

Munjed M. Murad

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Curriculum Vitae as of October, 2022

Education

Harvard Divinity School

Doctor of Theology 2022

Focus: Comparative Religion: Environmental Philosophy; Islam; Christianity

Dissertation: A Tale of Two Trees: Unveiling the Sacred Life of Nature in Islamic and Christian Traditions
(passed without corrections)

Yale School of the Environment

Master of Environmental Management 2012

Focus: Religion and Ecology; Business and the Environment

Master's Thesis: Nature as Revelatory: Traditional Portrayals of Nature as a Sacred Book

The George Washington University School of Business

Bachelor of Business Administration 2010

Dual Major: Finance, International Business; **Minor:** International Affairs

Senior Thesis: Micro-Enterprise in the Arab Middle East

Scholarly Experience

Appointments

Assistant Professorship

Johnson-Fry Assistant Professor of World Religions and Intercultural Studies

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
St. Paul, MN Jul. 2022 — Present

Administrative Service

Director

Eco-Justice program
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
St. Paul, MN Jul. 2022 — Present

Committees: Educational Assessment Committee Jul. 2022 — Present
Institutional Review Board Jul. 2022 — Present

Courses

Comparative Religious Ethics

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
St. Paul, MN Fall 2022, Expt. Spring 2023

The World's Religions

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
St. Paul, MN Fall 2022

Introduction to the World's Religions

University of Mary Washington
Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion
Fredericksburg, VA Spring 2022

Engaging a Multi-Faith World

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
St. Paul, MN Expt. Spring 2023

Religion and the Environment

University of Mary Washington
Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion
(Same as UMB Fall 2020 course)
Fredericksburg, VA Spring 2022

Religious Fundamentalism

University of Mary Washington
Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion
Lecturing as Khatib Scholar in the Khatib Program in
Religion and Dialogue
Fredericksburg, VA Spring 2022

Religion and Ethics

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of World Studies
Hybrid (in-person and online) Richmond, VA Fall 2021

Religion and the Environment

University of Massachusetts Boston
Classics and Religious Studies Department and the
School for the Environment
Online Boston, MA Fall 2020

Teaching Fellowships

Environment and Inequality

Taught and lead weekly discussion in this course
taught by Dr. Vivian Shaw
Awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Spring 2021

Islamic Missions: Reforming Muslim South and Southeast Asia

Provided administrative support and helped facilitate
discussion in this course taught by Prof. Terenjit Sevea
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Spring 2021

East Asian Religions: Tradition and Transformation

Taught and lead weekly discussion in this General
Education course taught by Prof. James Robson
Awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Fall 2017, Fall 2019

Performance, Tradition and Cultural Studies: An Introduction to Folklore and Mythology

Taught and lead weekly discussion in this General
Education course taught by Prof. Stephen Mitchell
Awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Fall 2018

The Tree at the Center of the World II

Provided administrative support and lectured in this
course taught by Prof. Kimberley C. Patton
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Spring 2018

Classical Chinese Political and Ethical Theory

Taught and lead weekly discussion in this General
Education course taught by Prof. Michael Puett
Awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Fall 2017

Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion

Taught and lead weekly discussion in this course
taught by Prof. Giovanni Bazanna and Prof. Dan
McKanan
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Fall 2016

Animals and the Unseen

Provided administrative support and helped facilitate
discussion in this course taught by Prof. Terenjit Sevea
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Spring 2021

Finding Beauty in a Broken World

Provided administrative support, helped facilitate
discussion, and lectured in this environmental writing
course taught by Terry Tempest Williams
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Spring 2019

Environmental Politics

Taught and lead weekly discussion in this course taught
by Prof. Sheila Jasanoff
Awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
Harvard University Center for the Environment
Cambridge, MA Fall 2018

Islam and Religious Diversity

Provided administrative support in this course taught by
Dr. Nicholas J. Boyleston
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Spring 2018

The Tree at the Center of the World I

Provided administrative support in this course taught by
Prof. Kimberley C. Patton
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Fall 2017

Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies

Taught and lead weekly discussion in this General
Education course taught by Prof. Ali Asani
Awarded a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Spring 2017

Other Appointments

Member of Editorial Board and Associate Producer

For the podcast *Illuminations*, recipient of a Templeton
Foundation grant. Co-producing an episode on
extinction.

