
Curriculum Vitae for John J. Curry

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Educational Background:

- Ph.D., History, The Ohio State University, *summa cum laude*, June 2005.

Dissertation: “Defending Islamic Mysticism in an Age of Transformation: The Foundation and Development of the Şaʿbaniyye Branch of the Halveti Order in the Ottoman Empire as Reflected in Its Hagiographical Writings, 1500-1750.” Committee: Prof. Jane Hathaway (chair), Prof. Carter Findley and Prof. Stephen Dale.

Brief Abstract: Examines the historical development of the Şaʿbaniyye branch of the Halveti mystical order, one of the most influential Sufi orders in the Ottoman Empire, between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. Hagiographical works produced by this branch shed light on the interface between mystical practice and wider Ottoman religio-intellectual trends, as well as the interaction of various social groups in the Empire during the formative decades of its growth and transformation in the early modern period.

- M.A. History 1998, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, *summa cum laude*
- M.A. Arabic Language 1998, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, *summa cum laude*
Dual M.A. program, pursued jointly through both departments.

Thesis: “The Precedent of ‘Arbassūs: Arabic Sources on the Island of Cyprus from the seventh through the tenth centuries C.E.” Advisors: Profs. Jane Hathaway (History) and Michael Zwettler (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures–Arabic).

Brief Abstract: Uses Arabic narrative sources and inscriptions to shed light on the condominium over Cyprus between the Byzantine Empire and the Umayyad and, later, ‘Abbasid, empires.

- M.A. Program, Department of History, University of Michigan, 1993-1994.
- Arabic Language and Culture Program, The American University in Cairo, 1992-1993.
(on J. William Fulbright fellowship).
- B.A., History, Northwestern University, *cum laude*, 1992.
(Minor in sub-Saharan African Studies).

Publications:

Monographs:

- The Transformation of Muslim Mystical Thought in the Ottoman Empire: The Rise of the Halveti Order. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010.

Edited Volumes:

- Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800. Edited by John J. Curry and Erik S. Ohlander. London: Routledge Press, 2012.
- Guest editor for “Democratizing, Diversifying, and Decolonizing the World History Survey.” World History Bulletin 89:2 (Fall/Winter 2023).

Translations:

- Ali Akbar Khatayi (fl. 1520). The Book of China: A Persian Merchant’s Description of the Ming State for the Ottoman Court. Translated by Kaveh Hemmat, John J. Curry, and Hyunhee Park. New York: Columbia University Press, 2026.
- Kâtip Çelebi (Hajji Khalifa, d. 1657). An Ottoman Cosmography: Translation of Cihânnümâ. Edited by Gottfried Hagen and Robert Dankoff, translated by Gary Leiser, John J. Curry and Ferenc Csirkes. Leiden: Brill, 2021.
- Ömer el-Fu’âdî (d. 1636). “A Dispute Concerning Sufi Tombs.” In The Ottoman World: A Cultural History Reader, ca. 1400-1700, pp. 202-209. Edited by Hakan Karateke and Helga Anetshofer, translated by John Curry. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2021.

Refereed Journal and Edited Volume Articles:

- “Fetvas on the Kadızadeli Movement, c. 1630.” Ottoman Historical Readings: A Sourcebook. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, *forthcoming in 2027*.
- “Translating the Ming Dynasty for the Ottoman Court: ‘Alī Akbar Khatāyī’s ‘Book of China’.” Empires in Translation: Translation and Multilingualism in Mongol and Post-Mongol Eurasia. Edited by Philip Bockholdt and Kristof D’hulster. Leiden: De Gruyter, *forthcoming in 2027*.
- “Issue Focus: Democratizing, Diversifying, and Decolonizing the World History Survey.” World History Bulletin 89:2 (Fall/Winter 2023): 7-8.
- “Sufi Spaces and Practices.” Brill History of Early Modern Istanbul. Edited by Çiğdem Kafesçioğlu and Shirine Hamadeh, pp. 503-527. Leiden: Brill, 2021.
- “Sufism in the Ottoman Empire.” Routledge Handbook on Sufism. Edited by Lloyd Ridgeon, pp. 399-417. London: Routledge, 2021.
- “Some Reflections on the Fluidity of Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy in an Ottoman Sunni Context.” Beyond Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy: New Perspectives on Ottoman Sunnism. Edited by Vefa Erginbaş, pp. 193-210. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2019.
- “Did Muslim Mystical Traditions Have a Politics in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire?” English Language Notes 56:1 (Winter 2018): 229-233.

