

Sean W. Anthony, PhD

Associate Professor

The Ohio State University

Near Eastern Languages & Cultures

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 – *present* **The Ohio State University** (Columbus, OH), Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Associate Professor

Fall 2013 **Institute for Advanced Study** (Princeton, NJ), School of Historical Studies, Member and Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

2010 – 2015 **University of Oregon** (Eugene, OR), Department of History, Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

A.M., Ph. D., with honors, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, August 2009

Specialization: Islamic Thought and Early Islamic History

Dissertation Title: *The Caliph and the Heretic: ‘Abdallāh ibn Saba’, the Saba’īya, and the Origins*

of Shī‘ism between Myth and History

Dissertation Committee: Profs. Wadad Kadi (advisor), Fred M. Donner, and Wilferd Madelung

LANGUAGES

Arabic, Persian, Syriac, French, and German

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Religion and Society in Late Antiquity and Medieval Islam

Early Canonical Literatures of Islam (Qur’an and Hadith)

Statecraft and Political Thought in the Early Islamic, Umayyad, and Abbasid periods (ca. 600-1250

CE)

Comparative Apocalypticism and Messianism

RECENTLY TAUGHT COURSES

The Arabo-Islamic Intellectual Tradition [Graduate Seminar]

Classical Arabic Literature in Translation

Introduction to Arabic Philosophy

Introduction to Islam
Medieval Islamic Political Thought
The Qur'an in Translation
Qur'anic Arabic
Narratives of Islamic Origins [Graduate Seminar]

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Critical Arabic edition and English translation of the *Sīrat 'Umar ibn 'Abd al-'Azīz* by Abū Muḥammad Ibn 'Abd al-Ḥakam (d. CE 829) [to be published by NYU Press's Library of Arabic Literature]
- *Shi'ism in the Early Islamic World: Apocalyptic and Sectarian Origins under the Umayyads and Abbasids* (London: I.B. Tauris, forthcoming 2020)
- (with Stephen Shoemaker) English translation of the Georgian and Arabic text of *The Capture of Jerusalem by the Persians in CE 614* attributed to Strategius. (Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Grant)

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Muḥammad of Arabia: Late Antiquity, Early Islam, and the Formation of the Early Sīrah-Maghāzī Literature (finished, currently negotiating contract with a publisher)

Crucifixion and the Spectacle of Death: Umayyad Crucifixion in Its Late Antique Context, American Oriental Series 96 (New Haven, Conn.: American Oriental Society, 2014)

The Caliph and the Heretic: Ibn Saba' and the Origins of Shi'ism, Islamic History and Civilization 91 (Leiden: Brill, 2012)

Translations and critical editions

Ma' mar ibn Rāshid al-Azdī (d. CE 770), *The Expeditions (Kitāb al-maghāzī): An Early Biography of Muḥammad*, edited, translated, and annotated by S. W. Anthony (New York: New York University Press, 2014; paperback 2015)

Co-Authored

Harald Motzki with Nicolet Boekhoff-van der Voort and Sean W. Anthony, *Analysing Muslim Traditions: Studies in Legal, Exegetical, and Maghāzī Ḥadīth*, Islamic History and Civilization 78 (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2010; paperback 2013), ch. 7, "Crime and Punishment in Early Medina: The Origins of a Maghāzī-Tradition."

Articles in peer-reviewed journals and edited works

1. "Sayf ibn 'Umar's Account of 'King' Paul and the Corruption of Ancient Christianity," *Der Islam*, vol. 85, no. 1 (July 2009), pp. 164-202.

2. "The Domestic Origins of Imprisonment: An Inquiry into an Early Islamic institution," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 129, no. 4 (Oct-Dec 2009), pp. 571-596.
3. "The Prophecy and Passion of al-Ḥārīt ibn Sa'īd al-Kaḏḏāb: Narrating a Religious Movement from the Caliphate of 'Abdalmalik ibn Marwān," *Arabica*, vol. 57, no. 1 (2010), pp. 1-29.
4. "Dionysius of Tell Maḥrē's Syriac Account of the Assassination of 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb," *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, vol. 69, no. 2 (October 2010), pp. 209-224.
5. "The Legend of 'Abdallāh ibn Saba' and the Date of *Umm al-Kitāb*," *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 3rd ser., vol. 21, no. 1 (January 2011), pp. 1-30.
6. "Who was the Shepherd of Damascus? The Enigma of Jewish-Messianist Responses to the Islamic Conquests in Umayyad Syria and Mesopotamia," in: Paul M. Cobb, ed., *The Lineaments of Islam: Studies in Honor of Fred McGraw Donner*, Islamic History and Civilization 95 (Leiden: Brill, 2012), pp. 21-59.
7. "The Maḥdī and the Treasures of al-Ṭālaqān: Zaydī Imāms and Imāmī-Shī'ite Apocalypticism," *Arabica*, vol. 59, no. 5 (2012), pp. 459-483.
 Persian translation: "Maḥdaviyat va Ganjīnahhā-ye Ṭālaqān," tr. Maryam Kamali for *Ketābkhānah-ye Tārīkh-e Islām*
<http://historylib.com/index.php?action=article/view/1594>
8. "Chiliasmatic Ideology and Nativist Rebellion in the Early 'Abbāsīd Period: Sunbādḥ and the *Jāmāsp-Nāmāh*," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 132, no. 4 (Oct-Dec 2012), pp. 641-55.
9. "Further Notes on the Word *Ṣibgha* in Qur'ān 2:138," *Journal of Semitic Studies*, vol. 59, no. 1 (Spring 2014), pp. 117-129.
10. "Muḥammad, the Keys to Paradise, and the *Doctrina Iacobi*: A Late Antique Puzzle," *Der Islam*, vol. 91, no. 2 (November 2014), pp. 243-265.
11. "Ibn al-Zubayr's Meccan Prison and the Imprisonment of Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥanafīyya," in: Maurice Pomerantz and Aram Shahin, eds., *The Heritage of Arabo-Islamic Learning: Studies Presented to Wadad Kadi* (Leiden: Brill, 2015), pp. 3-29.
12. "Fixing John Damascene's Biography: Historical Notes on His Family Background," *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, vol. 23, no. 4 (Winter 2015), pp. 607-627.

