

# OMAR QURESHI

**Address:** 1709 Trailside Cir Concord, CA 94518 **Phone:** 630.518.6438 **Email:** oquresh@luc.edu

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## EDUCATION

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### **Doctor of Philosophy in Cultural and Educational Policy Studies: Philosophy of Education**

Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

### **Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction – Science Education**

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

### **Bachelor of Arts in Microbiology**

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

## DISSERTATION

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Qureshi, O. (2016). *Badr al-Dīn ibn Jamā'ah and the Highest Good of Islamic Education*. (Unpublished dissertation). Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Cambridge Muslim College, UK

### **LECTURER IN BA (HONS) ISLAMIC STUDIES**

2023–present

- Designed and taught undergraduate courses: Western Philosophical Traditions and Classical Logic 2 – Dialectics and Disputation.
- Head of Contextual Islamic Studies and Leadership Diploma (CISL). Carried out assessment of curriculum, development of suitable resources in collaboration with other track conveners, organization and delivery of program review.
- Conducted Oxford styled tutorials with CISL students.

Zaytuna College Berkeley, CA

### **PROVOST**

2019–2023

Reporting to the President as the Chief Academic Officer of the institution, full-time faculty, and supervisor of the following offices: Student Life, Registrar, Admissions (undergraduate and graduate), Financial Aid and Fees, Graduate Studies, PDSO for international students, Academic Support Center, Human Resources (2019-2021), and Facilities (2019-2022).

Committees: Academic Affairs Committee (chair), Admissions Committee (member), Faculty Affairs Committee (chair), Financial Aid and Fees Committee (member), Student Affairs Committee (member), Professional Review Committee (chair), Board Education Committee (member), Hiring Committee (chair), Judiciary Review Committee (chair).

### Career Highlights:

- ✓ Academics: Established academic graduate and undergraduate culture (**Zaytuna College Canon lecture series**, guest lecturers, Translation workshops, Arabic Calligraphy program, **Harvard-Zaytuna Thesis Symposium**)
- ✓ Student Support: Served on the Student Affairs Committee, facilitating the relationship between students and faculty through regular cohort meetings, Student Shura Council, Social-emotional counselling, wellness, co-curricular programs, Student Honor Code.
- ✓ Accreditation: Collaborated on substantive change for Graduate program (2018), authored sections of the accreditation report, revised entire self-study, led faculty training preparing for accreditation team visits.
- ✓ Accreditation: Served on WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) accreditation team (2022).
- ✓ Accreditation: Led submission and preparation for all academic criteria for WSCUC review resulting in **8 years of reaffirmation for the College**.
- ✓ Registrar: Streamlined and optimized effectiveness of the registrar office and its database system (Populi; implemented in 2015). Increased faculty and student utilization of Populi features (e.g. faculty advisor storing notes on Populi, leveraging attendance data, and introducing electronic forms for all registrar functions).
- ✓ Student Support: Developed Individual Learning Plans for students with special learning or social-emotional needs.
- ✓ Admissions and Recruitment: Established relationship between academics and marketing (providing regular information on academics to marketing), enhanced applicant interview process (revised essay prompts and

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- application assessment rubrics), revised admission committee members' responsibilities, develop and revive relationships with feeder-schools and other academic institutions, developed MOUs and other strategic partnerships and affiliations with individuals and institutions, introduced new recruitment strategies leading to increased number and quality of applicants, revised application model from recruitment to enrollment.
- ✓ Academics: Performed annual review of foundational documents, namely college catalog (graduation requirements to dress code to fee structures) and faculty handbook, revamped senior thesis to increase student achievement (developed assessment rubrics, deliverable timelines, thesis advisor and reader responsibilities, introduced colloquium requirement, increased accountability of thesis committee responsibilities, introduced process of learning outcome development yielded to revised program learning outcomes of BA program.
  - ✓ Faculty development: Faculty seminars in the Liberal Arts (its philosophical foundations and each art), assessment initiative, grading-norming exercises, faculty book-readings.
  - ✓ Faculty evaluation: Revised faculty contracts, established faculty goal-setting process, performance evaluations, class-room observations.

