

Özgür Koca
Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate School
Islamic Studies and Philosophy
Room:214 (Craig)
(310) 334-9917
okoca@bayanclaremont.org

Updated April 2020

APPOINTMENTS

2013-Present Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies
Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate School

2012-2013 Adjunct Professor in Religious Studies
Claremont Lincoln University

2003-2007 Physics/Mathematics Teacher
Magnolia Science Academy, Los Angeles

1999-2003 Physics/Mathematics Teacher
Sumgayit Private Turgut Ozal High School, Azerbaijan

EDUCATION

2009-2013 Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion and Theology,
Claremont Graduate University, Los Angeles, US.

2008-2010 M.A. in Philosophy,
Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey.

1994-1999 B.S. in Physics,
Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey.

BOOKS

Islam, Causality, and Freedom: From the Medieval to the Modern Era
New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020, (Monograph, 307 pp.)

The Principles and Applications of Islamic Metaphysics
(Monograph, Under Preparation)

LANGUAGES

Turkish (Native)

English (Fluency in reading, writing, and speaking)

Classical Arabic (Fluency in reading; intermediate writing and speaking skills)

Ottoman Turkish (Fluency in reading, intermediate writing and speaking skills)

Azerbaijani Turkish (Fluency in reading; intermediate writing and speaking skills)

Persian (Fluency in reading; elementary writing and speaking skills)

French (Fluency in reading; elementary writing and speaking skills)

German (Intermediate reading knowledge; elementary writing and speaking skills)

Spanish (Intermediate reading knowledge; elementary writing and speaking skills)

Latin (Intermediate reading knowledge)

Classical Greek (Elementary reading knowledge)

COURSES TAUGHT in RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY

Claremont Lincoln University (2012-2013)

Survey of Islamic Philosophy, Theology, and Mysticism

Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate School/Claremont School of Theology (2013-2020)

Islamic Theology and Philosophy

Global Islamic Movements and Ideologies

Muslim Spirituality Among World Religions

The Qur'an: Composition, Collection and Teachings

Islam and Mysticism

Islamic Ethics

Islam, Science, and Art

Abrahamic Faiths in Conversation

COURSES TAUGHT in EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES

Azerbaijan, Sumgayit Private Turgut Ozal High School

Physics (1999-2003, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th graders)

Los Angeles, Magnolia Science Academy

Algebra (Fall-Spring 2003-2007; 6th, 7th, and 9th graders)

Geometry (Fall-Spring 2003-2004; 9th graders)

Astronomy (Fall-Spring 2006; 10th and 11th graders)

Physics (Fall-Spring, 2005-2006; 6th, 8th graders)

PAPERS

"Islamic Occasionalism in the Context of the Contemporary Religion and Science Discussion"
Theology and Science (Forthcoming 2021)

"The Idea of Causal Disproportionality in Said Nursî (1877-1960) and Its Implications" *Journal of Islamic Philosophy*, Vol 11 (2019), p. 5-32.

"Revisiting the Concepts of Necessity and Freedom in Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna) (c. 980-1037)"
Sophia, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11841-019-0706-9>

"The World as a Theophany and Causality: Ibn 'Arabī, Causes, and Freedom"
Sophia, 2017, 10.1007/s11841-017-0621-x

"Ibn Arabi and Rumi on Theodicy: Discontinuities in Sufi Metaphysics"
Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Vol 28, Issue 4, (Dec 2016), p. 1-19.

"Causality as a "Veil": the Ash'arites, ibn 'Arabî (1165-1240), and Said Nursi (1877-1960)"
Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Vol 27, Issue 4, (June 2016), p. 455-470

"Said Nursi's (1876-1960) Analysis on the Exegetical Significance of the Divine Names"
Journal of Scriptural Reasoning, Vol 14, No.2, p. 43-55

"Whitehead and Ibn 'Arabi: On the Possibility of a Dialogue"
Process Journal, 44.2, Fall-Winter 2015, p. 270-281

"The Construction of "the Other"
Journal of Dialogue Studies, Vol 3, No 2, 2015, p. 11-27

"Thoughts on al-Ghazali's Heritage"
Journal of Traditional Thought (Muhafazakar Dusunce Dergisi), Vol 44, (June 2015), pp. 113-132.

"Islam and Violence: When "From Within" Meets "From Without""
Science, Culture and Religion, Vol. 2, Issue 1, (March 2015), pp. 17-20

"The Prophet of Islam – Muhammad and Environmental Activism"
Claremont Journal of Religion, Vol. 1, Issue 2, (January 2012), pp. 126-135

"From Process to God: A Muslim's Critical Engagement with Charles Hartshorne"
Journal of Islamic Studies (ISAM) Vol. 26 (2011), pp. 81-92

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER SUBMISSION

"A Critique of Kant's Critique of the Ontological and Cosmological Arguments: "What If Existence Precedes Essence?"