13. (with Catherine Bronson), "Did Ḥafṣah bint 'Umar Edit the Qur'ān? A Response with Notes on the Codices of the Prophet's Wives," *Journal of the International Qur'anic Studies Association*, vol. 1 (2016): 93-126.
14. "Muḥammad, Menaḥem, and the Paraclete: New Light on Ibn Ishāq's (d. 150/767) Arabic Version of John 15:23-16:1," *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, vol. 79, no. 2 (June 2016), pp. 255-278.
15. "Was Ibn Wāḍiḥ al-Ya'qūbī a Shi'ite Historian? The State of the Question," *al-'Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā*, vol. 24 (2016), pp. 15-41.
16. (with Matthew Gordon), "Ibn Wāḍiḥ al-Yaq'ūbī: A Biographical Sketch," in: Matthew Gordon, Chase Robinson, Everett Rowson, and Michael Fishbein, eds., *The Works of Ibn Wāḍiḥ al-Ya'qūbī: An English Translation*, 3 vols. (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 1: 9-22.
17. "Abrahamic Dominion, Umayyad Rule: Species of *Mulk* in the Early Islamic Polity," in: Andrew Marsham, ed., *The Umayyad World* (London: Routledge, forthcoming 2018)
18. "Two 'Lost' *Sūras* of the Qur'ān: *Sūrat al-Khal'* and *Sūrat al-Ḥafd* between Textual and Ritual Canon (1st-3rd/7th-9th Centuries)," *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam* 44 (forthcoming 2018)
19. "The Conversion of Khadija bint Khuwaylid," in: Nimrod Hurvitz, Christian Sahner, Uriel Simonsohn, and Luke Yarbrough (eds.), *Turning to Mecca: A Sourcebook on Conversion to Islam in the Classical Period* (Berkeley: University of California Press, forthcoming 2018).
20. "The Cosmos and Creation," in: Nicolai Sinai, Marianna Klar, Gabriel S. Reynolds, and Holger M. Zellentin (eds.), *Biblical Traditions in the Qur'an* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2020).

Encyclopedia articles

In *Encyclopædia Iranica*, ed. Ehsan Yartshater (New York: Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation, 1983-):

- "‘Abd Allāh b. Saba’" (c. 1,500 words, forthcoming)
- "Kaysāniya," (c. 3,500 words: vol. 16, fasc. 2, pp. 183-88 and <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kaysaniya>);
- "The Nawbakṭi Family," (c. 6,000 words: iranicaonline.org/articles/nawbakti-family)
- "Ebn Wāẓeḥ al-Ya'qūbī" (c. 2,000 words, forthcoming).

In *The Encyclopædia of Islam, THREE*, eds. Gudrun Krämer, Denis Matringe, John Nawas, Everett, Rowson (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2007-):

- “Bazīgh b. Mūsā”;
- “Ghulāt (Extremist Shi‘ites)” (c. 3,000 words);
- “Ghurābiyya”;
- “Ibn al-Ḥanafīyya, Muḥammad” (c. 1,000 words);
- “Ibn al-Ḥanafīyya, Ḥasan b. Muḥammad” (c. 1,000 words);
- “Ibn Mas‘ūd, ‘Abd Allāh” (c. 1,000 words);
- “Jurayj” (forthcoming, c. 500 words);
- “Kāhin” (c. 500 words);
- “Khashabiyya” (c. 500 words);
- “al-Khirrīt” (c. 500 words);
- “Kuraybiyya” (c. 750 words);
- “Maghāzī” (c. 1,000 words).

In *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, ed. Gerhard Böwering et al. (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2012):

- “‘Alī (c. 599-661 CE), fourth caliph”;
- “Ḥasan (c. 624-669 CE), son of ‘Alī”;
- “‘Umar (c. 580-644 CE), second caliph”;
- “‘Uthmān (c. 580-656 CE), third caliph.”