Course Developer and Head Teaching Fellow

Course titled "Scriptures in World Religions." Co-
developed the section "Islamic Scriptures" under the
supervision of Prof. Dianne Moore and Prof. Ali Asani.

Cambridge, MA Apr. 2021 – Present

Course developer throughout and Head Teaching Fellow from Nov. 2016 onward.
Harvard Extension School
Cambridge, MA Sept. 2015 – Aug. 2018

Academic Chair

Supervised all academic aspects of the 10th Annual Yale Critical Islamic Reflection Conference, titled “Inward and Outward Nature: An Islamic Portrayal of the Spirituality-Environment Nexus.”
Yale University
New Haven, CT Apr. 2011

Publications

Western Environmentalism in the Islamic World Today

Religion & Development
Peer-reviewed
Berlin, Germany In Progress

Perceiving Nature: Rumi on Human Purpose and Worship by the Cosmos

Green Theology
Series: *Sapientia Islamica*
Editor: Lejla Demiri and Mujadad Zaman
Mohr Siebeck
Tübingen, Germany Forthcoming

Vicegerency and Nature: Ibn ‘Arabī on Humanity’s Existential Protection of the Environment

Revised version of “Vicegerency and Nature”
Voices of Three Generations: Essays in Honor of Seyyed Hossein Nasr
Editors: Mohammad Faghfoory and Kathrine O’Brien
Kazi Publications
Chicago, IL, USA 2019

Inner and Outer Nature: An Islamic Perspective on the Environmental Crisis

Revised version of “Islamic Environmental Stewardship”
Journal of Islam and Science
Vol. 10 (Winter 2012), No. 2
Peer-reviewed
Sherwood Park, AB, Canada Feb. 2013

Ecology

Oxford Handbook of Islamic Ethics
Editor: Mustafa Shah
Oxford University Press
Oxford, UK In Progress

Sufi Views of Nature

Volume: *Handbook of Sufi Cosmology*
Series: *Brill Handbook of Sufi Studies*
Editors: Alexander Knysh and Christian Lange
Brill
Leiden, Netherlands Forthcoming

Vicegerency and Nature

Critical Muslim
Vol. 19
Open-review
London, UK July 2016

Islamic Environmental Stewardship: Nature and Science in the Light of Islamic Philosophy

The Union Seminary Quarterly Review
Science and Religion, Vol. 63: 1-2
Peer-reviewed
New York, NY, USA May 2011

Peer-Reviewer

Journal of the Institute for Sufi Studies Istanbul, Turkey 2022
Journal of Religion and Health New York, NY, USA 2021
Journal of Interreligious Studies Boston, MA, USA 2017, 2020
Journal of Islamic Ethics Doha, Qatar 2020
Technology in Society Amsterdam, Netherlands 2019
Islamic Studies Islamabad, Pakistan 2019

Presentations

Conference Activity

Love and the Cosmos: Rumi on Perceiving Love, Nature's Animating Force

For the Inaugural Conference on Ecological Spiritualities
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Apr. 2022

The Life of Nature in the Qur'an and the Mathnawī

Part of the session, "Sufism, the Qur'an, and the Natural Environment," cosponsored by the Islamic Mysticism Unit and the Qur'an Unit
American Academy of Religion
San Antonio, TX Nov. 2021

Islamic Environmentalism Today

Public lecture as part of the panel "Environmentalism and the Ecological Question in the Islamic Moral Tradition," associated with the seminar "Reassembling Creation: Green Ethics and the Scholarly Disciplines in the Islamic Tradition"
Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics
Doha, Qatar Oct. 2021

Other "Ecologies of Selves": Theories of the Runa in Studies of Islamic and Christian Views of Non-Human Selves

Part of the session, "Indigenous Ecologies: Trees, Temples, Texts, and Sacred Territory in an Era of Climate Change," cosponsored by the Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit and the Religion and Ecology Unit
American Academy of Religion
Boston, MA Nov. 2020