- “Scholars, Sufis, and disease: Can Muslim religious works offer us novel insights on plagues and epidemics among the medieval and early modern Ottomans?” Plague and Contagion in the Early Islamic Mediterranean: New Histories of Disease in Ottoman Society. Edited by Nukhet Varlık, pp. 27-55. Kalamazoo, MI: ARC Humanities Press, 2017.
- “Bir kütüphanede ne olabilir ki? Osmanlı yazmına bireysel eserlerdense derlemeler merceğinden bakış” (“What's in a Library Anyway? Looking at Ottoman Writing Through the Prism of Collections Rather Than Individual Works”). Eski Türk Edebiyatı Çalışmaları X: Eski Metinlere Yeni Bağlamlar: Osmanlı Edebiyatı Çalışmalarında Yeni Yönelimler (“Old Turkish Literature Studies X: New Contexts for Old Texts: New Directions in Ottoman Literature Studies”). Edited by Selim S. Kuru, pp. 118-143. Istanbul: Klasik, 2015.
- “An Ottoman Geographer Engages the Early Modern World: Katip Çelebi’s Vision of East Asia and the Pacific in the Cihânnümâ.” Journal of Ottoman Studies 40 (2012): 221-257.
- “Introduction.” Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800. Edited by John J. Curry and Erik S. Ohlander, pp. 1-14. London: Routledge Press, 2012.
- “The Meeting of the Two Sultans’: Three Sufi Mystics Negotiate with the Court of Murad III.” Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800. Edited by John J. Curry and Erik S. Ohlander, pp. 223-242. London: Routledge Press, 2012.
- “Bir Osmanlı Araştırmacısının Batı Yarım Kürenin Keşfi Üzerindeki Düşünceleri: Katip Çelebi’nin Cihannüma’da Amerika Kıtasına Bakışı” (An Ottoman Scholar Reflects on the Discovery of the Western Hemisphere: Katip Çelebi’s look at the Americas in the Cihannüma). In Doğumunun 400. Yıldönümünde Katip Çelebi (“Katip Çelebi on the 400th Anniversary of his Birth”). Edited by Bekir Karlığa and Mustafa Kaçar, pp. 161-171. Ankara: T.C Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı Anma ve Armağan Kitapları Dizisi 17, 2009.
- “The Intersection of Past and Present in the Genesis of an Ottoman Sufi Order: The Life of Cemâl el-Halvetî (d. 900/1494 or 905/1499) and the Origins of the Halvetî *Tarîqa*.” Journal of Turkish Studies (In Memoriam Şinasi Tekin) 32 (2008):121-141.
- “Some Thoughts on the Greater Integration of Islamic Sources into the Wider Framework of Medieval History.” Quidditas: Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association 28 (2007):158-181.
- “Home Is Where The Shaykh Is”: The Concept of Exile in the Hagiography of İbrahim-i Gülşeni.” Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean 17:1 (March 2005): 47-60.
- “Defending the Cult of Saints in 17th-Century Kastamonu: Omer al-Fu’adi’s Contribution to Religious Debate in Ottoman Society.” In Frontiers of Ottoman Studies: State, Province and the West, vol. 1, 139-148. Edited by Keiko Kiyotaki and Rhoads Murphey. London: I.B. Tauris & Co., 2005.
- “Hagiography as a Source for Women’s History in the Ottoman Empire: The Curious Case of Ünsî Hasan.” Electronic Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 3:2 (Fall 2003):50-58.
- “The Growth of a Turkish-Language Hagiographical Literature Within the Halveti Order of the 16th and 17th Centuries.” In The Turks, v. 3, 912-920. Edited by Hasan Celal Güzel et al. Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Press, 2002. (Simultaneously published in Turkish translation as “XVI. ve XVII. Yüzyıllarda Halveti Tarikatı İçindeki Türkçe Menâkıb Edebiyatının Gelişmesi.” In Türkler, v. 11, 815-822. Edited by Hasan Celal Güzel et al. Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Press, 2002).

Encyclopedia Articles and Reference Entries:

- “Why Did the Mughal Empire Decline?” In World History: The Modern Era. Edited by David Tipton et al. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Solutions, 2016. [Accessed](#) January 4, 2017.

Book Reviews:

- Jamal J. Elias. After Rumi: The Mevlevis and Their World. In Journal of Near Eastern Studies, *forthcoming in 2027*.
- Eliza Tasbihi. Hidden in Plain Sight: Isma'il Ankaravi's Commentary on 'Book Seven' of Rumi's Mathnawī. In Archivum Ottomanicum, *forthcoming in 2026*.
- Allen James Fromherz. The Center of the World: A Global History of the Persian Gulf from the Stone Age to the Present. H-Diplo, H-Net Reviews, March 2025. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=61481>
- Hayrettin Yücesoy. Disenchanted the Caliphate: The Secular Discipline of Power in Abbasid Political Thought. In The Maydan, “Book Forum: Disenchanted the Caliphate.” Abu Sulayman Center for Global Islamic Studies, George Mason University, 2024. Accessed October 15, 2024: <https://themaydan.com/2024/10/book-forum-hayrettin-yucesoy/>
- Rachida Chih. Sufism in Ottoman Egypt: Circulation, Renewal and Authority in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. In NETSOL: New Trends in Social and Liberal Sciences 7:2 (Fall 2022): 52-4.
- Hüseyin Yılmaz. Caliphate Redefined: The Mystical Turn in Ottoman Political Thought. In The Historian 81:1 (2019): 107-9.
- Khaled el-Rouayheb. Islamic Intellectual History in the Seventeenth Century: Scholarly Currents in the Ottoman Empire and the Maghreb. In Journal of Ottoman Studies 49 (2017): 487-493.
- Dengjian Jin. The Great Knowledge Transcendence: The Rise of Western Science and Technology Reframed. In Middle East Media & Book Reviews (MEMBR) 4:7 (2016). Access at: http://membr.uwm.edu/membr_review/the-great-knowledge-transcendence-the-rise-of-western-science-and-technology-reframed/
- Ines Aščerić-Todd. Dervishes and Islam in Bosnia: Sufi Dimensions to the Formation of Bosnian Muslim Society. In International Journal of Turkish Studies 21:1/2 (2015): 263-266.
- Maria Vaiou. Diplomacy in the Early Islamic World: A Tenth-Century Treatise on Arab-Byzantine Relations: The Book of Messengers of Kings (Kitāb Rusul al-Mulūk) of Ibn al-Farrā'. In Middle East Media & Book Reviews (MEMBR) 3:7 (July 2015). Access at: <http://membr.uwm.edu/review.php?id=212>
- Tijana Krstic. Contested Conversions to Islam: Narratives of Religious Change in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire. In American Historical Review 118:1 (February 2013): 290-291.
- Douglas E. Streusand. Islamic Gunpowder Empires: Ottomans, Safavids and Mughals. In Digest of Middle East Studies 20:2 (Fall 2011):351-354.
- Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac. Kingmakers: The Invention of the Modern Middle East. In The Historian 72:3 (Fall 2010):631-632.

