

JOSEPH LEONARDO VIGNONE

1.718.564.3372
vignone@fas.harvard.edu

6 Divinity Avenue | Rm. 104
Cambridge, MA 02138

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Candidate in Histories and Cultures of Muslim Societies

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences | NELC; Cambridge, MA; ABD

Committee: Profs. Khaled El-Rouayheb, Ahmed Ragab & Kathryn Kueny

Dissertation title: *Bodies of Knowledge: Scholarly Medicine, Memory and Enhancement in Medieval Islam*

Master of Arts (AM) in Histories and Cultures of Muslim Societies

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences | NELC; Cambridge, MA; 2015

Master of Theological Studies (MTS) in Islamic Studies

Harvard Divinity School; Cambridge, MA; 2013

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theology and in History; Minor in Middle East Studies

Fordham University Lincoln Center | Honors College; New York, NY; 2011

Professional Certification in Translating and Interpreting Modern Standard Arabic

New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies; New York, NY; 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; 2015–2017; 2018–2019

Leading three sections of *Bodies in Flux: Medicine, Gender, and Sexuality in the Modern Middle East* at the undergraduate level, investigating how bodies, genders and sexualities in the modern Middle East have been shaped and represented by competing discourses of race, religion, health, reproduction and disability; with Prof. Soha Bayoumi, Spring 2019

Leading two sections of *The Empire Strikes Back: Science Fiction, Religion & Society* at the graduate level, studying how science fiction from the seventeenth century to present has portrayed and critiqued technological progress, warfare, religion and colonialism through the lenses of sex, race, gender and health; with Profs. Ahmed Ragab & Sophia Roosth, Fall 2018

Leading one section of *Sick & Pious: Medicine, Piety & Patienthood* at the undergraduate and graduate level, using the major controversies of Islamic historical and medical writing as a means of tracing how health and illness were developed as socioreligious categories reflecting medieval and modern notions of gender, race and class; with Prof. Ahmed Ragab, Fall 2018

Leading two sections of *Magic, Miracles & Prophetics: Medicine & Religion in the Medieval Islamic World* at the undergraduate and graduate level, exploring Islamic intellectual and social history at the intersection of medicine and personal piety, with particular attention paid to

scientific, cosmological, ethical and legal discourses of the medieval and modern periods; with Prof. Ahmed Ragab, Spring 2017

Leading two sections of *Bodies & Sexualities in the Medieval Middle East* at the undergraduate and graduate level, equipping students with knowledge of medieval Islamic sociosexual history, queer theory, postcolonial critique, Islamic art and architecture, history of science and other interdisciplinary skill sets; with Prof. Ahmed Ragab, Fall 2016

Leading two sections of *Elementary Arabic* at the undergraduate and graduate level, using independently-developed teaching materials and *al-Kitaab* textbooks via the communicative linguistic-pedagogical method; with Prof. William Granara, Spring & Fall 2015–2016

Instructor; Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History; New York, NY; 2007–2011

Designing and teaching various courses on United States military history, geopolitics and foreign policy at the AP/undergraduate level

CONFERENCE PAPERS & LECTURES

“The Rasāyana of the Ulema? Ayurvedic Enhancement in Medieval Islamic Ethics”

Annual meeting of the *American Historical Association*, to be presented 2020

“‘Plain Nonsense!’ Diet, Medicine and Scholarly Memory”

The Body and Religion/Religion and Food Unit at the *American Academy of Religion*, 2019

“‘The Physician’s Malady’: Contagion and the Limits of Medicine in Late-Medieval Islam”

CREOR Graduate Student Conference at McGill University, 2019

“‘To Have Knowledge is to Dread God’: Fear and Learning in Medieval Islam”

Invited paper for the Quran Unit at the *American Academy of Religion*, 2018

“Diet in Medieval Islamic Education: An Eleventh-Century Culinary Syllabus”

Invited lecture for Professor Justine Landau's *Sweet and Sour* course; Harvard University, 2016

