

Dr. EDMUND HAYES, PhD

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Apr 2017 - present

Postdoctoral Researcher at Leiden University, ERC project “Embedding Conquest: Naturalising Muslim Rule in the Early Islamic Empire (600-1000)”

Oct 2016-Feb 2017

Visiting Teaching Fellow for the Excellence Initiative, Department of Oriental and Islamic Studies, University of Tübingen

2015-2016

Visiting Faculty Fellow in Islamic History, Colby College, Waterville, Maine, USA

2010-2014

Lecturer, Social Sciences core, University of Chicago, USA

EDUCATION

August 2015

Ph.D., *with honours*, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, USA,

Dissertation title: “The Envoys of the Hidden Imam: Religious Institutions and the Politics of the Twelver Occultation”

Dissertation committee: Prof Franklin Lewis (advisor), Dr Paul Walker, Prof Tahera Qutbuddin, Prof Sabine Schmidtke

2009

M.A., Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago, USA

Thesis title: “Ibn Bābūya’s Dream: Shīʿī History through the Lens of the *Ghayba*”

2002

B.A., Oriental Studies (Arabic and Persian), class 2:1, University of Oxford, UK

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social and cultural history of the late antique and medieval middle east, Islamic sectarianism and minorities, Shiʿi Islam, hadith, theology, comparative Islamic law (*fiqh*), doctrine, government, taxation, revenue and charity, sacred economies, social organization of religious communities, excommunication, letters and epistolary communication, mirrors for princes, social identity, gender, sexuality and the

body, empire studies, digital humanities (computational text analysis), representations of early Islam in video games and board games

CURRENT PROJECTS

- A second monograph, *God's Money (māl allāh)*, studying how Muslim opposition groups played a formative role in establishing discourses and institutions for the proper use of wealth in the medieval middle east, in the context of governmental rhetoric about wealth and resource extraction across the medieval Mediterranean world.
- A study of the use of letters as instruments of power in the Late Antique Islamic empires, including several articles in process.
- An edited volume on the state of the study of Shi'i hadith corpus.

PUBLICATIONS

Books in press

Agents of the Hidden Imam and the Birth Pangs of Twelver Shi'ism 850-950 CE, Cambridge University Press, in press.

Reason, Revelation, and Esotericism: The Construction of Scholarly Authority in Shi'i Islam, edited with Rodrigo Adem, Leiden: Brill, in press.

The Ties that Bind: Mechanisms of Social Dependency in the Early Islamic Empire, edited with Petra Sijpesteijn, awaiting review with Cambridge University Press.

Peer-reviewed articles

Published:

"The Death of Kings: Group Identity and the Tragedy of *Nezhād* in Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*." *Iranian Studies* 48, No. 3 (2015): 369-393.

"Alms and the Man: Finance and Resistance in the Legal Statements of the Shi'i Imams," *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies* 17 (2017): 280-298.

"Early Islamic Cosmopolitanism? Constructing the 'Umma of India in Pre-Mongol Muslim Scholarship," special issue on "Iranian Cosmopolitanisms," *Comparative Islamic Studies* 13 No. 1-2 (2017): 75-120.

Unconditionally accepted:

"The Imams as Economic Actors: Early Imami Shi'ism as a "Sacred Economy,"" in *The Early Islamic Economy, 750-1050*, edited by Fanny Bessard and Hugh Kennedy, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

"Perversion and Subversion: Gender Relations and Illicit Sexuality in Ibn Dāniyāl's Shadow Play," in *Queering the Mediterranean*, edited by Peter Thompson and Felipe Rojas, Leiden: Brill.

"The Imam who Might have Been: Ja'far 'the Liar', his Followers, and the Negotiation between Political Realism and Esotericist Idealism," in *Reason, Revelation, and Esotericism: The Construction of Scholarly Authority in Shi'i Islam*, edited by Edmund Hayes and Rodrigo Adem, Leiden: Brill.

“The Institutions of Imamate: Towards a Social History of Early Imami Shi’ism”, *Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean*.

“Acts of Protection in the Late Antique Middle East,” introduction to a special issue on protection, in *Annales Islamologiques*, co-authored with Eline Scheerlinck, accepted with minor changes.

“Intwined Itineraries: The Ḥajj and the Ziyāra to the Shi’i Imams,” in *Ḥajj and the Arts of the Pilgrimage* edited by Nasser D. Khalili, Qaisra Khan, Nahla Nassar and Venetia Porter.

Accepted, pending minor reviews:

“The Carnal Prince of Kay Kā’ūs’s *Qābūsnāma*: the Body in Political Thought,” *Speculum*, journal of the Medieval Academy of America, accepted with minor changes.

