

**Omid Safi, Ph.D.**



**Professor of Religious Studies, Duke University**

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**Education**

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina	Ph.D. 2000
Graduate Program in Religion, Islamic Studies	
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina	MA, 1998
Graduate Program in Religion, History of Religions	
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina	B.A. Hons, 1992

**Professional Experience**

Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University, Durham, NC  
Professor (2014-)  
Director, Duke Islamic Studies Center (2014-)

Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Professor, (2008-2014); Associate Professor, (2006-2008)  
Department of Philosophy and Religion, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York  
Associate Professor, (2004-2006); Assistant Professor, (1999-2004)

## Honors and Awards

- J. Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Award, Professor of the Year, UNC, 2010.
- University Diversity Award, Faculty Member of the Year, 2009
- Carnegie Scholar, 2007-2008 (\$ 100,000 award)
- Nominated for Professor of the Year, Colgate University: Through Phi Eta Sigma (2005-2006), (2004-2005), (2003-2004), (2002-2003), (2001-2002), (2000-2001), (1999-2000)
- Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award Nomination, Duke University (1999, 1996)

## Bibliography

### Books

- *Cambridge Companion to American Islam*. Co-edited with Juliane Hammer. (Cambridge University Press, 2013).
- *Learned Ignorance: Abrahamic Religions and Pluralism*. Co-edited with James Heft and Reuven Firestone. (Oxford, 2011).
- *Memories of Muhammad: Why The Prophet Matters* [HarperOne, 2009]
- *The Politics of Knowledge in Premodern Islam*, (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2006). 292 pages. India edition: *Religion and Politics in Saljuq Iran*, (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007)
- *Voices of Islam: Voices of Change*, edited by Omid Safi. (Praeger, 2006).
- *Progressive Muslims: On Justice, Gender, and Pluralism*. (Oxford: Oneworld, 2003).

### Commissioned Manuscripts, Under Contract

- *Makers of Modern Iran*. Harvard University Press, manuscript due 2014.
- *The Tamhidat of 'Ayn al-Qudat al-Hamadani*. Translation and Commentary by Omid Safi. Paulist Press: Classics of Western Spirituality Series, manuscript due 2014.
- *Rumi: Sufi Saint, American Icon*. Fons Vitae, manuscript due 2015.
- *Rumi's Masnavi: A Biography*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, due 2016.

### Book Chapters:

- "Uncovering the Israeli-Republican-Evangelical Network Behind the Obsession DVD", in *Muslims and Jews in America*, edited by Reza Aslan, (Palgrave, 2011), 21-32.
- "Between Ijtihad of Presupposition and Gender Equality, in Carl Ernst, ed., *Rethinking Islamic Studies: From Orientalism to Cosmopolitanism*. (SC, 2010), 72-96.

- “Islamic Modernism and the Challenge of Reform,” in *Voices of Change*, in *Voices of Islam*, edited by Omid Safi. (Praeger, 2006), pp. xvii-1.
- “I and Thou in a Fluid World: Beyond ‘Islam vs. the West’” in *Voices of Change*, in *Voices of Islam*, edited by Omid Safi. (Praeger, 2006), pp. 199-222.
- “‘Ayn al-Qozat-e Hamadani,” in *Ashnayan-e Rah-e ‘Eshq*, edited by Nasrollah Pourjavady. (Tehran: Iran University Press, 2006), pp. 188-231.
- “Progressive Islam in America,” in *A Nation of Religions*, edited by Stephen Prothero. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2006), pp. 43-60.
- “American Muslims: Past Legacies, Present Realities, and Future Challenges,” in *Voices of American Muslims*, L. Catura, ed. (Hippocrene, 2004), pp. 11-22.
- “Academic, Reformer, World Citizen,” in *Voices of American Muslims*, L. Catura, ed. (Hippocrene, 2004), pp. 161-178.
- “Being Muslim, Being American Through This Absurd ‘War on Terrorism’” in *Taking Back Islam*, edited by M. Wolf. (New York: Rodale Press, 2002), pp. 67-75.
- “The Sufi Path of Love in Iran and India” in *A Pearl in Wine*, Zia Inayat Khan, ed. (New Lebanon, NY: Omega Press, 2001), pp. 221-266

#### **Refereed/Peer-reviewed Papers**

- “Islamic Modernism,” in *Encyclopedia of Religion, Second Edition*. Editor Lindsay Jones et al. (Farmington Hills, MI: MacMillan, 2006), pp. 6095-6102.
- “Al-Hallaj” in *Arabic Literary Culture, c. 500-925* volume of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Shawkat Toorawa et al, eds. (Detroit: Gale, 2005)
- “Ja‘far al-Sadiq” in *Arabic Literary Culture, c. 500-925* volume of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Shawkat Toorawa et al, eds. (Detroit; Gale, 2005)
- “What is Progressive Islam?,” *Newsletter for the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World* 13, December 2003, pp. 48-49
- “State and Society under the Great Saljuqs,” trans. to Turkish, in *The Great Ottoman-Turkish Civilisation Encyclopedia*, Halil Inalcik, ed. (Ankara, 2002), pp. 352-363
- “Bargaining with *Baraka*: Persian Sufism, ‘Mysticism,’ and Politics,” *The Muslim World* 90/3-4 (2001), pp. 259-288

#### **Service to UNC Programs (and region)**

- Graduate Student Committee, Department of Religious Studies (2006-2007)
- Board member, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations (<http://www.unc.edu/mideast>), (2006-)
- Developing a Summer Study Abroad Program in Turkey, for Summer 2009
- Mock Interviews with Graduate students on the job market (Fall 2006, 2007)

- Reading through and compiling short-lists for graduate student applicants in Islamic studies (Spring 2007, Spring 2008)
- Participating in searches for the Modern Jewish Thought and Latin American searches
- Guest-lectured in classes for Carl Ernst, Yaakov Ariel, Lauren Leve, and Canguzel Zulfikar
- Lectured for UNC General Alumni Association “Beyond Islam vs. the West”, March 2007
- Lectured at the local chapter of the United Nation on contemporary Iran, Spring 2007
- Lectured for the local chapter of Tikkun, on relations between US and Iran

**Professional Affiliations:**

- American Academy of Religion  
Chair, Islamic Mysticism Group (2009-2013)  
Co-Chair of the Study of Islam Section (2003-2008)  
Member of the Steering Committee, Study of Islam Section (2000-2003)  
Responsible for proposing successful expansion of Islamic studies at the AAR:  
Qur’an Group, Islamic Mysticism Group, Contemporary Islam Group.

Creator and webmaster for Study of Islam Section web page:  
<http://groups.colgate.edu/aarislam/> [1999-2007]

**Public Intellectual activity:**

Omid Safi has been among the most frequently sought speakers on Islam in popular media, appearing frequently in the New York Times, Newsweek, Aljazeera, Washington Post, BBC, PBS, NPR, NBC, CNN, and international media. He has recently been designated as a lead Islam writer for the Huffington Post, and blogged regularly at <http://omidsafi.religionnews.com>.

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