- Karen Barkey. Empire of Difference: The Ottoman Empire in Comparative Perspective. In Journal of World History 20:4 (December 2009):601-604.
- Beatrice Forbes Manz. Power, Politics and Religion in Timurid Iran. In Digest of Middle East Studies 18:1 (Spring 2009): 139-144.
- Suraiya N. Faroqhi, ed. The Cambridge History of Turkey Volume 3: The Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839. In Digest of Middle East Studies 17:1 (Spring 2008):128-136.
- Richard Bulliet. The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization. In Digest of Middle East Studies 16:1 (2007):119-125.
- Dina Le Gall. A Culture of Sufism: Naqshbandis in the Ottoman World, 1450-1700. In Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient 48 (2005):336-339.
- Leslie Peirce. Morality Tales: Law and Gender in the Ottoman Court of Aintab. In Journal of the American Oriental Society 125:1 (2005):102-104.
- Patricia Crone. God's Rule: Government and Islam: Six Centuries of Islamic Political Thought. In Digest of Middle East Studies 14:1 (Spring 2005):63-67.
- Michael Cook. Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Society. In Digest of Middle East Studies 13:1 (Spring 2004):41-44.
- Fred Halliday, Islam and the Myth of Confrontation, 2nd ed., and Sohail H. Hashmi, ed., Islamic Political Ethics: Civil Society, Pluralism, and Conflict, joint review. In Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES) 12:2 (Fall 2003):59-66.
- Amnon Cohen. The Guilds of Ottoman Jerusalem. H-Net Review for H-Mideast-Medieval (Feb. 2003): <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=168891045306236>
- Jawad A. Mojaddedi. The Biographical Tradition in Sufism: The Tabakat Genre from al-Sulami to Jami. In Middle East Studies Association Bulletin 36:1 (Summer 2002):60-61.
- Jonathan Berkey. Popular Preaching in Medieval Islam. In Electronic Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 2 (March 2002): <http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/mitejmes/intro.htm>

Scholarly Papers in Panels and Conference Presentations:

- “The Life of Ünsi Hasan Efendi (d. 1723): Failed Saint, or Indicator of Structural Change in the Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Empire?” University of Nevada, Las Vegas: American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch (AHA-PCB) Annual Meeting: Las Vegas, NV, July 2026.
- “The Hagiography of Ünsi Hasan Efendi (d. 1723) as a Marker of Socio-Cultural Shifts in the Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Empire.” Comité International des Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes (CIÉPO): Varna University of Economics, Varna, Bulgaria, June 2026.
- “Tracking the Lives of Sufi Leaders Through Their *Mecmua* Collections.” University of Vienna: *Mecmuas in the Ottoman World: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Current Research*: Vienna, Austria, June 2026.
- “The Hagiography of Unsi Hasan Efendi as an Artifact of Widening Literary Production in the Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Empire.” University of California, Los Angeles: Strange

Synchronicities and Familiar Parallels in Asia, 1600–1800: Joseph Fletcher’s Plane Ride Revisited: Conference 3: Empires of Things: Los Angeles, CA, May 2026.

- “Overlooked Contexts: How Shifting Mediterranean Relationships Contributed to the Muradid Wars of Succession.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference: Denver, CO, November 2025.
- “Setting the General Crisis of the Long Seventeenth Century in Comparative Classroom Contexts: How do the Ottomans Fit?” Köç University SHIFA-ANA Workshop on Death and Disease in Anatolia: Istanbul, Türkiye, June 2025.
- “Speaking Chinese, Translating Persian: Strategies of the Autograph Manuscript of `Ali Akbar Khatayi’s *Book of China*.” University of Münster: Translation and Multilingualism in Mongol and Post-Mongol Eurasia: Münster, Germany, June 2025.
- “New Insights from a New Manuscript: The Discovery of an Autograph Manuscript of `Ali Akbar Khatayi’s ‘Book of China’ in the Ottoman Libraries.” American Association for Chinese Studies: Las Vegas, NV, October 2024.
- “A Transoxianan Muslim View of Ming Dynasty Spirituality: Assessing `Ali Akbar Khatayi (fl. 1503-1520)’s Ethnography of Religion in China.” American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Meeting: Las Vegas, NV, March 2024.
- “How China’s Ming Dynasty Came to the Mediterranean: Discoveries from the Surviving Manuscripts of `Ali Akbar Khatayi (fl. 1505-1520).” Mediterranean Seminar Workshop, Intermediaries, Middle Grounds, Middle Sea: Los Angeles, CA, February 2024.
- “Recent Developments in Advanced Placement U.S. History, World History, and African American Studies Courses.” American Historical Association Conference: San Francisco, CA, January 2024.
- “The Missing Link in the Early Modern Islamic Empires: Understanding the Safavid Dynasty of Persia.” In panel: Diversifying and Decolonizing the World History Survey: Case Studies from the K-16 Classroom. World History Association ENERGIES Conference: Pittsburgh, PA, June 2023.
- “Roundtable: Democratizing, Diversifying, and Decolonizing the World History Survey” (featuring Sharika Crawford, Craig Miller, Kaedan Peters, Jennifer Wahl, and John Curry). World History Association ENERGIES Conference: Pittsburgh, PA, June 2023.
- “A Divergent Manuscript: What MS Ayasofya 3188 Tells Us about Presenting the Ming Dynasty to the Ottoman Court.” Symposium in Honor of Jane Hathaway on the Occasion of Her Retirement: Columbus, OH, May 2023.
- “New Insights on the Presentation of the Ming Dynasty at the Ottoman Court: the case of MS Ayasofya 3188.” Western Ottomanists’ Workshop: Vancouver, Canada, April 2023.
- “Ottoman Turkish Translations of the Khataynameh,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference: Denver, CO, December 2022.
- “The Legacy of Mezemorta Hüseyin Paşa: Corsair, Captain, Ottoman Grand Admiral.” Anglo-Turkish Society Invited Presentation: London, UK, December 2021. [Included an interview.](#)

