Matthew R. Hotham
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Ball State University
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EDUCATION

PhD University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016
Area of Focus: Islamic Studies
Advisor: Carl Ernst

MTS Harvard Divinity School, 2009
Area of Focus: Islamic Studies
Advisor: Leila Ahmed

MFA Syracuse University, 2007
Area of Focus: Creative Writing—Poetry
Advisor: Bruce Smith

BA Colgate University, 2003
Summa Cum Laude
High Honors in English (emphasis in Creative Writing), Advisor: Peter Balakian
High Honors in Religion, Advisor: Omid Safi

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ball State University, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, August 2016-Present
Courses Offered: RELS 110 World Religions; RELS 160 Introduction to Religion in Culture; RELS 275 Islam; RELS 208 The Qur'an; RELS 450 Religion and Animals; HONR 202 Selves and Others in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Enlightenment

Instructor, Kentucky Institute for International Studies Morocco Program, Summer 2018
Courses Offered: RELS 306 Islam; RELS 399 Colonialism and Modernity in North Africa

Elon University, Instructor of Religious Studies, January 2014-May 2016
Courses Offered: REL 110 Religion in a Global Context; REL 203 Islamic Traditions; REL 235 Animals & Religion; REL 272 Muhammad and the Origins of Islam

Guilford College, Instructor of Religious Studies, August-December 2015
Course Offered: REL 204 Islam

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Teaching Fellow, June 2012-August 2014
Courses Offered: RELI 183 Introduction to Asian Religions; RELI 185 Women/Gender/Islam; RELI 480 Modern Muslim Literature

Program Assistant to Dr. Afroz Taj, Carolina Southeast Asia Summer Program 2012, Singapore, Brunei & India
Program Assistant to Dr. Lauren Leve, Carolina Southeast Asia Summer Program 2011, Singapore & Malaysia
Graduate Research Consultant (30 hours assisting undergraduates develop final research projects) for RELI 165 Mysticism; RELI 480 Modern Muslim Literature; HIST 089 Emperors, Courts & Consumption: Mughals of India; Mysticism (Reli 165), for Dr. Jessica Boon, UNC-Chapel Hill, Spring 2014

Syracuse University, Teaching Fellow, August 2005-May 2006
Courses Offered: WRT 105 Practices of Academic Writing: Race, Religion & the Rhetoric of Exclusion; WRT 205 Critical Research & Writing: Media Constructions of Islam

GRANTS & HONORS

ASPiRE First-Year Faculty Research Grant, Ball State University, 2016-2017
Travel Grant, Tehran, Iran, American Institute of Iranian Studies, August 2015
Research Grant, Saadi Summer Persian Workshop, Tehran, Iran, Saadi Foundation, August 2015
Nannerl Keohane Distinguished Graduate Student Award, UNC-Chapel Hill, May 2014
UNC Graduate and Professional Student Organization Travel Award, AAR-Baltimore, November 2013
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow (Persian), UNC-Chapel Hill, 2012-2013

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ball State Summer Faculty Academy – Course Design for Student Success, May 14-June 15, 2018
International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), Junior Faculty Workshop, Herndon, VA, April 28, 2018
Summative Workshop: Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Indianapolis, Nov 3-5, 2017
Ball State Interactive Learning Space Initiative (ILS), May 2017-Present
Ball State Office of Institutional Diversity's Inclusive Pedagogy Seminar, May 15-19th, 2017
Duke-UNC Graduate Certificate in Middle East Studies, 2012
Certificate in Arabic, University of Damascus Intensive Summer Arabic Program, July 2008

RESEACH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Book Manuscript in Progress

Introductory Matters: Maligned Manuscripts, Ascended Bodies, and Contested Definitions of Sufism

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

"Affect, Animality, and Islamophobia: Human-Animal Relations in the Production of Muslim Difference in America," *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* (August 2017).
"Constructing Female Religious Authority: The Role of Zaynab and Amina in Ritual Mourning," *Cult/ure* 4 (2009)

Encyclopedia Articles:

"Mawlānā Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī," *Oxford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Science, and Technology in Islam,* Ibrahim Kalin, ed. (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Reviews:

Review of A. Azfar Moin's *The Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam* (Columbia University Press, 2012), *Religious Studies Review*, Vol 40, No 3, September 2014.
"A Short History of Compassion," Review of Raza Ali Hasan's *Grieving Shias* (Sheep Meadow Press, 2006), *Puerto del Sol*, Vol. 42 # 1&2, Spring/Summer 2007.
"Outcasts," Review of Ted Pelton's *Malcolm & Jack: And Other Famous American Criminals* (Spuyten Duyvill, 2006), *Jacket*, 35, Spring 2008.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers:

"Ritual in Practice Project: Creating Epistemic Friction and Overcoming Ideological Imperviousness in an Introductory Religious Studies Class." Panel: "Embodied Pedagogy: Teaching Tactics," Teaching Religion Unit, Ritual Studies Unit, and Body & Religion Unit Co-Sponsored Panel. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (AAR), Denver, CO. November 2018.

