

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**Ahmed Alwishah**  
Philosophy Field Group  
Pitzer College, 1050 N. Mills Ave., Claremont, CA 91711  
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### **Academic & Employment History**

- Professor of Philosophy, Pitzer College, 2021-present
- Visiting Professor at University of California, Los Angeles, Fall 2019
- Guest Researcher at Gothenburg University, Spring 2019
- Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall College, Cambridge University, 2014
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Introduction to the Humanities Program, Stanford University, 2008-2009
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, 2007-2008
- Ph.D., Islamic Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles. Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures; Dissertation: *Avicenna's Philosophy of Mind: Self-Awareness and Intentionality*. Advisers: Professors Hossein Ziai, Michael Cooperson, and Calvin Normore, December, 2006
- M.A., Philosophy, California State University, Los Angeles. Department of Philosophy; Thesis: *Ghazali and Kant: Arguments Concerning the Creation of the World*, 1999
- B.A., Philosophy, Baghdad University (Iraq), Department of Philosophy, 1987

### **Areas of Research Specialization**

Islamic Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, and Philosophy of Religion.

### **Fellowships and Awards**

- Life Member Fellow at Clare Hall (University of Cambridge, UK), 2014
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Introduction to the Humanities Program: Stanford University, 2008-2009
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, 2007-2008
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), University of California, Los Angeles, 2001, 2002, 2004

- The Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program, University of California, Los Angeles, 2003

## **Publications**

### **Co-edited Books**

- *Illuminationist Texts and Textual Studies*, co-edited with Ali Gheissari and John Walbridge, Brill Publisher, 2017
- *Aristotle and the Arabic Tradition*, co-edited with Josh Hayes, Cambridge University Press, 2015.
- *Refinement and Commentary of Suhrawardī's Intimations: A Thirteenth Century Text On Natural Philosophy and Psychology*, co-edited with Hossein Ziai, Mazda Publishers, Costa Mesa, CA, 2002

### **Refereed Articles, book Chapters, and Translation in a Book**

- "Avicenna On Perception, Cognition, and Mental Disorders: the Case of Hallucination" in *Forms of Representation in the Aristotelian Tradition*, edited by Juhana Toivanen, Brill Publisher, 2022
- "Suhrawardī and Ibn Kammūna on the Impossibility of Having Two Necessary Existents," in *Illuminationist Texts and Textual Studies*, edited by Ali Gheissari, John Walbridge, and Ahmed Alwishah, Brill Publisher, 2017
- "Al-Taftazānī on the Liar Paradox", co-authored with David Sanson, Oxford Studies in Medieval Philosophy, vol. 4, 2016
- "Avicenna on Animal Self-Awareness, Cognition and Identity," *Cambridge Journal of Arabic Sciences and Philosophy*, vol. 26, 2016
- "Avicenna On Self-Cognition and Self-Awareness," in *Aristotle and Arabic Tradition*, edited by Ahmed Alwishah with Josh Hayes, Cambridge University Press, 2015
- "Ibn Sīnā on Floating Man Arguments" *Journal of Islamic Philosophy*, vol. 9, 2013
- *The Milesians: Thales*. Translation of the *testimonia* on Thales, joint work with Richard McKirahan. I translated the Arabic *testimonia*, volume 1 in the series "Traditio Praesocratica: Textual Evidence on Presocratic Philosophy and its Continuation." Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014

- “The Early Arabic Liar: The Liar Paradox in the Islamic World from the Mid-Ninth to the Mid-Thirteenth Centuries CE” co-authored with David Sanson, *Vivarium Journal* 47, Brill, 2009

### **Other**

- “Ibn Kammūna Sa’d Ibn Manṣūr” an entry in *The Biographical Encyclopaedia of Islamic Philosophy*, edited by Oliver Leaman, London, New York: Thoemmes Continuum, 2006

### **Work in Progress**

- *The Final Word: al-Dawani and the Liar Paradox in the Islamic World*, with David Sanson, contracted with Oxford University Press, August, 2023
- An entry on "The Liar Paradox in Arabic and Islamic Philosophy" for the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, August 2024

### **Selected Presentations**

- "Ibn ‘Adī and Dashtakī on the Liar Paradox" with David Sanson at Second Pan-American Symposium on the History of Logic: Existence and Nonexistence, UCLA, June 21 2023.
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- “Avicenna on Mental Disorders” I was invited by the Philosophy Department at Stockholm University, April 5 2019.
- “Razi’s Key Philosophical Ideas,” I was invited as a key speaker to *Mehregan Conference* at University of California, Irvine, Oct 7 2018.
- “Suhrawardi and Ibn Kammuna on the Impossibility of Having Two Necessary Existents” at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Claremont Philosophy of Religion Conference: The Unique, the Singular and the Individual, Claremont Graduate University, February 23 2018.
- “Doubt in Islamic Theology and Philosophy,” at *Doubt and Faith in Islam and Judaism Symposium*, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, February 2 2018.
- “Islamic Philosophy in Contemporary Thought” I was invited by Philosophy University, Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, Iraq, December 22 2017.
- “The Study of Islamic Philosophy in the West,” I was invited by Philosophy Department, Kufa University, Iraq, December 21 2017.
- “Rethinking Avicenna’s Theory of Perception” I was selected to be the speaker of The Anis Makdisi Program in Literature, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, December 13 2017.