- “Trans-Mediterranean Ottoman Naval Strategies in the Great Turkish War: The Case of Mezemorta Hüseyin Paşa,” Sixteenth-Century Society and Conference: San Diego, CA, October 2021.
- “Climate Crisis as Comparative World History: An Experimental Course Linking Antiquity, the Medieval Period, and the Seventeenth Century,” Southeast World History Association: Virtual Conference, October 2021.
- “Working the Global Mediterranean: Mezemorta Hüseyin Paşa as Corsair, Captive, Dey, and Admiral in the Late Seventeenth Century,” The Mediterranean Seminar Workshop: The Global Mediterranean: Columbus, OH, March 2021 (held virtually due to pandemic).
- “The Extraordinary Life of Mezemorta Hüseyin Pasha: Corsair, Captive, Dey, and Admiral,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference: Washington, DC, October 2020 (held virtually due to pandemic).
- “Integrating the Ottomans into an Environmental History Course: Problems and Prospects.” Western Ottomanists’ Workshop: Claremont, CA, April 2019.
- “What Religious and Social Movements in the Ottoman Empire Can Tell Us About the ‘Early Modern’ Transition.” World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies: Seville, Spain, July 2018.
- “Recollections of a Lost World: The Frontier Culture of the Byzantine-Arab World in the Time of Late Antiquity.” Joint Conference of the Medieval Association of the Pacific and the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association: Las Vegas, Nevada, April 2018.
- Roundtable on “Do Mystical Traditions Have a Politics?”: “Did Muslim Mystical Traditions Have a Politics in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire?” Mediterranean Seminar on Mysticism and Devotion: Boulder, Colorado, April 2017.
- “Formation of a Sunni Orthodoxy or an Ongoing Negotiation? Making Sense of the works of Karabas `Ali Veli (d. 1686).” Middle East Studies Association Conference: Boston, Massachusetts, November 2016.
- “Comparing Sufism’s Impact on the Urban Landscapes of Istanbul and Sarajevo.” IV. International Symposium on Balkan History Studies: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 2016.
- “Can Current Research Materials Be Invoked in an Undergraduate Classroom Setting? The Case For Greater Student Involvement.” Middle East Studies Association Conference: Denver, Colorado, November 2015.
- “Scholars, Sufis, and disease: Can Muslim religious works offer us novel insights on plagues and epidemics among the medieval and early modern Ottomans?” Invited talk given at the American Research Institute in Turkey: Istanbul, Turkey, June 2015.
- “Was the Nasûhî Sufi Order Founded by a Pirate? The Curious Intersection of Mezamorta Hüseyin Paşa and Muhammad Nasûhî.” Western Ottomanists’ Workshop: Davis, CA, January 2015.
- “The Sufi and the Captain: How the Nasuhi Order Survived a Late Seventeenth-Century Crisis.” Middle East Studies Association Conference: Washington, DC, November 2014.
- Roundtable Organizer: “Is There a Need for a New Primary Source Reader for the History of Pre-Modern Islamic Civilizations?” Middle East Studies Association Conference: Washington, DC, November 2014.