“Between Implementation and Legislation: the Shi’i Imam Muḥammad al-Jawād’s Khums Demand Letter of 220 AH/ 835 CE”, *Islamic Law and Society*, accepted with minor changes.

Recently submitted:

“The Epistolary Imamate: Circular Letters in the Administration of the Shi’i Community”, in *The Ties that Bind: Mechanisms and Structures of Social Dependency in the Early Islamic Empire*, edited by Petra Sijpesteijn and Edmund Hayes.

Journal special issues edited

“Acts of Excommunication” in the Late Antique and Early Medieval Middle East”, in *Al-‘Usur al-Wusta, The Journal of Middle East Medievalists*, expected publication, November 2021.

“Acts of Protection in the early Islamic Empire,” in *Annales Islamologiques*, edited with Eline Scheerlinck, expected publication, Spring 2021.

Reviews

Sean Anthony, *The Caliph and the Heretic: Ibn Saba’ and the Origins of Shi’ism*, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, forthcoming.

Hassan Ansari, *L’imamat et l’Occultation selon l’imamisme: Étude bibliographique et histoire des textes*, in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 79, No. 2 (2020), 380-2.

Mushegh Asatryan, *Controversies in Formative Shi’i Islam: The Ghulat Muslims and Their Beliefs.*, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 140 No. 2 (2020).

Matthew Pierce, *Twelve Infallible Men*, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138, no. 4 (2018): 879-82.

Najam Haider, *Shī’ī Islam: An Introduction*, in the *Journal of Religion* 97, No. 4, (2017).

BLOGS AND WEBSITES

I have created and curate the website [Material Sources for Early Islam and the Late Antique Near East](#), in which specialists in Qur’ān, documents, inscriptions, coins and seals, manuscripts and archaeology maintain updated bibliographies and lists of resources.

I post blog entries at the [Embedding Conquest](#) website, and the [Leiden Islam blog](#), including, most recently, [“Playing the CyberSultan: Videogames and the Islamic Empire”](#), published August 21 2020.

AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Islam, late antique and medieval history, Arabic and Persian historiography, theories and approaches to religion and history, medieval political thought, global Late antiquity, global Middle Ages, race and ethnicity in the middle east, gender and sexuality in the middle ages, Qur'ān and exegesis, hadith, Islamic theology, the history of religions, modern middle eastern history, history in board games and computer games, theories and approaches to the study of religion, manuscripts, papyri and epigraphy

COURSES

University of Leiden

- 5851VGM1, History of the Middle East (600-1500) (Autumn 2021)
- 5853KLQ, The Living Qur'ān, (as part of team-taught course)
- Online MOOC course, The Cosmopolitan Medieval Arabic World, (guest lecture)

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/medieval-arabia>

University of Tübingen

- ISL-BA-03, Shi'ism and the Caliphate: Power, Purity and Protest (Proseminar)

Colby College

- HI 184, History of the Modern Middle East (first year survey course)
- HI 298 B, Apocalypse: the History of the End of the World (second/third year seminar)
- HI 497 A, Shi'ism (fourth year seminar)
- HI 285 A, Foundations of Islam (first and second year survey)

University of Chicago

- SOSC 12200-12300, Self, Culture and Society (Social Sciences Core requirement)
- NEHC 30255, An Introduction to Shi'ite Islam (for graduate students and upper-level undergraduates)
- ARAB 10101, 10102, 10103, Arabic (course assistant)

THESIS SUPERVISION

Completed

Haneen Omari, "Unearthing Literature: The Case of Hussein Bargouti" Leiden University, October 2019. (defense committee member)

Theses in process

PhD dissertation, Eline Scheerlinck, “Protective Interventions by Local Elites in the Countryside of Early Islamic Egypt” (second supervisor in reading committee)

PhD dissertation, Alon Dar, “Ruling an Empire: Provincial Governors, Caliphs, and Elites in the Umayyad Empire” (second supervisor in reading committee)

PhD dissertation, Reza Huseini “Framing the Conquest: Early Muslim Domination of Bactria 652-750 CE” (second supervisor in reading committee)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Jan – Aug 2018

“Digital Innovation in Medieval Arabic History” in collaboration with the Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities, supervisor for two MA students on research project.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Review Editor, *Shi'i Studies Review*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2020

Juynboll Stichting Conference Grant (deferred)

Oosters Institute Grant (deferred)

March 2019

Short term visitor at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton

November 2018

Juynboll Stichting Conference Grant

2017-2019

Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)