Perceiving Nature: Rumi on Humanity and Cosmic Worship

Presenter on the panel "Spirituality and Wholeness" at the Fordham Theology Graduate Conference 2019 — Life in the Anthropocene: Theology and the Environment
Fordham University
New York, NY Apr. 2019

A View of the Whole: Navigating the Artificial and the Natural in Islamic Architecture

Presenter on the panel "Building a Compassionate Environment" at the Faith in Design conference
The Graduate School of Design at Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Mar. 2019

Origen and the Personhood of Natural Phenomena

Presenter at the Graduate Student Conference in Patristic Studies
The Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Brookline, MA Apr. 2018

Beyond the Europhone in Islamic and Comparative Studies

Part of the session, "Book Reviews: 'Deep Knowledge' and 'Translating Wisdom,'" sponsored by the Comparative Studies in Religion Unit
American Academy of Religion
San Antonio, TX Nov. 2021

Islamic Ethics and the Non-Human Other: The Religious Life of Nature in the Sīrah and the Mathnawī

Part of the seminar, "Reassembling Creation: Green Ethics and the Scholarly Disciplines in the Islamic Tradition"
Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics
Doha, Qatar Oct. 2021

Developing/Discovering Theories for the Study of the Non-Human in Islam and Christianity

Part of the session, "Religion and Nature," as part of the Annual Conference of the Society for Intercultural Philosophy
University of Tübingen
Tübingen, Germany Jun. 2021

Two Trees and an Abrahamic Ecological Ethics

Invited presenter on the panel "Graduate Research" at the workshop "Abrahamic Traditions & Environmental Change"
The Abrahamic Initiative
Rhodes, Greece Jun. 2019

Human Purpose and Cosmic Worship: Rumi on the Spiritual Life of the Apparently Inanimate

Invited presenter on the panel "'Mother Nature': Poetics of Self in Nature" at "'Green Theology': Emerging 21st Century Muslim and Christian Discourses on Ecology," hosted at Trinity Hall of Cambridge University
Cambridge Muslim College, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, University of St Andrews, St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute
Cambridge, UK Mar. 2019

The Philosophical Value of Rumi

Presenter on the panel "Encounters of Falsafa and Sufism in the Persianate world, 1200-1900"
Middle East Studies Association Conference
San Antonio, TX Nov. 2018

Religious Identities in Transition

Invited as a participant in the third year of this tri-annual conference on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic perspectives on religious identity
Shalom Hartman Institute of North America
Jerusalem May 2018

The Quran, Rumi, and Nature

Presenter at the St. Francis Forum and the Spirit of Assisi Symposium hosted by Interfaith Power and Light, Our Lady of the Angels Province: Franciscan Friars Conventual, and the Franciscan Action Network

*Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Ministry
Ellicott City, MD Apr. 2018*

Islam and Ecology

Panelist for a roundtable discussion titled "Emerging Voices" at the conference "Religion, Ecology and Our Planetary Future" and hosted by the Center for the Study of World Religions

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Oct. 2016*

The Cosmos is a Tree: A Quranic and Natural Commentary on the Cosmos

Invited as a lecturer in this conference, titled "Sacred Texts and Human Contexts: Nature and Environment in World Religions."

*Nazareth College and Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Geneva, NY May 2016*

Islamic Responses to the Papal Encyclical

Panelist at the event, "An Integral Ecology: Capitalism, Environments and the Encyclical," hosted by Harvard Divinity School Catholics

*Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA Oct. 2015*

Spiritual and Sustainable: Religion Responds to Climate Change

Interviewed as a panelist in this conference at the Harvard Divinity School

Cambridge, MA Nov. 2014

Interfaith Environmental Panel

Panelist in an event hosted by the Yale Student Environmental Coalition as part of a series "Judaism and Environmental Ethics"

*Yale University
New Haven, CT Feb. 2012*

Earth Day 2010 – U.S.A. & Morocco

Speaker in this digital video conference hosted by the Department of State in its headquarters

*Department of State
Washington, DC Apr. 2010*

Religious Identity

Invited as a participant in the second year of this tri-annual conference on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic perspectives on religious identity

*Shalom Hartman Institute of North America
Palisades, NY Mar. 2017*

Religion and the Environmental Humanities

Panelist at this faculty workshop on the environmental humanities hosted by The Harvard Global Initiative