Ways of Knowing, Palatable Identities Panel; Harvard University, 2015

Workshop on Arabic & Islamic Studies; Harvard University, 2015

“Diet in Medieval Islamic Education: A Fourteenth-Century Culinary Syllabus”

Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT), Education Panel; University of Chicago, 2015

“Esotericism in the Formative Period of Ismailism: A Methodological Intervention”

Ways of Knowing; chair, moderator and presenter for the Decentering Western Epistemologies Panel; Harvard University, 2014

“Except with her Permission: Biological and Gendered Perceptions of Coitus Interruptus”

Admitted-student conference; Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

“The Poetics of Iblis: Narrative Theology in the Qur'an,” by Whitney Bodman (book review)

Comparative Islamic Studies; invited and submitted, 2012

“What Would Satan Do? Rethinking the Devil’s Place in Our Ethics” (essay)

Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity; winner of the eponymous Prize in Ethics, 2010

INVITED TALKS & DISCUSSIONS

“The Life of a Doctoral Student: Inclusion of Marginalized & Underrepresented Communities in Graduate Education”

Invited talk, the *Engaged Scholarship & Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference*, Harvard University, 2019

“Translation and the Making of a Medical Archive: the Case of the Islamic ‘Translation Movement’” by Ahmed Ragab

Invited paper discussant, *Middle East Beyond Borders Workshop*, Harvard, 2018

“Serving as a Harvard Teaching Fellow: What I Wish I Knew and What I’ve Learned”

Invited talk, *Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations Doctoral Colloquium*, Harvard, 2018

“Seeking Out the Lost Philosophy of Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariya al-Razi” by Julia Hintlian;

“Philosophies of Mysticism in Early Twentieth Century India” by Faraz Alidina;

“Akhundzadah and Sabzavari on the Masnavi” by Rob Ames

Invited paper discussant and moderator, Islam and Modernity Panel, the *Science, Religion and Culture Doctoral Fellows Symposium*, Harvard Divinity School, 2017

“Yazīd b. Abī Ḥabīb’s Speech on the Fitna of Scholars & its Plagiarized Imitation as a Ḥadīth” by Arafat A. Razzaque

Invited paper discussant, *Workshop on Arabic & Islamic Studies*, Harvard, 2017

“Applying to Doctoral Programs in Religious Studies”

Invited talk and workshop, the *Ways of Knowing Conference*, Harvard Divinity School, 2016

“Sex in the Kitchen: Aphrodisiacs in 10th-Century Medicine & Cuisine” by Shireen Hamza

Invited paper discussant, *Workshop on Arabic & Islamic Studies*, Harvard, 2016

“Can Pain Be Good? Muslim Theologians & Legal Theorists on the Question of Animal Pain” by Nuri Friedlander

Invited paper discussant, *Middle East Beyond Borders Workshop*, Harvard, 2016

ROUNDTABLES AND SEMINARS

“Science and Technology in the Islamic Middle Periods”; Annemarie Schimmel Kolleg, Universität Bonn; Bonn, Germany; 2017

An intensive autumn seminar led by scholars of the Mamluk period on interdisciplinary

approaches to material, manuscript and secondary source study of late-medieval Islamic engineering, hydrology, agrarian science, warfare technology, manufacturing, trade knowledge, pharmacology, medicine, astronomy and cartography

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Managing Editor; Journal of Middle East Women's Studies; Duke University Press; 2019-2020
Directly reporting to the Editor-in-Chief; evaluating submissions for peer review and publication; corresponding with authors, manuscript and book reviewers; interfacing with the production team at Duke University Press; securing image and publication permissions for submissions and cover matter; updating the journal's website and social media accounts; arranging publicity for the Journal through various channels; preparing and presenting reports on the Journal's pipeline for presentation at the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting

Course Assistant; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; 2019

Managing the course sites for *Critical Approaches to the Study of Science and Religion* under Ahmed Ragab and *Communities of Knowledge: Science, Religion and Culture in Medieval Europe and Islam* under Ahmed Ragab and Katharine Park

Research Assistant; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; 2014–2015; 2018–2019