Sep 2014- Jun 2015

Affiliated Fellowship, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago

Sep 2014- Jun 2015

Mellon Humanities Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of Chicago

Nov 2014

Wadad Kadi Travel Fellowship, Middle East Studies Association

Spring 2008

The Jerald Brauer seminar grant, Divinity school of the University of Chicago

Jul-Sep 2001

Travel grant, British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

June 3-5, 2020

“Shi’i Hadith: Corpora and Methodologies,” Leiden University (postponed to 2021)

Mar 12-13, 2020

“Acts of Excommunication,” Leiden University

Dec 3-6, 2019

“The Ties that Bind: Mechanisms and Structures of Social Dependency in the Early Islamic Empire,” Leiden University

Nov 14-15, 2018

“Approaching Shi’i Islam in the Academy,” Leiden University

May 17-18, 2018

“Correspondence, Cross-Pollination and Control,” Leiden University

April 1-2, 2015

Shi’i Studies Symposium, “The Practical Authority of the Imams and their Representatives,” University of Chicago

April 3-4, 2014

Shi’i Studies Symposium, “Reason and Esotericism in Shi’ism,” University of Chicago

May 13-15, 2010

Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT) conference, University of Chicago

OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED

Sept 19, 2019

“Sacred Economies” Symposium at the Canonical Cultures Network in Leiden University, with contributions from scholars of Tibetan and Indian Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, and Islam.

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

October 8, 2020

- “Agents of the Hidden Imam between Myth and History”, Cambridge University, Department of Middle Eastern Studies Public Talks Series, online.
- July 7, 2020
- “Islam in 3D? Should Islamic History consist in the Analysis of Narratives or the Reconstruction of Societies?”, at Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies (NISIS) masterclass, “Interdisciplinarity in the Study of Islam and of Islamic History”, online
- 7-8 October 2019
- “*Ṣadaqa* in early Islamic Law, and the Transition from State-Administered Duty to Private Piety”, at *Ḥadīth* and Law in the First Three Centuries of Islam: Ibādī and Shīʿī Sources, University of Naples with University of Exeter (Robert Gleave)
- June 25-26, 2019
- “Institutions of Imamate: Towards a Social History of Imami Shiʿism” at workshop on Minorities in the Abbasid and Fatimid caliphates, 750-1000, Aga Khan University, London
- Dec, 7-8, 2018
- “Historicizing the Shiʿi Hadith Corpus: Towards an Assessment of the State of the Field,” at conference “Hadith and Inner-Islamic Pluralism: The Origin and Development of the Prophetic Tradition as a trans-denominational Phenomenon,” University of Tübingen
- Oct 11-13, 2018
- Participation in Round Table: “Quo Vadis, Islamic Empire studies?” presenting the EmCo project at conference, “The Reach of Empire - The Early Islamic Empire at Work,” University of Hamburg
- Dec 7-9, 2017
- “How do we deal with Imamic hadith? The case of the historical development in the Imams’ statements on *khums*” at conference Shii Studies: The State of the Art, International Conference held at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ
- Nov 10, 2017
- “The Imams as Economic Actors,” Leverhulme International Network, SOAS, London
- July 20, 2017
- “Shiʿi Theology”, Zentrum für Islamische Theologie, Tübingen University
- Feb 16, 2017
- “Taxation and Protest against the Early Islamic Empire” at The Origins of the Islamic State: Sovereignty and Power in the Middle Ages, UCL

May 8, 2016

“The Fiscal Authority of the Imams: Analysing Imamic Jurisprudential Statements on *Khums* and *Zakāt*,” Second International Conference on Shi’i Studies, Islamic College, London

Apr 2, 2016

“The *Tawqī’at* and *Masā’il* Genres: a Textual Archaeology of Pre- and Early-Occultation Institutions of Knowledge Dissemination,” University of Chicago Shi’i Studies Group Symposium, The Acquisition and Transmission of Knowledge

Dec 18, 2015

“Early Shi’i Socio-Political Dynamics: Working Towards a System” Digital Arabic & Digital Persian Research Workshop, University of Leipzig

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

International development

2004-2005

Officer-in-charge, Bactria Cultural Project, ACTED Afghanistan

2003-2004

Grants writer, ACTED Tajikistan

Journalism

2002- 2003

Junior editor, and contributing writer, www.openDemocracy.net

Volunteering

2006-2007

Persian interpreter, National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago IL, USA

2001

Visitor, Campsfield Detention Centre for asylum seekers, Oxford, UK

LANGUAGES

Arabic (advanced reading and speaking)

Persian (advanced reading and speaking: experience in Farsi, Tajik and Dari dialects)

French (advanced reading, intermediate speaking)

German (advanced reading, intermediate speaking)

Italian (advanced reading, intermediate speaking)

Dutch (intermediate reading and speaking)

Russian (basic reading and speaking)

Hebrew (learning)