

MEHDI AZAIEZ

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE RESEARCHER - LABEX RESMED (PARIS)
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EDUCATION

Fellow **University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, U.S.A**
2013 Co-director of The Qur'ān Seminar (Funded by the Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Grant)
Advanced Textual Reading Groups: Syriac, Classical Ethiopic, Biblical Hebrew.

Ph.D. **University of Aix-Marseilles, Aix-en-Provence, France**
2012 Major field: The Qur'ān and Early Muslim Exegesis (Claude Gilliot)
Minor fields: Early Muslim Historiography (Jacqueline Chabbi)
Early Islam and Late Antiquity (Gabriel Said Reynolds)
Arabic Language and Arabic linguistics (Pierre Larcher)
Doctoral Dissertation: "Polemics in the Qur'ān: An Analysis of Counter-Discourse and Riposte" (High Distinction)

M.A. **University of Aix-Marseilles, Aix-en-Provence**
2008 Major: The Qur'ān and Early Muslim Exegesis (Claude Gilliot)
Minors: The Hebrew Bible and Biblical Hebrew (Paul Cassuto)
Early Islamic Epigraphy (Frédéric Imbert)
Modern Arabic Literature (Richard Jacquemond)
Master's Thesis: "An Introduction to Counter-Discourse in the Qur'ānic Text"

M.A. **Institute of Political Science, Aix-en-Provence**
2003 Major: Interculturalism and Diversity Management (Bruno Etienne)
Minor: Sociology and Anthropology of Religion (Raphaël Draï)
Master's Thesis: "Intercultural Formations in France: History, Methodologies and Perspectives"

B.A. **University of Paris I Sorbonne, Paris**
1996 Major: Muslim Historiography and Islamic History (Françoise Micheau)
Minor: Medieval Mediterranean History (Michel Balard)
History of the Ancient Near East (Dominique Charpin)
Honors Thesis: "A Comparative Analysis of Ibn Ishaq, Tabari and Balami's Sīra"

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

"The Qur'ān Seminar"
Co-editor and contributor with Gabriel Said Reynolds, IQSA publication, 2014 (In Progress).

"Le Contre-discours coranique"
Studien zur Geschichte und Kultur des islamischen Orients coll., De Gruyter (In progress)

"Le Coran. Nouvelles approches"
Ed. Mehdi Azaiez, Paris, National Center for Scientific Research Editions, November 2013.

ARTICLES

“Le contre-discours coranique : approches d’un corpus”

Ed. Mehdi Azaiez, Paris, National Center for Scientific Research Editions, November 2013.

“Muhammad, une relation coranique”

Religions & Histoire, 2011.

“Les thèses consacrées au Coran en France depuis les années soixante-dix. Une note bibliographique”

Arabica, LVI (2009), p. 107-111.

REVIEWS

Rosalind Gwynne Ward, “*Logic, Rhetoric, and Legal Reasoning in the Qur’ān, God’s arguments*”, New York, Routledge/Curzon, 2004, XV+251 p. *Bulletin Critique Annales Islamologiques*, XXVI (2010), p. 19-20.

Michel Cuypers, “*Le Festin, Une lecture de la sourate al-Mâ’ida*”, Paris, Lethielleux (Rhétorique sémitique ; 4), 2007, IV+453 p. *EHESS/IISMM*, online since 07/31/2009.

Yehuda D. Nevo, Judith Koren, “*Crossroads to Islam. The Origins of the Arab Religion and the Arab State*”, Amherst, New-York, Prometheus Books, 2003, 462 p. *Bulletin Critique des Annales Islamologiques*, XXIV (2008), p. 101-103.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame (2012-‘13)

i. Islam and Christian Theology

Seminar on Christianity’s encounter with Islam and how various historical contexts have affected Christian understanding of Muslims and Islam.

ii. Advanced Arabic Reading

Qur’ānic and Classical texts reading for PhD students in Islamic Studies.

iii. The Islamic Challenge to Christian Theology (Teaching Assistant)

Lecture on Islam and a survey of major aspects of the Muslim faith.

Institute for Clinical Social Workers, Marseilles (2006-‘12)

i. Anthropology of Religion

Lecture course on notions, theories, methodologies in the anthropology of religion.

ii. The Concept of Laïcité

Lecture course on French secularism (History, Legal dispositions, Evolutions)

Institute for Theology and Religions Studies, Marseilles (2003-‘06)

i. How to Read the Qur’ān

Lecture course on Qur’ān: History, Themes, Structure, Exegesis, Practices

ii. Biblical Figures in the Qur’ān

Lecture course of narratology and inter-textuality in the Qur’ān.

iii. Introduction to Islam

Lecture course on Islam and a survey of major themes in Muslim Civilisation from pre-Islamic Arabia to Modernity.

iv. Introduction to Monotheism

Seminar on the textual sources and methodologies in the study of monotheism in Western Religions

ACTIVITIES

- 2012-13 **Co-Director:** The Mellon-Saywer Grant Qur'ān Seminar
Collaborative academic project with 28 Scholars from North America and Europe
www.quranseminar.nd.edu
- 2012 **Founding Member:** International Qur'ānic Studies Association (Learned Society)
الجمعية الدولية للدراسات القرآنية
<http://iqsaweb.wordpress.com/people/>
- 2009 **Conference Co-Director:** “Les études coraniques aujourd’hui. Méthodes, Enjeux, Débats”,
International Colloquium on Qur'ānic Studies, EHESS, Paris, 2009.
<http://www.mehdi-azaiez.org/Les-etudes-coraniques-aujourd-hui>
- 2008 **Creator and Administrator:** Academic Website - “Coran et Sciences de l’Homme”
950 pages, 250 visitors per day
<http://www.mehdi-azaiez.org>

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2013 **Unity and Fragmentation in the Standard Text of the Qur'ān: The Prophet as First Addressee and Dialogic Argumentation.**
Institut of Ismaili Studies, London
- 2013 “**Polemic and Monoprophetism in the Qur'ān**”,
Society of Biblical Literature Conference, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews
- 2013 “**The Eschatological Counter-Discourse in the Qur'ān**”,
The Qur'ān's reformation of Judaism and Christianity, University of Nottingham, Nottingham
- 2012 “**Counter-Discourse: a new approach to Polemic as a Qur'ānic genre**”
Qur'ānic Studies Today, University of Chicago, Chicago
- 2011 “**Le Contre-discours eschatologique dans le Coran**”
Aux Origines du Coran, Le Coran des Origines, AIBL, Paris
- 2010 “**Argumentation and Qur'ānic temporality**”,
World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies, Barcelona
- 2009 “**Le Contre-discours coranique: approches d'un corpus**”
École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris

LANGUAGES

Advanced Classical: Arabic (Advanced)

Advanced Modern: French (Native); English (Advanced); Tunisian (Fluent)

Reading Knowledge: Syriac; Biblical and Mishnaic Hebrew; Classical Ethiopic

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2000-02 NGO Educator Manager, Alphabet Families Association, Paris.

1996-99 Guide and Translator in Israel, Jordan and Egypt

REFERENCES

Prof. Marie-Hélène Congourdeau

Religious Byzantium History
National Center for Scientific Research, France
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Prof. Claude Gilliot

Arabic and Islamic Studies
Department of Research and Studies of Arabic and Muslim world, France
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Prof. Gabriel Said Reynolds

Tisch Family Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Theology
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Prof. Andrew Rippin

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Department of History, University of Victoria, Canada
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Prof. Shawkat Toorawa

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