Zaytuna College Berkeley, CA

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**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LIBERAL ARTS AND ISLAMIC STUDIES**

2017-2023

**COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT** (see attachment for course descriptions):

- Contemporary Muslim Thought (undergraduate)
- Ethics (undergraduate)
- Metaphysical Foundations (undergraduate)
- Classical Muslim Texts and Commentaries (undergraduate)
- Aims of the Law (graduate)
- Moral Philosophy (graduate)
- Advance Arabic Grammar (undergraduate)
- al-Ghazālī

**PRECEPTORIALS CONDUCTED:**

- Ethics: *After Virtue*, Alasdair Macintyre
- Readings in Islamic Ethics: *A Compendium on the Science of Ethics*, 'Aḍud al-Dīn al-Ījī
- Islamic Theological Anthropology: *On Justice and The Nature of Man*, Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas
- Postmodernism and Religion: *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?: Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church (The Church and Postmodern Culture)*, James Smith.

**THESIS ADVISING (partial):**

Graduate Thesis Advisor, John Ropulos (2021-22). Thesis entitled *Turning towards the East: "Reorienting" the Science of al-'Umrān and the Concept of Justice in Ibn Khaldūn's Muqaddimah*. Zaytuna College.

Graduate Thesis Reader (external), Uzma Hussaini (2021-22). Dissertation entitled *The Centrality of Link Transmission (isnād) in the Preservation of Qur'anic Orthodoxy, Orthography, and Variant Readings and Recensions*. Center for Islamic Studies, Graduate Theological Union.

Graduate Thesis Advisor, Ibrahim Qureshi (2020-21). Thesis entitled *What Is Moral Action? Justifying Human Felicity, Character Traits, And Right Action in Classical Islamic Virtue Ethics*. Zaytuna College.

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, Nusaybah Benhamou (2022-23). Thesis entitled *Ruqyah upon the Maenads Exorcizing Nihilism by Refuting Nietzsche's Dionysian Spirit*. Zaytuna College.

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, Danielle Swan (2020-21). Thesis entitled *Suhbah and Futuwah in Islamic Education: A Prophetic Remedy for the Heart of the Adolescent Muslim Identity Crisis*. Zaytuna College.

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, Abdullah Qureshi (2019-20). Thesis entitled *Between Legal Diversity and Orthopraxy: Maintaining Balance in Sunni Law*. Zaytuna College.

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, Yaseen Andrewsen (2018-19) Thesis entitled *Reading al-Ghazālī in al-Andalus: Understanding Regional Traditions from Scholarly Criticism of Abū Bakr ibn al-'Arabī upon the Epistemological Doctrines of Abū Ḥāmid al-Ghazālī*

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, Dania Shakoor (2018-19). Thesis entitled *The Feat of Mothers: The Islamic Conception of Motherhood and its Deglorification by 20th Century Feminism*. Zaytuna College.

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Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, Muaz Inaam (2017-18). Thesis entitled *The Metaphysical Underpinnings of Maslaha*. Zaytuna College.

Islamic Foundation School, Villa Park, IL

## PRINCIPAL

2012–2017

- Formulate professional development plan for the faculty, in accordance with academic requirements of students.
- Apply teacher-led approach in conducting professional development to promote teacher-leadership and boost teacher buy-in for building capacity.
- Integrate AdvancEd's Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool (eleot) and Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument to develop a teacher evaluation framework.
- Enable the provision of professional development to the faculty on the Danielson framework through local district grants.
- Conduct formal observations and instructional rounds; and manage summative performance evaluations.
- Organize and carry out pre- and post-conferences to offer constructive feedback on instructional practices and mentoring to faculty members.
- Direct instructional rounds to determine best practices to improve student engagement levels, along with presenting results to the faculty.
- Conduct data analysis of interim and summative assessments to improve instruction and provide individualized student support using DataWise framework.