- “What’s in a Library Anyway? Looking at Ottoman Writing Through the Prism of Collections Rather Than Individual Works.” Eski Türk Edebiyat Çalışmaları (Studies in Classical Turkish Literature) Tenth Annual Conference: Seattle, WA, April 2014.
- “The Sivasi Sufi Order’s Migration from the Safavid to the Ottoman Empire and its Presentation in Hagiographical Writing.” Sixteenth Century Society Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, October 2013.
- “Ottoman Library Collections and Sufi Genealogies: A Case Study of the Nasuhi Branch of the Halveti Order.” Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference: New Orleans, Louisiana, October 2013.
- “The continuing influence of Yahyâ-yı Sirvânî in the later Ottoman period: the case of Semseddin (d. 1834) Nasûhîzâde.” Invited talk given at the UNESCO Yahya-yı Sirvânî Bakuvî - 550 Symposium: Baku, Azerbaijan, July 2013.
- “The private lives of the Nasûhî Sufi shaykhs in the later Ottoman period: Semseddin (d. 1834) and Kirâmeddin (d. 1934) Nasûhîzâde.” Invited talk given at the German Orient-Institut in Turkey: Istanbul, Turkey, April 2013.
- “Sufi Kitapları ve Osmanlı Mikro-Tarih: Üsküdar’daki Hazret-i Nasûhî Dergahi Kütüphanesi’nin Bir Arastırması.” Invited talk given at Bilecik University: Bilecik, Turkey, April 2013.
- “From Bosnian Sipahis to Sufi Institution: Revelations from the Personal Library of the Nasûhî Branch of the Khalwatî Tarîqa.” Invited talk given at the American University in Sharjah: Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, March 2013.
- “Sufi Books and Ottoman Microhistory: A Case Study of the Hazret-i Nasûhî Dergahı Library in Üsküdar.” Invited talk given at the American Research Institute in Turkey and subsequently at Köç University: Istanbul, Turkey, December 2012.
- “Sufism and Sufi Orders in the Ottoman Empire: the branches of the Halveti Sufi order.” Invited talk given at TOBB University of Economics and Technology: Ankara, Turkey, October 2012.
- “The Practice of Microhistory in the Ottoman Context: The Case of the Karabâsî branch of the Halveti Sufi order in the 17th and 18th Century.” Invited talk given at Bilkent University: Ankara, Turkey, October 2012.
- “Ottoman Perceptions of the Indian Subcontinent as reflected in the Cihânnümâ of Katip Çelebi.” Comité International des Études Pre-Ottomanes et Ottomanes Conference: Rethymno, Crete, June 2012.
- “An Ottoman Intellectual Envisions the Far East: Katip Celebi’s Unfinished Manuscript of the Cihânnümâ.” Invited talk given at the American Research Institute in Turkey: Istanbul, Turkey, May 2012.
- “Katip Çelebi’s Conception of the Indian Subcontinent and Indian Ocean World in the Cihânnüma.” Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference: Washington, DC, December 2011.

- “Seeking the remedies: Katip Celebi's presentation of useful medical remedies from the Far East and the Americas.” Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference: San Diego, California, November 2010.
- “China or Cathay? The Ottoman Geographer Katib Celebi's Interpretation of the Ming Dynasty.” Western Ottomanists’ Workshop, Portland, Oregon, October 2010.
- “A Seventeenth-Century Muslim’s Contribution to World History: Kâtip Çelebi Examines the Societies of the Pacific Ocean in his Cihânnümâ.” World History Association Conference: San Diego, California, June 2010.
- “Culmination of Medieval Islamic Geography, or Start of a New Era? The Ottoman Intellectual Kâtip Çelebi Reflects on a Wider World.” Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop: Montreal, Canada, March 2010.
- “The Island of Cyprus in the Early Islamic World: Harmonizing Legal and Geographical Visions.” American Historical Association Conference: San Diego, California, January 2010.
- “Kâtip Çelebi’s Discussion of European Expansion in the Cihânnümâ.” Middle East Studies Association Conference: Boston, Massachusetts, November 2009.
- “An Ottoman Scholar Reflects on the Discovery of the Western Hemisphere: Kâtip Çelebi’s Vision of the Americas in the Cihannüma.” UNESCO International Kâtip Çelebi Symposium: Ankara, Turkey, June 2009.
- “The Challenge of the Early Halvetî Silsile: Assessing the Work of the Ottoman Hagiographer Mahmûd Cemâleddîn Hulvî.” Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop: Columbus, Ohio, April 2009.
- “Traversing Time and Space in Later Medieval Muslim Hagiography: Evolution of a Trope Among the Halvetî Mystics.” Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association Conference: Flagstaff, Arizona, April 2009.
- “Illness, Disease and Affliction in Sufi Hagiography: Literary Trope or Evidence of Ideological Evolution?” Middle Eastern Studies Association: Washington, DC, November 2008.
- “The Nexus of Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800 C.E.” Middle Eastern Studies Association: Montreal, Canada, November 2007.
- “Insights on provincial Ottoman cultural life from Sufi histories: the Şa`baniyye of Kastamonu,” American Research Institute in Turkey: Istanbul, Turkey, June, 2007.
- “Differences in Early Muslim Legal and Political Thought on the Status of Frontier Zones: the Case of Cyprus,” Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association: Tempe, Arizona, February 2007.
- “Re-Describing the Nexus of Sufism and Society,” Middle Eastern Studies Association: Boston, Massachusetts, November 2006.
- “The Meeting of the Two Sultans: Three Sufi Mystics Negotiate with the Court of Murad III,” Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop: Toronto, Canada, March 2006.
- “Contrasting Approaches to the Life and Work of an Early Ottoman Saint: Cemal el-Halveti (d. 1494),” Middle Eastern Studies Association: Washington, DC, November 2005.