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Sept. 2016*

Religious Identity in a Context of Secularism and Extremism

Invited as a participant in the first year of this tri-annual conference on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic perspectives on its topic

*Shalom Hartman Institute of North America
Palisades, NY May 2016*

Islam and Nature Today: Insight into Traditional Discernment

Panelist in the session, "Ecologists and Faith & Justice Communities: A Journey from Antagonism to Earth Stewardship Partnerships for the Next Century," at the conference "Ecological Science at the Frontier: Celebrating ESA's Centennial"

*Ecological Society of America
Baltimore, MD Aug. 2015*

Solar Water Heating for Universities and Colleges: Meeting a Need for Cost-Effective Green Technologies

Researched and co-wrote this paper, presented at the Solar 2013 conference, as an analyst for Perennial Energy Consulting

*American Solar Energy Society
Baltimore, MD April 2013*

The Integration of an Islamic Environmentalism in Holistic Models of Sustainability

Co-presented a poster at the 17th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference.

Hosted by the Earth Institute
*Columbia University
New York, NY May 2011*

Other Lectures

Sufism and the Meaning of Being Human

For the Department of Religious Studies
Carleton College

Northfield, MN Feb. 2022

Angels in Sufi Cosmology

Guest lecturer for Prof. Kimberley C. Patton's course "Angels"

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Apr. 2021*

The Environmental Crisis and the Islamic World

Guest lecturer for Mr. Currim Suteria's course, "Spatial Design and Enquiry: The Inner Garden, the Outer Garden"

*Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture
Karachi, Pakistan Mar. 2021*

Rumi and the Spiritual Life of Nature

Guest lecturer for Prof. Mohammed Rustom's course "The Sufi Metaphysics of Nature"

*Institute for Sufi Studies at Üsküdar University
Istanbul, Turkey Jan. 2021*

Rumi on Nature as Animate

Lecturer at the World Religions Café at the Center for the Study of World Religions

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Jan. 2019*

Nature Theophanic

Lecturer at the World Religions Café at the Center for the Study of World Religions

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Nov. 2017*

Pilgrimage in Islam

Panelist at this event hosted by the Junior Fellowship of Melissa Coles at the Center for the Study of World Religions

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Oct. 2016*

Living the Dream: Ibn Arabi on Transcending and Interpreting Life

Lecturer at the World Religions Café at the Center for the Study of World Religions

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Dec. 2015*

Islam Facing the Climate Crisis

Guest lecturer in Prof. Chris Queen's course, "World Religions Face the Climate Crisis"

*Harvard Extension School
Cambridge, MA April 2015*

Seeing God Everywhere

Lecturer at the World Religions Café at the Center for the Study of World Religions

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA March 2015*

The Environment as an Educational Instrument

Invited speaker at the interfaith event, "Interfaith Workshop: Greening our Sacred Grounds"

*The International Cultural Center
Montgomery Village, MD Feb. 2014*

Environmental Professional Work

Presenter at the ADAMS Youth Career Conference ADAMS

Sterling, VA June 2013

Revisiting the Dominion Narrative

Guest lecturer for Dr. Muhammad U. Faruque's course "Religion, Climate Change, and the Environment"

*University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH Feb. 2021*

The Animate and Islam

Invited speaker in the "Animism" series

*The Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Feb. 2020*

Origen and Rumi on the Personhood of Nature

Presenter at the Comparative Religion Colloquium

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Feb. 2018*

On Beauty

Lecturer at the World Religions Café at the Center for the Study of World Religions

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Apr. 2017*

Islamic Metaphysics and the Book of Nature

Guest lecturer in a class of Prof. Yazilmiwati Yaacob at Sunway University as part of my fellowship with Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia at Sunway University and the Asia Center at Harvard University

*Sunway University
Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia Aug. 2016*

Dreams in the Islamic Tradition

Guest presenter in Prof. Kimberley Patton's course, "Dreams and the Dreaming"

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Dec. 2015*

Christians and Muslims in Jordan Today

Guest Lecturer at Prof. James Skedros' course "Early Christianity and Islam"