### Career Highlights:

- ✓ Served as the leader of the **School Accreditation** Team, in charge of the development and implementation of accreditation renewal plan, which resulted in obtaining school accreditation from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA – CASI).
- ✓ Attained renewal for school recognition with high quality marks by directing the **School Recognition** Team during the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) school recognition renewal.
- ✓ Introduced a standards-based approach to classroom and curriculum instruction school-wide. Developed standards-based report cards for elementary grade levels.
- ✓ Oversaw the design and execution of faculty training plan on the Understanding by Design (UbD) curriculum framework through professional development workshops.
- ✓ Achieved maximum instructional time for all grade levels by creating academic schedules.
- ✓ Initiated the Response to Intervention (RtI) program at all school levels to assist low-achieving students, which involved collaborating with school counselors and instructional specialist to manage academic interventions and referrals.
- ✓ Created curriculums in high school math, English, and science, which increased student scores in ACT from 2010 to 2016; Composite by 11%; Mathematics by 6.3%; Reading by 15%; Science by 12.3%; and English by 10.9%.
- ✓ Increased the number of students taking AP exams from 105 students in 2010 to 140 students in 2014. Redesigned the Advanced Placement Program which resulted in increasing the students achieving a score of more than 3 from 56.4% in 2010 and 84.1% in 2014.
- ✓ Boosted the understanding of the importance of a growth mindset school culture directed towards student achievement by facilitating faculty book studies, such as *Boys Adrift*, *Good to Great*, and *Mindset*.
- ✓ Established with the English department the **Ibrahim Müteferrika Literacy Center (IMLC)**, which delivered standardized test preparation sessions and resources regarding all steps of the writing process; and enhanced student understanding of writing process, mechanics, grammar, and syntax of formal academic English.
- ✓ Played a key role in the creation of a college and career program that assisted students in writing admission essays, online applications, recommendation letters, and admission interviews. Resulted in students earning recognitions such as Daily Herald DuPage County Academic Team and National Merit Scholarships.
- ✓ Managed the school-wide English Language Learner (ELL) program, which received Title 1 funding from the district and boosted awareness levels on student needs.
- ✓ Positioned the school for growth by obtaining a rank in the Washington Post's America's **Most Challenging High Schools** in Illinois as 4<sup>th</sup> in 2015 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2016 and being ranked among the top 30 **Best Private High Schools in Illinois** according to Niche.com (2016).

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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College Preparatory School of America, Lombard, IL

## HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR

2009–2010

- Successfully developed curriculum for and taught AP Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, Honors Biology, Environmental Science, Genetics, and Arabic 101.
- Served as advisor of the HOPE Student Association, as well as the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Competition.
- Proactively co-headed the Qasidah Club for high school boys.

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Morgan Park Academy Chicago, IL

## **UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR**

2006–2009

- Assumed multiple roles, such as the following:
  - Advisor of the Diversity Committee and the Student Interfaith Club, in charge of organizing community service activities with various religious schools in the Chicago area;
  - Member of the Global Scholars Program Committee;
  - Advisor of the Model United Nations (UN), as well as the WYSE Competition.
- Provided instructions on Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Laboratory Science, and Computer Applications courses.
- Developed Frontiers of Science course as part of science curriculum development.

North Central College, Naperville, IL

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY**

2008

- Provided instruction to undergraduate students on RELST 208: Islam and the Middle East in the College of Religious Studies.
- Developed instructional materials such as course syllabus, lesson plans, teaching aids, and exams.

North Park University, Chicago, IL

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY**

2007–2008

- Served as adjunct faculty member, in charge of teaching the following graduate courses at the College of Education:
  - EDUC 5220: Assessments and Evaluations
  - EDUC 5410: Teacher Leadership.

St. Xavier University, Chicago, IL

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY**

2007

- Prepared lectures for RELST 249-01: The Islamic Tradition course in the College of Religious Studies.
- Drafted lesson plans, teaching aids, exams, and course syllabi.

Universal School, Bridgeview, IL

## **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATH INSTRUCTOR**

2001–2006

- Assumed full accountability in developing curriculum and facilitating teaching programs for students at middle and high school levels.
- Taught various courses, such as Life Science, Math, Pre-Algebra, and Islamic Studies at middle school; as well as Health, Islamic Studies, and Genetics at high school.
- Successfully introduced high school-level Genetics course to the existing science curriculum.
- Developed Islamic Studies curriculum for middle and high school students, in close coordination with local Islamic schools.
- Oversaw the Interfaith Group responsible for implementing programs addressing spiritual and religious concerns of the staff and students.
- Managed the Reading Club for high school students, which included creating numerous platforms for student discussion and expression of views.
- Worked collaboratively with students in designing and executing after-school sports and religious education programs.

## **CAREER-RELATED EXPERIENCE**

Razi Consultancy Group, Toronto, CA

## **COURSE DEVELOPER FOR ISLAMIC TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

2010–Present

- Assumed the role of course designer for the Islamic Teacher Education Program (ITEP) from the University of Toronto to promote Islamic education and tools used for educating teachers on the principles of Islamic Pedagogy in classroom instruction and curricula.
- Formulated course content, which included recorded workshops, recorded lectures, guided reading assignments, recorded school visits, learning tasks, and problem-centered projects.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*New and Aspiring Leaders*, Harvard Graduate School of Education – Principals' Center (2013)  
*Understanding the Common Core: What Administrators Need to Know, Understand and Do* – DuPage County  
Regional Office (2013)  
*Literacy and the Young Adolescent Mind* by Rick Wormeli  
*Classroom Management and Assessment*