- “Insights on the Psychology of a Medieval Ruler: The Correspondence and Dreams of Murad III as a Historical Source,” Middle Eastern Studies Association: San Francisco, CA, November 2004.
- “The Curious Case of Unsi Hasan: An Unsuccessful Muslim Saint in the Ottoman Empire,” 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies: Kalamazoo, MI, May 2003.
- “A Sufi ‘State’: Muhyi-yi Gulsheni’s (d. 1606) ‘City of Virtue’ and Sultan Murad III,” American Historical Association: Chicago, IL, January 2003.
- “A Sufi ‘State’: Muhyi-yi Gulsheni’s (d. 1606) Concept of the ‘City of Virtue,’” Middle Eastern Studies Association: Washington, DC, November 2002.
- “Defending the Cult of Saints in 17th-Century Kastamonu: Omer al-Fu’adi’s Contribution to Religious Debate in Ottoman Society,” Comité International d’Etudes Pre-Ottomanes et Ottomanes: London, England, July 2002.
- “‘Home is Where the Shaykh Is’: The Use of the Concept of Exile in the Hagiography of Ibrahim-i Gulsheni,” International Medievalists’ Conference: Leeds, England, July 2002.
- “The Growth of a Turkish-Language Hagiographical Literature Within the Halveti Order of the 16th and 17th Centuries,” Middle East Studies Association Conference: San Francisco, CA, November 2001.
- “The Importance of Hagiography as a Historical Source for the Ottoman Empire. The Case of the *Menakib-i Ibrahim-i Gülşeni* and Others,” Sabancı University Colloquium on Topics in Ottoman History: Istanbul, Turkey, March 2001.

Major Awards:

- Dr. Catherine Gullo Bellver UNLV Endowed Scholar in the Humanities Award, Las Vegas, NV, 2024-2025.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, “Khataynameh (“Book of China”) Translation Project,” led by Kaveh Hemmat of Benedictine University, serving as Ottoman Turkish language translator and collaborator, research project completed 2021-2023.
- J. William Fulbright Research Grant, in conjunction with Köç University, Istanbul, Turkey, in support of a sabbatical research project for the 2012-2013 academic year.
- American Research Institute in Turkey Summer Research Grant, Istanbul, Turkey, 2012.
- Recipient of UNLV Faculty Travel Committee grants in 2006-2007, 2009-2010 and 2012-2013 academic years.
- Presidential Fellowship for Dissertation Writing, The Ohio State University, 2003-2004 academic year.
- Bernadette Schotte Supplemental Research Grant, The American Historical Association, March 2002.
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Turkish Language Research, 2001-2002 academic year.

- Areas of Teaching Interests and Expertise:***

- Teaching Experience and Courses Taught:***

Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Instructor, Bowling Green State University

- Student Section Leader, The Ohio State University

- *History 181 (World Civilizations to 1500 C.E.)*
- *History 182 (World Civilizations, 1500 C.E. to the Present)*

Sept. 2002-June 2003

Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University

- *History 112 (The History of Europe, 1500 C.E. to the Present)*
- *History 597 (The Twentieth-Century World)*

Sept. 1998-June 2000

Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University

- *History 181 (World Civilizations to 1500 C.E.)*
- *History 182 (World Civilizations, 1500 C.E. to the Present)*
- *History/Archaeology 306 (Development of Modern Archaeology, as grader)*
- *History 597 (The Twentieth Century World)*

Service to University and Profession:

University-wide

- Organized and co-hosted the UNLV Forum Lecture, “Utopia, Law, and Civic Lore from the Chinese-Inner Asian Frontier,” featuring Prof. Kaveh Hemmat of Benedictine University, and John Curry of UNLV, October 12, 2023. Done in conjunction with the Department of History, Asian Studies, and other community stakeholders.
- Organized and co-hosted the UNLV Forum Lecture, “An Ottoman Cosmography: Katib Çelebi, The Scientific Revolution, and the Ottoman Empire,” featuring Prof. Gottfried Hagen, Professor at the University of Michigan, and John Curry of UNLV, September 27, 2022. Done in conjunction with the Department of History, Religious Studies Program, and other community stakeholders.
- Organized UNLV Forum Lecture, “To Forgive but Not Forget: Saudi Arabia and Middle East in the Age of ISIS,” by Dr. Sean Foley, Associate Professor at Middle Tennessee State University, April 19, 2015. Done in conjunction with the UNLV Department of History, Department of Political Science, and Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution.
- Organized UNLV Forum Lecture, “Afghanistan Twenty Years After the Soviet Invasion,” by Dr. Alam Payind, Director of the Middle East Center at The Ohio State University, March 24, 2010. Done in conjunction with the UNLV Department of History.
- Served as Judge for the Graduate & Professional Student Association (G&PSA) and Graduate College’s Student Research Forum (March 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010).
- Served as Faculty Marshal on the Seating Community, UNLV Commencement Ceremony (Fall 2006, Spring 2008, Fall 2008).
- Organized and presented multiple public performances for the Turkish musician Latif Bolat, “The Sounds of the Wandering Dervishes: Turkish Mystical Music, Poetry and Images,” March 19-20, 2007. Done in conjunction with the UNLV Office of Student Diversity, Muslim Student Organization and the Ethnic Council.

College of Liberal Arts

- Elected to 2-year term, and subsequently appointed Chair of the Bylaws Committee (Fall Semester 2015-Spring Semester 2017).

- Elected to 2-year term on the General Education Committee (Fall Semester 2013-Spring Semester 2015). Appointed Chair of Liberal Arts and Fine Arts Subcommittee.
- Elected to 2-year term and Chair position on the COLA Financial Aid Committee (Fall Semester 2008-Spring Semester 2010).