"For Love of the Prophet's Body: Embodied Ascension in Three Medieval Persian Poems." Panel: "Eros and Ascent: Jewish, Islamic, and Christian," Platonism and Neoplatonism Unit. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (AAR), Denver, CO. November 2018.

"Affect, Animality, and Islamophobia: Human-Animal Relations in the Production of Muslim Difference in America." Panel: "Engaging Donovan Schaefer's Religious," Animals and Religion Group & Religion, Affect, and Emotion Group. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 2016.

"Scenting the Ascent: Olfactory Elements of Muhammad's Heavenly Journey in Nizami Ganjavi's (d. 1209) Treasury of Mysteries." Panel: "Subtle Bodies/Sensory Bodies," Body and Religion Group. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 2016.

"'Because of inhumanity, humanity is wary of humanity': The Conjunction of Misanthropy, Renunciation, and Seclusion in the Poetry of Nizāmī Ganjavi (1209)." Panel: "Borderlands and Boundaries." Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA. March 2016.

"Wholly Bodies: The Conjunction of Asceticism & Corporeal Ascension in the *Makhzan al-Asrar* of Nizami Ganjavi," Triangle Medieval Studies Seminar, The National Humanities Center, Durham, NC. October 2016

"God-dogs and Dog-hearts: Medieval Sufism in Conversation with Animality Studies." Panel: "New Methods, New Frontiers," Shifting Boundaries: The Study of Islam in the Humanities, University of Vermont. April 2015.

"Soul Birds, Man Mules, and Dead Dogs: Animal Religion, Beastly Hybridity, and the Boundaries of the Human in Nizami Ganjavi's *Makhzan al-Asrar*," Panel: "Rethinking Animals and Religion Through Literature," Animals & Religion Group. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. November 2014.

"His Minty Breath Was Antidote to Scorpio's Sting: Bodily Aspects of Muhammad's Ascension in Nizami's *Makhzan al-Asrar*," Panel: "Putting the Prophet to Work: Social, Political, and Religious Dimensions of Literary Depictions of Muhammad," Study of Islam Section. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD. November 2013.

"Mi'raj as Sufi Initiation: Bestowal of Garments in the Ascension Narratives of Nizami Ganjavi's *Makhzan al-Asrar*, Jami's *Tohfat al-Asrar*, and Amir Khosrow's *Matla al-Anwar,"* Panel: "Characters and Characterization in Middle Eastern Literature," Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. October 2013.

"The Transparent Author: Intertextuality in Debates Over Asceticism in Sufi Hagiography." Panel Title: "Discourses of Legitimization and Transformation in Arabic Literature," Middle East Studies Association Meeting, Washington, D.C. December 2011.

"Polishing the Mirror: Poetry as Process in the Works of Jalal al-Din Rumi" Panel: "Comparative Grammars of Ineffability," Comparative Studies in Religion Section. American Academy of Religion Meeting, San Francisco, CA. November 2011.

Invited Papers and Presentations:

"What is Religion?" High School Philosophy Conference, Ball State University, April 16, 2018.

"Touching the Prophet through Poetry: Qasidah Burdah and Muhammad's Mantle as Medicament," Islamic Awareness Week, Ball State University. March 21, 2018.

"Approaches to the Qur'an: Reading, Reciting, Touching, Drinking, and Legislating," Virginia Ball Center Immersive Learning Class: "Muslims in Muncie," Ball State University. January 17, 2018.

"De-Islamicizing Sufism: Western Approaches to Persian Poetry and the Quest for a Protestant Islam," Philosophy and Religious Studies Colloquium, Ball State University. October 19, 2017.

"Affect, Animality, and American Islamophobia," Philosophy and Religious Studies Colloquium, Ball State University. April 11, 2017.

"Who is Afraid of Shariah Law?" Religion Conversation House, Co-Sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and Living-Learning Communities, Ball State University. November 17, 2016.