*Hellenic College Holy Cross
Brookline, MA Apr. 2015*

Islam and the Environment

Guest lecturer in Yousef Casewit's course, "Contemporary Approaches to Islamic Law"

*New York University
New York, NY April 2014*

Islam and Conservation

Guest lecturer in Prof. Sylvia Vitazkova's course "Conservation, Sustainability, and Spirituality in Action"

*George Mason University
Fairfax, VA Oct. 2013*

The Environment and Religion

Lecturer in this event, part of a nation-wide series on "Science and Religion" hosted by Project Nur

*Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Geneva, NY Feb. 2013*

Islam and Ecology

Guest lecturer in Prof. Homayra Ziad's introductory course to Islam

*Andover Newton Theological School and Hebrew College
Andover, MA Jan. 2013*

The Hermeneutics of Scripture in Nature

Keynote speaker at the Harvard Islamic Society Spring Dinner

*Harvard University
Cambridge, MA Apr. 2012*

Awards and Fellowships**Consortium on Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship**

Offered a postdoctoral fellowship at the Religious Studies Department, but declined for a professorial position elsewhere.

Colgate College 2022 – 2023

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching

Six times awarded as a teaching fellow for the courses "Environment and Inequality," "East Asian Religions: Traditions and Transformations," "Environmental Politics," "Performance, Tradition and Cultural Studies: An Introduction to Folklore and Mythology," "Classical Chinese Ethical and Political Theory," and "Understanding Islam and Muslim Societies" in the spring of 2021, spring of 2019, fall of 2018, (also) fall of 2018, fall of 2017, and spring of 2017 semesters, respectively.

Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

Clarence G. Campbell Scholarship

Award for tuition expenses incurred at Harvard University

Harvard Divinity School 2016 – 2021

Dean's Dissertation Fellowship

Fellowship award for dissertation work for one year.

Harvard Divinity School 2019 – 2020

Hub Foundation Scholarship

Award for contribution to Islamic studies

Hub Foundation 2019

MESA Student Travel Grant

Award to cover expenses for attending and presenting at the 2019 Middle East Studies Association conference in San Antonio, Texas.

MESA 2019

Ezra F. Vogel Fund

Grant for summer research in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Asia Center at Harvard University 2018

Jeffrey Cheah Travel Fund for Southeast Asia Studies

Grant for summer research in Indonesia

Asia Center at Harvard University 2016

Center for the Study of World Religions Junior Fellowship

Award for and the facilitation of a Junior Fellowship project: lecture-series titled "Religion and Nature"

Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University 2014 – 2015

Andrew Sabin International Environmental Fellowship

Award to compensate for tuition expenses incurred at Yale University

Tropical Resources Institute at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies 2011 – 2012

Edward Armbrrecht Fund

Grant for summer research in Amman, Jordan

Career Development Office at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies 2011

Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Scholarship

Scholarship to compensate for tuition expenses incurred at Yale University

Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies 2010 – 2012

Professional Affiliations

Advisor, Advisory Group, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology

Member, American Academy of Religion

Member, Society for Biblical Literature

Other Employed Experience**Yale Child Study Center**

Research Assistant (Arabic Linguist)

New Haven, CT 2012 – 2013

Perennial Energy Consulting

Part-Time Analyst

Washington, DC 2012 – 2013

Urban Resources Initiative**Student Conservation Association**

Planting Crew Trainer
New Haven, CT 2010 – 2011

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature
Outreach Intern
Amman, Jordan 2009

Procurial Consulting
Marketing Intern
Washington, DC 2006 – 2007

Public Outreach Intern
Arlington, VA 2009 – 2010

National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce
Research Associate
Washington, DC 2008

George Washington University Police Department
Community Service Aide
Washington, DC 2005 – 2007

Additional Information

Languages	<i>Fluency:</i> Arabic and English <i>Reading Knowledge:</i> Classical Greek, French, and Persian
Volunteering Examples	Shura Ramadan Earth Day Essay Contest, 2021 The Episcopal High School, 2017 Youth Career Conference, 2013 The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale, 2011 – 2012 Homeward Trails Animal Rescue, 2008 – 2010
Interests	Visits of Natural Areas; Reading