- “Suhrawardī and Ibn Kammūna on the Impossibility of Having Two Necessary Existents,” at the *27th annual joint meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (SAGP)* NY, Fordham University, October 22 2017.
- “Aristotle vs Avicenna on Intellect and the Human Soul,” at *The third biennial LAMS Symposium: Culture Wars*, Pomona College, February 18 2017.
- “Avicenna on Animal Perception and Cognition” at *workshop Representation, Content and Intentionality in the Aristotelian Tradition*, Gothenburg University, Sweden, April 22 2016.
- “Divine Knowledge and Human Self-Awareness” *Clare Hall Colloquium* Cambridge University, May 6<sup>th</sup> 2014.
- “Ziai on the Distinction between Peripatetic and Illuminationist Epistemology” at *10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Iranian Studies Conference*, Montreal, Canada, 8 August 2014
- “Avicenna On Self-Cognition and Self-Awareness” at the conference of *British Association for Islamic Studies*, Edinburgh, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2014
- “Avicenna on God’s Knowledge of the Universe and Human Cognition” at the conference of *Ancient Cosmos: Concord Among Worlds*, Durham University, Department of Classics and Ancient History, September, 20-22, 2013
- “Dialectical Disputation in Quran” at the *Conference of Contemplating the Qur’an (Tadabbur al-Qur’an)*, Howard University School of Divinity, March 24-25, 2013
- “Avicenna and the Sameness Thesis in Human and Divine Intellect” at *Moody Conference in Medieval Philosophy*, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, March 9, 2013
- “Dialectical Disputation in Quran and the Greek Logic” at *Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Early Modern Period: an Intramural Symposium for the Claremont Colleges*, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2012
- “Avicenna and Hume on Self-Knowledge” at the *29th annual joint meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (SAGP) with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science (SSIPS)*, Fordham University, October 23, 2011.
- “The Study of Islamic Philosophy in US,” Baghdad University, Art College, Philosophy Department, Iraq, Jan 2010

- “Avicenna on Human Existence and Self-Awareness,” paper presented at the *International Colloquium of the SIHSPAI: Philosophy and Science in Classical Islamic Civilisation*, The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, December 4, 2010
- “Avicenna on Mental Language” at the *27th annual joint meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (SAGP) with the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science (SSIPS)*, Fordham University, 2009
- “What is God? An Investigation of the Divine Attributes In Islamic Theology and Philosophy” (Stanford University, Abbasit center), 2008
- “Avicenna’s Concept of Intention,” *The International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy*, Fordham University, NY, 2006
- “Learning in the Religious Traditions,” *Honors program*, University of California, Riverside, 2006
- “Avicenna on ‘I exist’ and Self-Awareness,” *Moody Conference in Medieval Philosophy*, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, 2006
- “Self-Knowledge in Islamic Philosophy,” *The Human Condition Conference*, Victoria University, Victoria, Canada, 2005
- “The Arabic Liar Paradox,” *Moody Conference in Medieval Philosophy*, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, 2004
- “Avicenna and Descartes on ‘I exist.’” *The International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy*, Fordham University, NY, 2003
- “Avicenna on the Faculty of Representation.” *The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ancient and Medieval Philosophy Dialogue Among Civilizations Conference*, Binghamton University, NY, 2001

#### Public Speaking:

I was invited to the Greater Los Angeles Area MENSA Regional Gathering and gave a presentation on “Rational Progressive Islam,” Ontario, CA, 2016

#### **Service to Profession**

- Served as an external referee for the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (an online resource) (2/2/2010): <http://plato.stanford.edu/referees.html>

#### **Teaching Experience**

**Department of Philosophy, University of California, Los Angeles**

- Philosophy of Mind in the Islamic Tradition, graduate seminar at UCLA, 2019
- Topics in Islamic Philosophy, 2006, 2007

### **Philosophy Field Group, Pitzer College**

- Knowledge, Mind and Existence (Phil 30): 2018, 2020, 2022
- Islamic Philosophy, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022
- God and Philosophy, Reason in Conflict, (with Yuval Avnur), 2011, 2016, 2022
- Islam vs. Islam, 2011, 2014
- Human Suffering and the Divine Hiddenness (MCSI 195) 2020
- Islam: Beyond Ideological Narratives (MCSI 195): 2016
- Philosophy of Religion, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, Fall 2018, Spring 2018, 2020, 2022
- Fundamentalism and Rationalism in Comparative Context Medieval Islam and Enlightenment Europe (with Andre Wakefield), 2017
- Spinoza and Leibniz on Reality, 2011, 2015
- Introduction to Philosophy, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2018, 2021, 2022
- History of Ethics, 2010
- Philosophical Questions, 2012, Fall, 2015, 2017, 2020

### **Department of Religion, Claremont Graduate University**

- Ghazali Philosophy and Theology, Fall 2011

### **Select Academic Service**

- Doctoral Dissertation Supervision:
- Sana Tayyen: Ghazali, Aquinas, and Lita'arafu: The Interaction between Reason and Revelation for Interreligious Understanding, Claremont Graduate University 2014.
- Ozgur Koca: The Metaphysics of Causation in Al-Ghazali and Said Nursi, and "Diagonal Causality", Claremont Graduate University 2014.
- The director of Munroe Center for Social Inquiry at Pitzer College, 2016 and 2020: Every year, the Munroe Center for Social Inquiry (MCSI) sponsors a themed series of events including lectures, seminars, exhibitions, and performances.

### **References**

- Calvin Normore, Professor, Philosophy, UCLA, (310) 825-2291, [normore@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:normore@humnet.ucla.edu)
- Brian Keeley, Professor, Philosophy, Pitzer College (909) 607-4235, [brian\\_keeley@pitzer.edu](mailto:brian_keeley@pitzer.edu)
- Michael Cooper, Professor, NELC, UCLA, (310) 206-1383, [cooperso@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:cooperso@humnet.ucla.edu)
- Kenneth Wolf, Professor, Classic, Pomona College, (909) 607-3420, [kwolf@pomona.edu](mailto:kwolf@pomona.edu)