Journal of Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations.

"A Phenomenology of Causality in the Context of the Contemporary Religion and Science Discussion "

Journal of Theology and Science.

BOOK CHAPTERS

"Introduction"

Sectarian peace/Violence in Religions: The Middle East and the Globe, ed. Ozgur Koca (under submission, 2020)

"Sectarian Violence from the Perspective of Philosophy of Religion"

Sectarian peace/Violence in Religions: The Middle east and the Globe, ed. Ozgur Koca (under submission, 2020)

"Thomas Merton on Spirituality and Social Activism"

A Muslim Sage Among Peers, ed. John Barton (Blue Dome Press, 2017) p. 42-66

"Occasionalism in a Contemporary Context" with Douglas Kutasch,

Occasionalism East and West: New Essays on the Occasionalist Vision of Causality from the Islamic and Western Traditions ed. Nazif Muhtaroglu (Kalam Media and Research Center, 2017)

"The Metaphysics of Causation in Ibn Arabi and Occasionalism",

Occasionalism East and West: New Essays on the Occasionalist Vision of Causality from the Islamic and Western Traditions ed. Nazif Muhtaroglu (Kalam Media and Research Center, 2017) p. 41-60

"Late Ottoman Occasionalism and Modern Science," with Nazif Muhtaroglu,

Occasionalism East and West: New Essays on the Occasionalist Vision of Causality from the Islamic and Western Traditions ed. Nazif Muhtaroglu (Kalam Media and Research Center, 2017), p. 83-104

"Is Islamism More Prone to Violence?"

Muslim Perspectives on Islamic Extremism (Rethink Institute, 2016) pp.11-18

"Islam and Violence: When "From Within" Meets "From Without"

Islam, Culture, and the Charlie Hebdo Affair (Smith and Franklin, 2015) eBook Chapter 6.

"Islamic Spirituality: Doctrines and Practices"

A Companion on the Journey: Providing Spiritual Guidance for People of Various Religious Traditions (Skylight Paths Publishing, 2014) pp. 34-45

"An Attempt at Understanding the Gulen (*Hizmet*) Movement's Vision of Itself"

East and West Encounters: The Gulen (Hizmet) Movement, Conference Proceedings, (Los Angeles, 2009) pp. 85-97.

BOOK REVIEWS

Religious Secularity: A Theological Challenge to the Islamic State, Nasar Ghobadzadeh, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Politics and Religion, December 2015. Vol 9/ Issue 1. P.217-219

Islam and the Fate of Others: The Salvation Question. Mohammed Hassan Khalil: Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

the Journal of Religious History, December 2015, Vol 39/Issue 4. P. 620-622.

So That Others May Live; Erkan Kurt; Bludome Press, 2013.

Hizmet Review, May 2015. Issue 3. P. 75-77.

Islam, Authoritarianism and Underdevelopment; Ahmet Kuru, Cambridge University Press, 2019 (Forthcoming)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"An Attempt at Understanding the Gulen (*Hizmet*) Movement's Vision of Itself"

University of Southern California. Conference: *East and West Encounters: The Gulen Movement*, Los Angeles, December 2009.

"Al-Ghazali's Account of Causality and Its Implications for Contemporary Religion and Science Discussion"

Claremont Graduate University. SPARC, *The Society for Philosophy and Religion in Claremont: Third Annual Live Option Conference*, March 2011.

"Said Nursi's Metaphysics of Action: The Ontology of the Divine Self-Disclosure and the All-Pervasive Movement,

John Carroll University: Challenges to Contemporary Islam: The Muslim World 100 Years After Said Nursi's Damascus Sermon, October 2011

“A Preliminary Survey on Sufi Metaphysics and Peace”
Claremont Graduate University. Your Beliefs Are Killing Me! Interdisciplinary Approaches to Religion and Violence, November 2011

“The Construction of the Other in Gulen's Thought”
San Jose State University. Engaging the Other, 6th International Conference, December 2011 (Invited).

“An Islamic Expression of Popular Religiosity: Meet the World's First Muslim Superheroes, “The 99”
Claremont Graduate University. Fifth Annual Religion in Conversation Conference: Religion and Popular Culture: Navigating the Sacred and Profane in American Popular Culture, February 2012

“Experiential Reasoning of Revelation: Al-Ghazali's Qur'anic Contextualization of Mystical Experience in *al-Munqidh min al-dalal* (Rescuer from Error)”
Trevecca Nazarene University. Curb Your Enthusiasm: Philosophy and Religious Experience, March 2012.