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*Bioethics in Social Context, Loyola University  
Reading and Student Assessment  
Darwin, Design and Democracy Conferences*

## TECHNICAL ACUMEN

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Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook) | RenWeb | Administrator's + | Populi

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Qureshi, O. *Science as Propositional Knowledge: Implications for Science and Religion Educators*. In *Bridging Bioscience and Islam: Engaging Big Questions about the Human Being* (publication forthcoming).
- Qureshi, O. *The Origin of Mankind: Critically Examining Evolutionary and Scriptural Narratives*. In *Bridging Bioscience and Islam: Engaging Big Questions about the Human Being* (publication forthcoming).
- Qureshi, O. Book review of *Knowledge and Education in Classical Islam: Religious Learning between Continuity and Change* (2 vols), ed. Sebastian Günther, Brill, 2020. (publication forthcoming).
- Qureshi, O., *The Virtue of Justice*, Religious Freedom Institute: Virtues in the Public Square (publication forthcoming).
- Qureshi, O., "Introduction: Islam, Economics & Liberty," *Journal of Market & Morality* 25, no. 2 (2022): 333-337.
- Qureshi, O., al-Akiti, A., Padela, A.I. (August 2022). Islam and Science: Reorienting the Discourse. In: al-Akiti, A., Padela, A.I. (eds) *Islam and Biomedicine. Philosophy and Medicine*, vol 137. Springer, Cham.
- Qureshi, O. (May 2021). Science Curriculum from an Islamic Worldview. In Nadeem A. Memon, Mariam Alhashmi, Mohamad Abdalla (Eds.), *Curriculum Renewal for Islamic Education: Critical Perspectives on Teaching Islam in Primary and Secondary Schools*. Routledge.
- Padela, A., and Qureshi, O. (2016). Islamic perspectives on clinical intervention near the end-of-life: We can but must we? *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, 19(66) 1–15.
- Qureshi, O.A. (2016). Disciplinarity and Islamic education. In N. Memon and M. Zaman (Eds.), *Philosophies of Islamic education: Historical perspectives and emerging discourses* (94-111). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Qureshi, O., and Padela, A. (2016). When must a patient seek healthcare? Bringing the perspectives of Islamic jurists and clinicians into dialogue. *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, 51(3), 592–625.

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PAPERS

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- (2007) *Terror, religion and curriculum change: American science education in the Pakistani madrasah*. Paper presented at the Comparative and International Education Society 51st Annual Conference—Engaging our Differences, Baltimore, MD.
- (2015) *Health risk assessment: Examining the similarities between the reasoning exercises of medical experts and Islamic legists*. Paper presented at the Conference on Religion and Medicine: Spiritual Dimensions of Illness and Healing, Cambridge, MA.
- (2017) 4<sup>th</sup> Catholic-Muslim Forum Seminar – theme “Integral Human Development: Growing in Dignity. Catholic and Muslim perspectives.” Delivered paper entitled “What it Means to Be Human”.
- (2017) ‘Universal Science and the Order of Knowledge’ Symposium at Cambridge, UK. Presented paper ‘*Muslims Theologians and the Ontological Status of Universals*’.

## PANELS, WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS DELIVERED

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- (2010) *From values to virtue: A virtue-based approach to character education*. ISNA Education Forum: Crayons to College: Empowering Muslim Students to Color a Brighter World.
- (2012-13) *Understanding by Design Curriculum Framework*. Training of faculty on all three stages of the backwards design process. Villa Park, IL
- (2014) Faculty Book Study: *Mindset* by Carol Dweck. Villa Park, IL

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- (2014) *Driven by Data*. Workshops on training faculty members how to make data informed decisions on classroom instruction using the DataWise framework. Villa Park, IL
- (2014) *Embattled ideologies: I am Malala and the question of women's education in South Asia*. Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.
- (2015) Faculty Book Study: Good to Great by Jim Collins. Villa Park, IL
- (2015). Health risk assessment: Examining the similarities between the reasoning exercises of medical experts and Islamic legists. Conference on Religion and Medicine: Spiritual Dimensions of Illness and Healing, Cambridge, MA.
- (2021) *Academic Inquiry and Religious Commitment: The Role of Religion in Higher Ed*, Heterodox Academy Panel.
- (2022) "Hope in Higher Education" Templeton Summer Faculty Seminar. Villanova University.
- (2023) Cambridge Dialogues: Islamic Educational Theory into Practice: Roadmap to Renewal Workshop. Cambridge University.