIGION 1816 ("Ismaili History and Thought"), Harvard University, April 2017.

"Nizari Ismailis: History and Thought." Invited Guest Lecture in Course RELIGION 1816 ("Ismaili History and Thought"), Harvard University, March 2017.

"Ismaili Imamology." Invited Guest Lecture in Course RELIGION 1814 ("Muslim Devotional Literature in South Asia"), Harvard University, April 2015.

"Ismaili Philosophy." Invited Guest Lecture in Course RELIGION 1816 ("Ismaili History and Thought"), Harvard University, April 2014.

"Apophatic Theology and Mysticism." Invited Guest Lecture in Course RELI 2713 ("Mysticism"), Carleton University, May 23, 2013.

"Nasir-i Khusraw: Reconciling Philosophy and Religion." Invited Student Guest Lecture in Course ISLAMCIV 145A ("Introduction to Islamic Theology and Philosophy"), Harvard University, November 3, 2012.

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### ORGANIZED ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Convenor of the Third International Ismaili Studies Conference hosted by the Leiden University Shii Studies Unit, August 6-9, 2021. Program: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2021/07/third-international-ismaili-studies-conference-2021-program--registration>

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### ORGANIZED REFEREED CONFERENCE PANELS

"Quranic Narrative and Hermeneutics" (2 panels). *Annual Meeting of the International Qur'anic Studies Association (SBL Affiliate)*, Virtual Meeting. November 20, 2021.

"Revelation, Scripture, and Divine Speech in Qur'anic and Islamic Thought." *Annual Meeting of the International Qur'anic Studies Association*, San Diego, CA. November 21-25, 2019.

"Beyond Esoteric Interpretation: Reimagining Ismaili *Ta'wil* in Theory and Practice." *Second International Ismaili Studies Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada. March 9-10, 2017.

"Ismaili Thought Through the Medieval and Modern Periods: Gender, Exegesis and Metaphysics." *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Boston, MA, USA. November 22-25, 2016.

"The Modern Ismaili Imamatus: Religio-Political Thought and Ritual Authority of the Aga Khans." *Regional Meeting of the New England Maritimes American Academy of Religion (NEMAAR)*, Boston College, Boston, MA, April 2, 2016.

"Medieval Ismaili Thought: Methodology, Hermeneutics and Cosmology." *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Denver, CO, USA. November 22-25, 2015.

“Shared Theologies between Islam and Christianity.” *Regional Meeting of the New England Maritimes American Academy of Religion (NEMAAR)*, Boston, MA, March 21, 2015.

“Ismaili History and Thought.” *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Washington, DC, USA. November 22-25, 2014.

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#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

“Hadith Attesting a Forgotten Twelve Plus One Imami Faction.” *The History and Development of Early Imami Hadith Corpora*, Al-Mahdi Institute, February 12-13, 2024.

“The Imam as Speaking Quran in Ismaili Muslim Exegesis and Practice.” *Annual Meeting of the International Qur’anic Studies Association (SBL Affiliate)*, Virtual Meeting. November 20, 2023.

“Creation as Prophetic Initiation: Ismaili Exegesis of the Quranic Adam Story.” *Annual Meeting of the International Qur’anic Studies Association (SBL Affiliate)*, Virtual Meeting. November 20, 2021.

“In Search of the Quranic ‘Gospel’: Between Hermeneutics and History,” *Annual Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature (SBL)*. Virtual Meeting. November 20-November 23, 2021.

“An Ismaili Interpretation of Evolution: Metaphysical and Quranic Perspectives,” *Islam and Evolution Conference*. Leiden University Shii Studies Initiative, July 5-6, 2021.

“Islamic Neoplatonism: A Contemporary Alternative to Analytic Theism,” *Online Conference on The Existence and Nature of God and Other Deities*. University of Birmingham, June 22-24, 2021.

“Divine Words: Ismaili Doctrines of Revelation and Prophethood from Nasir-i Khusraw to Shahrastani,” *Islamic Traditions in Greater Khurasan: Ismailis, Sufis and Sunnis*. The Institute of Ismaili Studies. February 21-24, 2021.

“God’s Speech through Gabriel’s Words: Sunni Ash’ari Conceptions of Qur’anic Revelation.” *Annual Meeting of the International Qur’anic Studies Association (SBL Affiliate)*, Virtual Meeting. November 29-December 10, 2020.

“A Fatimid Ismaili Exegesis of *Zakat* according to Nasir-i Khusraw.” *Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Virtual Meeting. October 10-17, 2020.

“From the Transcendent Kitab to the Arabic Qur’ans: A Qur’anic Model of Revelation.” *Annual Meeting of the International Qur’anic Studies Association (SBL Affiliate)*, San Diego, CA. November 21-25, 2019.