"How to Talk About Islam," 9/11 Memorial & Engaging Conversations, Ball State University. September 11, 2016.
"God-dogs and Dog-hearts: Medieval Sufism in Conversation with Animality Studies." ISTHMUS (Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies). Duke University. February 23, 2016.
"'I Too Desired a Child': Celibacy, Bodily Discipline, and the Development of Early Sufism - The Case of Ibn Khafif." Islam in a Global Context Speaker Series, UNC-Chapel Hill. February 17, 2011.

Poetry Chapbook:
Early Art (Turtle Ink Press, 2006).

Poetry:
"Earthbound," solicited for reprint in *Carolina Passport*, (January 2018).
"Silence" & "Union," *Hunger Mountain,* online edition (May 2015).
"Honey," "Molting," & "Without Like or As," *Blackbird* vol 13 ,no 1 (Spring 2014).
"After our Walk," "Renunciation," "Remembrance," *Fifth Annual Nazim Hikmet Poetry Festival Chapbook* (April 2013).
"A Love Letter," "Crutches." *Slush Pile*, no 14 (February 2013).
"Earthbound." *Salt Hill*, no 29 (Summer 2012).
"What Ishmael Said to Isaac." *Stone Canoe*, no 4 (Winter 2009).
"Our Fathers," "To the Left of Convention." *Meridian*, no 24 (Winter 2009).
"Forms of Flight." *Copper Nickel*, no 12 (Fall 2009).
"Dead Serious, American Style," "The Oath," *The Foghorn* (September 2009).
"Archaeopteryx," "The Charge d'Affairs Toasts His Bride." *The Foghorn* (August 2009).
"The Friends You Won't Outlive." *Anderbo* (April 2009).
"Poem to the Communication Satellites." *Harpur Palate*, vol 7, no 2 (Winter 2008).
"The Failure of Buffalo to Levitate." *Third Coast*, no 26 (Spring 2008).
"The Illiterate." *Coevolution* (Winter 2007).
"Christmas, 1990." *32 Poems* (Fall 2007).
"Long-Distance Waking." *Quay*, Issue 1 (May 2007).
"Naked-Eye Astronomy." *Poetry Midwest*, Issue 18, vol 7, no 1 (Spring 2007).
"Blind Date." *Cold Drill*, no 37 (2007).
"Poem to the Reconnaissance Satellite." *Soundings East*, vol 29 no 1 (2007).
"Progress of History." *Chautauqua Literary Journal*, no 4 (June 2007) [reprinted on Verse Daily].
"Op-Ed." *November 3rd Club* (Spring 2007).
"Giving Thanks During the War." *November 3rd Club* (Fall 2006).

SERVICE
Academic Community
Chair, Literature & Sacred Texts in the Study of Religion Section, Midwest Regional AAR Conference, 2018-Present
Peer Reviewer for *Religion Compass* and *Journal of Islamic Studies*

Ball State University
Co-convener, *Critical Theories Reading Group at Ball State,* January 2018-Present
PhD dissertation external committee member for Sakina Alkhalifa. Topic: Standing by the Ruins—An Arabic Poetic Trope in Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy,* English, Ball State.
PhD dissertation external committee member for Hayat Bedaiwi. Title: "Vignettes for Educating the Non-Arab Reader: Subversion and Survival," English, Ball State.

Department of Religious Studies
Salary Committee Member, 2017-2019
Faculty Advisor*, Religion Conversation Hour at Ball State,* August 2017-Present
Philosophy and Religious Studies Major Career Readiness Program Co-Organizer, 2017-Present
Muslims in Muncie Film Advisory Committee, Spring 2018
Student Activities and Awards Committee Member, 2017-2018
Honors Thesis Co-Advisor, "A Future of Green Ramadan: Representing Islamic Environmental Organizations in Contemporary Academic Literature," Benjamin McIntosh, 2018.
Independent Study Director, RELS 403 "Traditionalism, Perennialism, and Sufism," Mendim Akiti, Spring 2018

Community
"Shi'a, Sunni, Sufi" Big Questions, Big Ideas Lecture Series, Kennedy Library, Muncie, IN. January 18, 2018
"What is the Qur'an?" Big Questions, Big Ideas Lecture Series, Kennedy Library, Muncie, IN. March 22, 2017.
"Who Was the Prophet Muhammad?" Big Questions, Big Ideas Lecture Series, Kennedy Library, Muncie, IN. December 1, 2016.

RELEVANT LANGUAGES
Persian, Arabic, French (reading)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP
American Academy of Religion
Association of Writers and Writing Programs
Middle East Studies Association