Conducting research and assembling bibliographies for Ahmed Ragab and Katharine Park's forthcoming book project, *A History of Medieval Science: Knowledge, Objects, and Communities in Europe and the Islamicate World*, on topics relating to the contemporaneity and mutual engagement of Latin and Arabic science

Copyediting and creating indices for the manuscript of *Medicine and Religion in the Life of an Ottoman Sheikh: al-Damānḥūrī's "Clear Statement" on Anatomy* (2019) by Ahmed Ragab

Copyediting the manuscript of *The Medieval Islamic Hospital* (2015) by Ahmed Ragab as well as managing its English, French and Arabic formatting

Conducting research and assembling bibliographies for Ahmed Ragab on medical, bioethical, anthropological and religious issues facing modern Muslim communities in Europe and America, as well on the genres of *asbāb al-nuzūl*, prophetic medicine, prophetic biography and medieval science

Coordinator; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; 2016–2017; 2018–2019

Serving as coordinator for the interdisciplinary, peer-led *Workshop on Arabic & Islamic Studies*; vetting research submissions and grant proposals from Harvard graduate students concerning the precolonial Middle East and Africa; providing a space for communal mentorship of graduate underclassmen at Harvard; inviting and organizing travel for guest speakers; apportioning institutional funding; organizing catering services

Peer Reviewer; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; 2016–2018

Serving on multiple peer review boards for Harvard's 2018 *Ways of Knowing* Conference; evaluating paper submissions under strict deadlines

Serving on the Religion and Migration, Bodily Ways of Sharing Knowledge, and Materiality and Spatiality in the Study of Religion peer review boards for Harvard's 2017 *Ways of Knowing* Conference; evaluating paper submissions under strict deadlines

Serving on the Medieval, Islam and Intellectual History peer review boards for Harvard's 2016 *Ways of Knowing* Conference; evaluating paper submissions under strict deadlines

Freelance Translator; Harvard Law School; Cambridge, MA; 2017

Providing *pro bono* translation services for documents written in Arabic dialects on behalf of the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program

Coordinator & Cofounder; Harvard University; Cambridge, MA; 2016

Serving as coordinator for the interdisciplinary, peer-led *Workshop on Humanity & the Humanities*, an initiative aspiring to provide a space for students and faculty spanning Harvard's various humanities departments to discuss how we define and deploy the analytical category “human” in our work; inviting and approving paper submissions; formulating discussion questions; apportioning institutional funding; organizing catering services

Arabic Editor; University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, MI; 2014–2015

Providing transliteration and translation consultation for the Egyptian and Standard Arabic content of Yasmin Moll's dissertation in cultural anthropology, entitled *Producing Islam: Da‘wa and Television in the “New Egypt”*

Community Organizer; Park51 Islamic Community Center; New York, NY; 2011

Managing exposure in New York and national media outlets; developing vetting and hiring processes for imam candidates; drafting bylaws for the Board of Directors and Board of Advisers; petitioning state and federal NY politicians as well as religious leaders for support; managing fundraisers and interfaith initiatives on a local and national level, including a capital campaign totaling over \$70,000 in contributions for the onsite NYChildren Art Exhibit

Editorial Intern; Commonweal Magazine; New York, NY; 2010–2011

Proofreading article submissions under strict deadlines; meeting with scholars and benefactors to discuss orientation of magazine; managing magazine website; conducting market research; proposing changes to magazine content at regular editorial meetings

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2018–2019; Science, Religion and Culture Doctoral Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School

2018–2019; Teaching Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

2017–2018; Visiting Fellowship in History of Science, Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris

2015–2017; Teaching Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
 2014; FLAS Fellowship for the study of *ḥadīths*, Qasid Institute, Amman, Jordan
 2013; Critical Language Scholarship, Noor Majan Institute, Ibri, Oman
 2012; Arabic FLAS Fellowship, Qasid Institute, Amman, Jordan
 2011–2014; Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship
 2011–2013; Dean's Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School
 2010; 1st Place, The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Classical Arabic	Modern Standard Arabic	Levantine Arabic	German	Italian
Persian	French	Modern Turkish	Spanish	