“Said Nursi's Analysis of the Relationship of the Divine Names and the Content of the Qur'an”
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Santa Clara University: Sacred Texts and Sacred Communities, March 2012.

“Muhammad as an Environmental Activist”
Claremont Lincoln University. A More Perfect Union: A Religious Assessment of the American Experience, April 2012.

“The Metaphysics of Unity in Diversity: The Ontology of Divine Self-Disclosure and Peace”
Albania Beder University. International Conference on Humanities: Spiritual Quest in Humanities, Albania, May 2012 (Invited).

“Spiritual Dimensions of Peace Building,” Panel Chair,
Claremont Lincoln University, Muslim Perspectives on Peace Building, Oct 12.

“Islamic Theodicies and Politics,”
Arizona State University. American Academy of Religion (AAR) WEST, March 2012.

“Ibn Arabi's Theory of Causality and Occasionalism,”
Harvard University. Occasionalism: East and West Conference, May 2012

"The Hizmet Movement on "the Other", "
University of Toronto. Canada, July 2013

"Said Nursi's Account of the Divine Names and Ethics"
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India, March 2014

"The Fundamentals of Said Nursi's Thought: A Short Introduction"
Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, March 2014

"Sectarian Violence and Peace in Islam," Chair,
Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate Institute, Los Angeles, April 2015

"Islam Responses to Ecological Crisis"
Pomona College, Pandopupulus Conference, June 2015

"Sufi Metaphysics, Whitehead, and Environment"
Pomona College, June 2015

"The Global Peacebuilding Activities of The Hizmet Movement,"
The Parliament of World Religions, Utah, Oct 2015.

"Spiritual Jihad and Religion-and-Science Discussion"
John Carroll University, Cleveland, Nov 2015

"Islamism: Is the Cave Empty?"
Rethink Institute, Washington DC, Dec 2015

"Sufi Metaphysics and Modern Philosophy: What are the Points of Contacts?"
North East Turkish-American (NETA) Scholars Workshop, Boston, December 2015.

"Islam and Science: The Challenges and Promises"
Respect Graduate School, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, March 2016

"Knowing, Not Knowing, and Violence"
University of San Diego, San Diego, March 2016

"Metaphysics, Islam, and Science,"
Respect Graduate School, Bethlehem, September 2016

"Islamic Spirituality and Its Relevance,"
University of the West, Los Angeles, September 2016

"Islamic Metaphysical Tradition and Muslim Youth's Intellectual and Spiritual Formation"
Respect Graduate School, Bethlehem, October 2017

"A response to " Modernism and Humanism in Sayyad Ahmad Khan's Thought"
Claremont Graduate University, Islamic Studies Conference, Los Angeles, April 2018

"Construction of Modern Muslim Identities: The Question of Reform"

Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate Institute, Construction of Modern Muslim Identities Conference, April 2019

LECTURES BY INVITATION (Selected)

“Religious Movements in Turkey,”

California State University-Long Beach (CULB), May 6, 2010

“Fasting as a Perennial Tradition: Thoughts on Ramadan,”

University of Southern California (USC), July 22, 2011

“Judaism and Islam: Theological Possibilities for an Enduring Dialogue,”

University Synagogue, Irvine, California, March 7, 2011

“Perspectives on the Decade after 9/11,”

Pacifica Institute, Los Angeles, California, September 10, 2011

“Islamic Eschatology, Jesus, and Interfaith Dialogue,”

University of Colorado-Boulder, Colorado, Sep 25, 2012.

“Islamic Prophetology and Jesus”

Portland State University, Washington State, Nov 16, 2012.

“Humility and Humiliation - Ethics and Sensitivity in the Abrahamic Traditions,”

University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)-Academy for Jewish Religion(AJRCA), Los Angeles, California, Nov 26, 2012

“Islam in the Contemporary World,”

Pepperdine University, Panel Discussion, Jan 29 2012

“Christianity and Judaism in the Qur’an,”

California State University Northridge, April 18 2013.

“Towards Collaborative Environmental Activism of Religious Traditions,”

Stanford University, May 7 2013.