Book reviews

Review of David Thomas, *Christian Doctrines in Islamic Theology* (Leiden: Brill, 2008); in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 42, no. 2 (February 2010), pp. 342-344.

Review of Ruth Glasner, *Averroës’ Physics: A Turning Point in Medieval Natural Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2009); in *HOPOS*, vol. 1, no. 1 (Spring 2011), pp. 175-178.

Review of Christian Lange, *Justice, Punishment, and the Medieval Muslim Imagination* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008); in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, vol. 71, no. 1 (April 2012), pp. 102-104.

Review of *Epistles of the Brethren of Purity: On Magic I, An Arabic Critical Edition and English Translation of Epistle 52a*, ed. and trans. Godefroid de Callataÿ and Bruno Halflants, forward by Nader El-Bizri (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012); in *HOPOS*, vol. 3, no. 2 (Fall 2013), pp. 384-387.

Review of Asad Q. Ahmad, *The Religious Elite of the Early Islamic Hijaz: Five Prosopographical Studies*, *Prosopographia et Genealogica* 14 (Oxford: Unit for Prosopographical Research, 2011); in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, vol. 74, no. 1 (April 2015), pp. 167-69.

Review of David S. Powers, *Zayd* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014); in *Review of Qur’anic Research*, vol. 1, no. 1 (2015)

Review of ʿAṣṣam al-Ghaṭafānī (d. AH 200/CE 815), *Kitāb al-Taḥrīsh*, ed. Hüseyin Hansu and Mehmet Kaskin (Istanbul: Shirkat Dār al-ʿIrshād, 2014); in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, vol. 76, no. 1 (April 2017), pp. 199-203.

RECENT/ FORTHCOMING LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

“The Late-Antique and Innovations of Qur’anic Cosmology,” invited lecture to be delivered at **Biblical Tradition the Qur’an**, the British Academy (11-12 October 2018)

“The Reception of the ‘Satanic Verses’ Story in the Works of Early Shi’ite Scholars (9th – 12th c. CE),” invited lecture delivered at **Spring Lecture Series in Shi’i Studies**, organized by the Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam & Society (20 February 2018)

“Authors of Piety, Poets of Blasphemy: Caliphal Authorship in the Construction of the Umayyad Past,” invited lecture delivered at **Rulers as Authors: Knowledge, Authority and Legitimacy**, organized by Sonja Brentjes, Maribel Fierro, and Tilman Siedensticker. Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Hamburg University (18-19 December 2017)

“Two ‘lost’ Sūras of the Qur’ān: *Sūrat al-Khal’* and *Sūrat al-Hafd* between textual and ritual canon (7th-9th centuries),” invited lectured delivered at **From Jāhiliyya to Islam**, organized by The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities (6 July 2016)

“Hidden Redeemers, Sleeping Heroes, and Wandering Messiahs: Early Shi’ite Messianism in the Sectarian Milieu,” invited lecture delivered at **Islam at 250: A Conference in Memory of Dr. G.H.A. Juynboll**, organized by Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam & Society (5 December 2015)

“Arab Dominion, Umayyad Kingship: Species of *Mulk* in the Early Islamic Polity,” invited lecture presented for the panel, **The Early Islamic World I: Umayyad Rule, Law, and Religion**, organized by Andrew Marsham at the *Leeds International Medieval Congress*, University of Leeds (6 July 2015).

Invited panel discussant, “Reading the Corpus,” at the workshop, **A Corpus, Not a Canon: A Workshop on the Library of Arabic Literature**, All Souls College, Oxford University (25 April 2015).

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Grant (with Stephen Shoemaker)
(awarded August 2017)

Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors and Membership, The Institute for Advanced Study,
School
of Historical Studies (2013 – 2014)

National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship (2012 – 2013)

Zahid Ali Award of the Institute of Ismaili Studies (2011)
Brush Faculty Fellowship, University of Oregon Department of History (2011 – 2012)
Junior Faculty Development Grant, University of Oregon (Summer 2011)
Whiting Dissertation Year Fellowship (2008 – 2009)
Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago Divinity School (2007 – 2008)
Provost's Summer Fellowship, University of Chicago (Summer 2007)
University Unendowed Fellowship, University of Chicago (2006 –2007)
Grant for Persian Language Study, American Institute of Iranian Studies, Tehran, Iran (Summer 2005)
Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (2004 –2006)
Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Summer 2004, Summer 2006)

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Oriental Society
Middle East Studies Association
Middle East Medievalists
International Quranic Studies Association

UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial Board, *Library of Arabic Literature* (www.libraryofarabicliterature.org)
Associate Editor, *Shi'i Studies Review* (www.brill.com/products/journal/shii-studies-review)
Advisory Board, Middle East Medievalists
Peer-reviewed monographs and articles for:

Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
History of Religions
Intellectual History of the Islamicate World
Journal of Late Antiquity
Journal of Near Eastern Studies
Journal of Qur'anic Studies
Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
Journal of Shi'a Studies
al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean
Edinburgh University Press
E.J. Brill Publishers
New York University Press
Routledge
University of California Press
Yale University Press

REFERENCES

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