Departmental

- History Department Phi Alpha Theta Public Lecture Series: “New Insights from a Recently-Discovered Manuscript of a Traveler to the Ming Dynasty of China, 1520.” October 2024.
- Chair of History Department World History Subcommittee, 2023-2024.
- Member of Bylaws Committee, 2023-present.
- Chair of History Department Travel Committee, 2012-present.
- Member of Departmental Search Committee for a position in Latin American History, 2017-2018.
- Chair of Departmental Search Committee for a position in Chinese History, 2015-2016.
- Member of Travel Committee, 2011-2012 (served as Chair of Committee in Spring 2012).
- Member of Graduate Committee, 2009-2012.
- Member of Teaching and Assessment Committee, 2010-2011.
- Presentation Organizer: Visiting Scholar Prof. Alam Payind, The Ohio State University, “Afghanistan Since the Withdrawal of Soviet Union's Army: An Afghan Perspective.” March 18, 2010. Dr. Payind also gave interview to KNPR and gave guest lectures to classes in History and Political Science.
- Member of Library Committee, 2006-2009 (served as Chair of Committee, 2007-2009).
- Presentation Organizer: Visiting Scholar Prof. Isa Blumi, Georgia State University, “Transcending Imperial Borderlands: A Discussion on Migrations and their Consequences on the Persian Gulf, Yemen and Albania, 1870-1971,” November 13, 2008.
- Member of Curriculum Committee, 2006-2008.
- Served as Faculty Advisor to the Graduate Students for Historical Development (GSHD) organization in the Department of History (2007-2009).
- Monday Morning Coffee Roundtable Featured Speaker, organized by Graduate Students for Historical Development (GSHD), Monday, November 13, 2006.

Professional / Organizational

- Roundtable Chair, “Doing Open History in the 21st Century,” American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch (AHA-PCB), July 2026.
- Program Committee Member, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2026.

- Program Committee Member, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2025.
- Appointed as Evaluation Table Leader to set the standards for marking the Advanced Placement: Modern World History Exam, to be completed in Kansas City, MO, June 2024.
- Guest Editor of the volume 89:2, Fall/Winter 2023 issue of the World History Bulletin journal, "Democratizing, Diversifying, and Decolonizing the World History Survey."
- Creator and Webmaster for the official website of the Western Ottomanists' Workshop (WOW), 2010-present (found at <http://faculty.unlv.edu/curryj5/WOW/WOWindex.html>).
- Elected to position as Treasurer of the American Research Institute in Turkey for a 3-year term, 2023-2026.
- Appointed as the Higher Education Co-Chair for the Development Committee for the Advanced Placement World History Exam, Educational Testing Services, 2023-2025.
- Appointed to position as one of six members on the Development Committee for the Advanced Placement World History Exam, Educational Testing Services, 2020-2023.
- Roundtable organizer, "Ottoman geographical knowledge and the early modern information order in the light of Sayyid `Ali Akbar's Khataynameh," for the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, December 4, 2022.
- Panel Chair, "Ottoman Legal and Administrative Structures," Western Ottomanists' Workshop, November 18, 2022.
- Elected to position on the board of the American Research Institute in Turkey for a 3-year term, 2012-2014, 2020-2022.
- Panel Organizer, "Trans-Imperial Encounters in the Peripheries of the Ottoman and Habsburg Empires," for the Sixteenth-Century Society and Conference: San Diego, CA, October 2021.
- Elected to position as Secretary of the American Research Institute in Turkey for two consecutive 3-year terms, 2015-2020.
- Panel Discussant for the panel, "Modes and Methods of Manuscript Publication in the Early Modern Period: The Ottoman, Safavid, and European Realms" for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 15, 2019.
- Roundtable organizer, "Pedagogical Anxieties: Bridging the Worlds of Teaching and Research," for the Western Ottomanists' Workshop annual meeting, April 6, 2019.
- Appointed to position on the Program Committee of the Middle East Studies Association's Annual Meeting to review panels and papers, February-March 2019.
- Panel Discussant and Chair for the panel, "Cultivating the Soul (Siyânet-i nefis): Self-Knowledge in the Ottoman World" for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 18, 2018.
- Panel Discussant and Chair for the panel, "Seeking Order: Sufi Responses to Ottoman Power in 16th-17th Century Egypt and Syria" for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 20, 2017.

- Panel Discussant for Georg B. Michels, “The Habsburg Empire on the Precipice of Disaster: Ottoman Expansion, Hungarian Revolt and the War Scare of 1671,” for the Western Ottomanists’ Workshop, April 8, 2017.
- Panel Discussant, “Saints and Sultans: Sufi literature between religion and politics in the Ottoman Empire,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 18, 2016.
- Panel Discussant and Chair for the panel, “The Ottoman ‘Early Modern’ in culture, historiography, and court politics,” for the Western Ottomanists’ Workshop, March 11, 2016.
- Roundtable organizer, “Is There a Need for a New Primary Source Reader for the History of Pre-Modern Islamic Civilizations?,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 24, 2014.
- Panel Discussant, “Revisiting Bayezid II and His Reign: Patronage, Image, and Networks.” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, October 10, 2013.
- Served as manuscript and book proposal reader for Edinburgh University Press, Scotland, 2011-present.
- Served as Advisory Board Member for the Journal of Sufi Studies (JSS), edited by Erik S. Ohlander, 2011-present.
- Panel Discussant, “Historiography and Empire.” Western Ottomanists’ Workshop (WOW), April 9, 2011.
- Panel Chair and Discussant, “Revisiting the Ottoman Imperial Project: Its Advocates and Critiques in the 15th and 16th Centuries.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 21, 2010.
- Panel Co-Organizer, “Transformation of Ottoman Medical Discourse: Disease, Knowledge and Society.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 19, 2010.
- Served as professional reviewer for chapter 8 and 19 (on medieval and early modern Islamic history) for the global history textbook John P. McKay et al., A History of World Societies, 9th ed. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2011).
- Elected to the Committee on Fellowships (Humanities) for the American Research Institute in Turkey for the period January 2009-January 2010.
- Double-Panel Organizer for American Historical Association 2010 annual conference, to support conference theme of “Oceans, Islands and Continents.” Accepted for entry into the program on April 23, 2009 and both halves given January 9, 2010.
- Served on the International Advisory Board for the journal Digest of Middle Eastern Studies (DOMES), edited by Mohammed Aman, 2008-Present.
- Panel Co-Organizer, “Sufism, Legitimacy and Disease in the Ottoman Empire,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 24, 2008.
- Panel Chair, “Sufism and Politics” (NP14), Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 23, 2008.