"Said Nursi on Islamic Revivalism,"

Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India, March 2014

"Philosophy of Fasting,"

University of Portland, Portland, July 2014

"Religion and Climate Change,"

California State University Long Beach, November 2014

"Muslim Voices for Peace,"
Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate Institute, January 2015

"Charlie Hebdo and Chapel Hill Affairs,"
University of Nevada Reno, Reno, February 2015

"Hospitality, Ramadan, the Face of the Other,"
University of California /Davis, International House, Sacramento, July 2015

"Islam and Interfaith Care and Counseling"
Claremont School of Theology, Los Angeles, Nov 2015

"Is the Supremacy of Arabic Restricting Islam's Relevancy?"
Bayan Islamic Graduate School, Jan 2016

"Muslims, Art, and Modern America"
Muslim Student Association West (MSAW), Feb 2016

"Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Practice, and Strategic Leadership",
Claremont School of Theology, Jan 2017

"Atheism and Islam"
Claremont Colleges-McAlister Center, January 2018

"Philosophy and the Islamic Law"
Islamic Center of Southern California, Sep 2018

"The Rule of Law in Islamic Societies"
Islamic Center of Southern California, October 2018

"Science and Spirituality: Is a reconciliation possible?"
Islamic Center of Southern California, November 2018

"Compassion-Forming Practices in Islam"
Claremont School of Theology, Jan 2019

"Religion and Philosophy Discussion in the Context of Islamic Intellectual History"
Claremont Graduate University, April 2019

M.A. ADVISING

Abdurrahim Ozcan, "Islamic Models for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution in the Life of Prophet Muhammad" Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2015

Erin Stone, "Islamic and Jewish perspectives on Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment" Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2016.

Mahdi Ghazvini, "The Parameters of Devotional Imagery and Iconography within Islam" Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2017

Halil Aydin, "Title: Freedom and Hermeneutics: The Need for Hermeneutic Techniques in Understanding Extremist Thoughts Motivated by verses of The Qur'an" Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2017

Logan Siler, "Islam and Soul in the Age of Physicalism" Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2018

Emna Maksud, "Regulating Polygyny in Muslim Marriages: Reaffirming “Four Wives” as Responsibility, not Right" Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2018

Todd Gallinger, "Reevaluation of the Legal Rights of Orphans and Foundlings under Islamic Law in the Context of Anglo-European Legal Tradition" Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2018

Sidra Qazi, “The Qur’ān and the Pre-Islamic Literary Milieu an Examination of the Linguistic and Cultural Connections between the pre-Islamic Poetry and Qur’ān” Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2018

Tarik Ata, “Quranic Logotherapy: Ibn Qayyim’s Methods for Battling Hopelessness Depression” Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute/Claremont School of Theology, 2019

Fouad Elgohari, The Difference Between ‘ilm al-kalām and falsafah: Sirāj al-Dīn al-‘Urmawī & His Interlocutors” Claremont School of Theology, 2019

Ali Mahmoud, “Abrahamic Storytelling to Encourage Environmental Activism,” Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute, 2020

Kafa Doush, “Early Childhood Religious Education: Nurturing Children’s Spirituality (*Fitrah*),” Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute, 2020

Ahmad Akid, “The Legality of Cryptocurrencies within Islamic Financial Law,” Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute, 2020

Muhammad Ali, “The Value of the Female Witness: Ijtihad, Androcentrism, Misogyny and Rays of Hope,” Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute, 2020

Almas Abdigali, "Implementing Spiritual Care for Suicide in Kazakhstan," Bayan Islamic Graduate Institute, 2020

Ph.D. ADVISING

Rafael Reyes, "Imagination in Continental and Process Thought, and the Opening of Religious Pluralism" Claremont School of Theology, 2019

Jose Morales, "From the Phenomenon of Wonder to the Praxis of Generosity: Wonder as a Theological Principle for Theological Anthropology, Liturgy, and Liberty" Claremont School of Theology, 2019

Michael Readings, "A comparative study of Hindu and Jain Tapas" Claremont School of Theology/Comparative Theologies and Philosophies (in progress)

Abdurrahim Ozcan, "An alternative to Islamic Political Opposition Theory" Claremont School of Theology/Comparative Theologies and Philosophies (in progress)

Logan Siler, Claremont School of Theology/Comparative Theologies and Philosophies (in progress)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

East and West Encounters: The Gulen Movement, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, co-sponsored by Santa Monica College, Loyola Marymount University, Humboldt University and Whittier College, December 4-6, 2009.

Family in Transition, Loyola Marymount University, co-sponsored by California State University-Long Beach, April 23, 2010

Sectarian Violence in Religions, Bayan Claremont/Claremont School of Theology, April 17-18, 2015

Islam, Change and Modern Muslim Identities: Rethinking the Question of Reform, Bayan Claremont/Claremont School of Theology, April 26-27, 2019

PANELS and SESSIONS ORGANIZED

Anatolian Culture Festival Panel Series, Orange County, Fair Ground, Pacifica Institute May 2011.