“A Neoplatonic Qur’an: Revelation according to Abu Ya‘qub al-Sijistani.” *Islamic Philosophy Conference*. Annual Conference of the American Society of Islamic Philosophy. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. April 21-22, 2019.

“Ismailism: The Sectarian Construction of a Scholarly Category in Islamic Studies.” *Shii Studies Symposium*, University of Chicago, USA. October 24, 2018.

“Ismaili Interpretations of the Shari‘a: Between Affirmation and Abrogation.” *Shari‘a and the Secular*, UC Santa Barbara, CA USA. October 19, 2018.

“Reconciling the Two Wisdoms (*jami‘ al-hikmatayn*): The Sources of Shahrastani’s Ismaili Teachings in Nasir-i Khusraw.” *12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Iranian Studies Conference*, Irvine, CA USA. August 15, 2018.

“Reading Text through Pre-Text: Redefining Ismaili *Ta‘wil*.” *Annual Meeting of the International Qur’anic Studies Association (SBL Affiliate)*, Boston, MA, USA. November 17-20, 2017.

“Reading Text through Pre-Text: Redefining Ismaili *Ta’wil*.” *Second International Ismaili Studies Conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada. March 9-10, 2017.

“The Monorealism of Aga Khan III: Echoes of Ismā‘īlī Neoplatonism and Akbarī Ontology.” *Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Boston, MA, USA. November 22-25, 2016.

“Esoteric Pilgrimage: Ismaili Muslim Hermeneutics of *Hajj*.” *51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 12, 2016.

“The Ritualization of *Walayah*: The Authority of the Living Imam in Contemporary Ismailism.” *Regional Meeting of the North East Maritimes American Academy of Religion (NEMAAR)*, Boston College, Boston, MA, April 2, 2016.

“The Ismaili Influence on al-Ghazali: A Reassessment.” *Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Washington, DC, USA. November 22-25, 2015.

“From Divine Diversity to the Single Soul: The Aga Khan’s Vision of Pluralism.” *Conference on Religious Diversity*, Boston University School of Theology, November 14, 2015.

“From Divine Word to Prophetic Word: Revelation in the Thought of Nasir-i Khusraw.” *Islamic Studies Graduate Student Workshop*, Harvard University, April 1, 2015.

“God beyond God across Muslim and Christian Theology: Abu Ya‘qub al-Sijistani and Paul Tillich.” *Regional Meeting of the North East Maritimes American Academy of Religion (NEMAAR)*, Boston, MA, March 21, 2015.

“The Ismaili Influence on al-Ghazali: A Reassessment.” *Annual NMC Graduate Student Association Symposium*, University of Toronto, February 26, 2015.

“Reconciling Apophatic and Kataphic Theology in the thought of Nasir-i Khusraw.” *Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Washington, DC, USA. November 22-25, 2014.

“From Divine Word to Prophetic Word: Revelation in the thought of Nasir-i Khusraw.” *Ismaili Studies Conference*, University of Chicago, October 15-16, 2014.

“Monorealism: The Theology of Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah Aga Khan III.” *Regional Meeting of the North East American Academy of Religion (NEMAAR)*, Boston College, April 26, 2014.

“The Delegation of the Ismaili Imam: Esoteric Thought in Physical Form.” *Regional Meeting of Mid-West Region American Academy of Religion*, Ohio Northern University, April 5, 2014.

“The Metaphysics of *Tawhid*: Ismaili and Akbari Perspectives.” *Annual NMC Graduate Student Association Symposium*, University of Toronto, February 27, 2014.

“The Qur’an – Word of God or Words of Muhammad: Prophetic Revelation in the thought of Abdulkarim Soroush and Nasir-i Khusraw.” *Annual Meeting of Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, New Orleans, October 13, 2013.

“The Qur’an – Word of God or Words of Muhammad: Prophetic Revelation in the thought of Abdulkarim Soroush and Nāṣir-i Khusraw.” *Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) Conference*, University of Chicago, May 3, 2013.

“The Reconciliation of Knowledge: The Epistemology of Nasir-i Khusraw.” *Annual NMC Graduate Student Association Symposium*, University of Toronto, March 14, 2013.

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## PROFESSIONAL / VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Senior Consultant/Auditor - KPMG LLP

January 2005 – April 2011



- 2008-2011: Served as the team leader for audit and assurance engagements, serving as the official liaison between client service staff, client executive management and managers/partners of KPMG.
- 2005-2007 (4 Co-Op Terms): Served as staff accountant in various audit and assurance engagements; performed various audit procedures and analyses to assist senior audit team leader.

Student Councillor - University of Waterloo Federation of Students

May 2004 – April 2006

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### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion  
Middle East Studies Association  
International Association for Iranian Studies  
International Qur'anic Studies Association

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