- Panel Chair, Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, “Historiographies Revisited” (NP59), Montreal, Canada, November 24, 2007.
- Thematic Conversation Organizer, “The Nexus of Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800 C.E.,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, Montreal, Canada, November 24, 2007.
- Roundtable organizer, “Re-Describing the Nexus of Sufism and Society,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 19, 2006.

Public outreach

- Served as Advanced Placement World History Exam Early Table Leader, Educational Testing Services (ETS) Reading Session, Kansas City, MO, June 6-17, 2024.
- Gave a radio interview to KCEP 88.1 radio in Las Vegas, NV on the subject of the Ottoman Empire in world history and reactions to a recent book published on the topic on Mujahid Ramadan’s radio program, on March 5, 2022.
- Podcast appearance as [invited speaker for the Anglo-Turkish Society of the United Kingdom](#), produced by David Shankland and Craig Encer, found at December 2, 2021.
- Appeared as invited guest on the virtual presentation “Humans of the Ottoman Empire: Sufis,” with Cengiz Şişman as host, Yunus Emre Institute, Washington, DC, March 5, 2021.
- Served as Advanced Placement World History Exam reader, Educational Testing Services (ETS) Reading Session, Salt Lake City, UT, June 2-10, 2017.
- Appeared as invited guest on the Channel 3 News at 3:00 program to discuss the crisis in Syria, Las Vegas, Nevada, September 18, 2013.
- Podcast appearance on the Ottoman History Podcast, “Sufism and Society,” produced by Chris Gratien and Emrah Safa Gürkan, found at (<http://www.ottomanhistoricalpodcast.com/>), podcast #117, July, 2013.
- Invited speaker to the UNESCO Yahya-yı Sirvânî Bakuvî - 550 Symposium, Baku, Azerbaijan, July 2013. Part of the proceedings were subsequently broadcast on Azerbaijani state television, with multiple interviews of all the Turkish-speaking participants by local media.
- Television appearance on the program [Açık Deniz](#), hosted by Turkish author Sadık Yalsızuçanlar and with fellow guest Dr. Mehmet Rıhtım of Qafqaz University in Azerbaijan, on the Ülke TV channel in Istanbul, Turkey, January 19, 2013 (Topic: the Azerbaijani Sufi Yahya-yı Şirvani and the origins of the Ottoman Halveti Sufi order); the program can be viewed at <http://tvvarsivi.com/?y=288&z=2013-01-20> (scroll back to 22:15 time mark of the program)
- Member of the Advisory Council of the Nevada Center for International Research and Policy (NCIRP), January 2012-present (<http://www.ncirp.net/>).
- Gave a radio interview to KPFA radio in Berkeley, CA on the subject of my recent book, [The Transformation of Muslim Mystical Thought in the Ottoman Empire](#), to radio host Jack Foley on the “Cover to Cover” program on April 7, 2011; program was subsequently aired and is now presently accessible at <http://www.kpfa.org/archive/id/75411> (Part I) and <http://www.kpfa.org/archive/id/73752> (Part II).

- Served as a panel participant for the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's public panel entitled "The Essence of Jesus," held on October 15, 2009.
- Invited speaker to one of the panels at the UNESCO International Kâtip Çelebi Symposium, Ankara, Turkey, June 2009. The proceedings were later broadcast on one of the Turkish public television stations with voice-over translation into Turkish.
- Served as an expert analyzing the value of a pre-modern Persian manuscript for Leftfield Pictures' show Pawn Stars, to be broadcast on the History Channel in a forthcoming season, May 30, 2009.
- Served as Advanced Placement World History Exam reader, Educational Testing Services (ETS) Reading Session, Fort Collins, CO, June 1-9, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- Featured speaker: "In the Pursuit of Tolerance: Stories of Religious Brotherhood from al-Andalusia (Islamic Spain)." Hosted by the Council of Arab-Islamic Relations (Nevada Chapter) and the Nevada Muslim Students Association, December 6, 2007.
- Featured speaker: "Teaching Turkey Day: Political Notables in Turkish History." Hosted by the Las Vegas World Affairs Council, April 21, 2007.
- Radio Interview on KNPR 88.9 of Las Vegas, on the State of Nevada Program moderated and hosted by Dave Burns, 3rd segment, July 25, 2006 (Topic: Israeli-Lebanese war of 2006).
- Served as Advanced Placement World History Exam reader, Educational Testing Services (ETS) Reading Session, Lincoln, NE, June 1-9, 2006.