Islamic Responses to Ecological Crisis, Claremont School of Theology/Center for Process Studies, Jun 4-7, 2015

Peacebuilding in Nigeria, Philippines, and Bosnia-Herzegovina: The Contributions of the Hizmet Movement, The Parliament of World Religions, Utah, Oct 15-19, 2015

“Theological and Philosophical Imperatives for Islamic Reform” in *Islam, Change and Modern Muslim Identities: Rethinking the Question of Reform*, Bayan Claremont/Claremont School of Theology, April 26-27, 2019

ACADEMIC JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARD

American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences

Journal of Islamic Philosophy

Science, Culture, and Religion

ORGANIZATIONS

Bayan Claremont, Member, Academic Committee

Claremont School of Theology, Library Committee

Claremont School of Theology, Comparative Theology and Philosophy Ph.D. Program

Southern California Muslim-Jewish Peace Forum

LEADERSHIP

Tour guiding and Organization, 21 Interfaith-Intercultural Dialogue Trips to Turkey

Science Department Chair, Magnolia Science Academy, Los Angeles, 2005-2007

Science Department Chair, Sumgait Private Turgut Ozal High School, Azerbaijan, 2001-2003

Tutoring High School Students for National and International Physics Olympiads and Scientific Project Competitions in Azerbaijan (1999-2003) and in Los Angeles (2003-2007)

AWARDS and GRANTS

Fisher Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Bayan Claremont/Claremont School of Theology, 2015

Nursi Studies Distinguished Scholar Award, Istanbul Science and Culture Foundation, March 2014

Jewish Community Foundation, *Chevruta & the Interreligious Studies*, 2012

Academic Year Fellowship (Full), Graduate School, *Fatih University*, 2008-2009

Academic Year Fellowship (30%), Graduate School, *Claremont Graduate University*, 2009-2013

Silver Medal in *the First Step to Nobel Prize in Physics for High School Students*, with Elvin Memmedov, March 2000, Warsaw, Poland.

Multiple science projects awards in LAUSD Scientific Project Competitions with 6th grade students in Los Angeles (2003-2007)

MOVIE and DOCUMENTARY ADVISING

"The Prophet Muhammad: The Uncommon Perspective" (Three Part Documentary Series by Twelve Production Company) 2017

The Forty (Tilia Films)

Los Angeles Turkish Film Festival

NEWSPAPER AND NON-PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES in ENGLISH and TURKISH (Selected)

"Islam vs. Islam" in Today's Zaman, June 2014

"Some Thought on the Philosophy of Fasting" in Today's Zaman, June 2014

"Islam and the Other" in Today's Zaman, July 2014

“Dindar ama Ahlaksız Olmanın Kodları” in <http://www.maviyorum.com/author/ozgur/> June 2016

“Yeni Bir İslam Siyaset Felsefesi Üzerine Düşünceler: Ezeli Muhalefet”
<http://www.maviyorum.com/author/ozgur/> June 2016

“Davutoglu İdeoloji ve Dersler” <http://www.maviyorum.com/author/ozgur/> May 2016

İslam Bilim ve İkiyüzlülük” <http://www.maviyorum.com/author/ozgur/> May 2016

“Ahlaktan Kopuş ve Gerçek Üzerine” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Dec 2017

“Yadsıyan Akıl ve Acı” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Nov 2017

“Müslümanların İnsan Hakları Problemi” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Sep 2017

“Neo-Selefilik Anatomisi” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Sep 2017

“İslami Hareketler ve Lider” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Sep 2017

“Hepimiz İslamcıyız” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Nov 2018

“Felsefe Tasavvuf ve Biz Uzlaşabilir mi?” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Aug 2018

“Cemaatçilik ve Ötesi” <https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/> Jan 2018

MEDIA APPARENCES (Selected)

Interviews in Turkish:

Mehtap TV (İslam and Ecology), on August 4, 2011

Mehtap TV (İslam and Environmental Crisis), on August 18, 2012

TRT (Eksi 10)

Mehtap TV (İslam and West), on July 4, 2013

Interviews in English:

TRT News (A Decade after 9/11), on September 17, 2011

CBS Los Angeles (İslam and Extremism), on Jan 13, 2015

News 4 (Muslim Voices Against Extremism), on Feb 19, 2015

KTVN 2 News (Muslim Voices Against Extremism), on Feb 19, 2015

Websites

<https://kitalararasi.com/author/ozgur/>

<http://www.maviyorum.com/author/ozgur/>

<https://twitter.com/ozgurkoca2000>