

## Han Hsien Liew

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### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**, Tempe, AZ

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2021–Present

**INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY**, Princeton, NJ

Herodotus Fund Member, School of Historical Studies, Fall 2024

**MINERVA UNIVERSITY**, San Francisco, CA (online based)

Assistant Professor of Arts and Humanities, 2019–2020

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, Cambridge, MA

Postdoctoral Graduate Writing Fellow, 2018–2019

**LESLEY UNIVERSITY**, Cambridge, MA

Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2018

### EDUCATION

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D., History and Middle Eastern Studies, 2018

A.M., History, 2015

**WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**, Middletown, CT

B.A. (with Honors), College of Social Studies and History, 2012

Certificate: Middle Eastern Studies

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

*Preaching Pious Rulership in Medieval Islam: Ibn al-Jawzi's Political Thought* (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming, February 2026).

#### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“‘The Caliphate Will Last for Thirty Years’: Polemic and Political Thought in the Afterlife of a Prophetic Ḥadīth,” *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 36/1 (2025): 38–82.

“A Preacher’s Mirror: Mixing Advice and Panegyric in Ibn al-Ġawzī’s *al-Miṣbāḥ al-muḍī’*,” *Al-Qanṭara: Revista de Estudios Árabes*, 45/2 (2024), doi: <https://doi.org/10.3989/alqantara.2024.704>.

“Ibn al-Jawzī and the Cursing of Yazīd b. Mu‘āwiya: A Debate on Rebellion and Legitimate Rulership,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 139/3 (2019): 631–646.

“The Caliphate of Adam: Theological Politics of the Qur’ānic Term *Ḥalīfa*,” *Arabica*, 63/1 (2016): 1–29.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

“Abū l-Ḥasan al-Māwardī,” in *Handbook of Qur’ānic Hermeneutics, Volume 2*, ed. Georges Tamer (Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, forthcoming, 2025).

“Navigating Anthropomorphism in Malay Islam: *Tarjumān al-Mustafīd*’s Treatment of the Bodily Attributes of God,” in *Malay-Indonesian Islamic Studies: Festschrift in Honor of Peter G. Riddell*, eds. Majid Daneshgar and Ervan Nurtawab (Leiden: Brill, 2022), 182–208.

“The Hermeneutics of Legitimate Leadership: Qurṭubī’s Commentary on Q 2:30 (the Adam Verse),” in *New Trends in Qur’ānic Studies: Text, Context, and Interpretation*, ed. Mun’im Sirry (Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2019), 233–247.

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Hayrettin Yücesoy, *Disenchanting the Caliphate: The Secular Discipline of Power in Abbasid Political Thought*, as one of three invited reviews for a book forum in *Maydan*, an online publication of the AbuSulayman Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University (2024):

<https://themaydan.com/2024/10/book-forum-hayrettin-yucesoy/>.

Mohamad El-Merheb, *Political Thought in the Mamluk Period: The Unnecessary Caliphate*, in *Religious Studies Review*, 49/2 (2023): 243.

Mona Hassan, *Longing for the Lost Caliphate: A Transregional History*, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 139/3 (2019): 746–749.

### **ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS IN PROGRESS**

“Ibn ‘Aqīl’s Doctrine of the Imamate” (to be submitted to *Studia Islamica* upon completion).

### **ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Herodotus Fund Membership, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Fall 2024

Professor of Impact Award, Arizona State University, 2023

Institute for Humanities Research Fellowship Grant, Arizona State University, 2022–2023

Institute for Humanities Research Travel Grant, Arizona State University, 2022

Middle East Studies Association Wadad Kadi Travel Fellowship for Doctoral Students, 2018

Middle East Studies Association Graduate Student Paper Prize, 2017

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2017–2018

Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations Junior Fellowship, Koç University, Istanbul, 2016–2017

Derek Bok Center Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard University, 2015

Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Grant, Harvard University, 2013

Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Fellowship for Islamic Studies, Harvard University, 2012–2013

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Islam and Politics: Intellectual Trends from Muhammad to Modernity (Spring 2024)

Graduate Seminar: Sources and Methods in Islamic Thought (Fall 2023)

Islamic Civilization (Spring 2023)

Islam in the Modern World (Spring 2023)

Introduction to Islam (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023)

Religion and Moral Issues (Spring 2022, Spring 2024)

Islam and World Affairs (Spring 2021)

Western Civilization: Ancient and Medieval Europe (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

#### **MINERVA UNIVERSITY**

Comparing Societies and Histories: The Impact of Time and Place (Spring 2020)

Global History (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

**LESLEY UNIVERSITY**

World History I: 4000 BCE–1500 CE (Fall 2018)

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY (AS TEACHING FELLOW)**

Western Intellectual History II: The Prehistory of Modern Thought (Professor James Hankins, Spring 2016)

Western Intellectual History I: Greco-Roman Antiquity (Professor James Hankins, Fall 2015)

Tangible Things: Harvard Collections in World History (Professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, Spring 2015)

History of the Middle East: 600–1055 (Professor Roy Mottahedeh, Fall 2014)

European Legal History (Professor Tamar Herzog, Fall 2014)

**INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES**

“Embodying the Homiletic Virtues: Ibn al-Jawzi’s Biographies of Caliphs.” Princeton University, Workshop in Islamic Studies (29 October 2024).

“‘The Caliphate Will Last for Thirty Years’: Medieval Islamic Political Discourses on a Prophetic Hadith.” Kyoto University, International Workshop: “Narratives, Knowledge Transmission, and Discourses on the Caliphate in Medieval Islam” (6 March 2024).

“‘I Put My Fear for You above My Fear of You’: Piety and Emotions in Ibn al-Jawzī’s Political Thought.” Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, International Workshop: “Exploring Connectivity around Medieval Islamic Political Thought and Beyond” (28 February 2024).

“The Role of Emotions in Islamic Political Thought: A Late Abbasid Mirror for Princes by Ibn al-Jawzi.” University of Exeter, Centre for the Study of Islam Monday Majlis Series (delivered online, 15 May 2023).

“‘I Put My Fear for You above My Fear of You’: The Role of Emotions in Ibn al-Jawzī’s Political Thought.” Harvard University, Association for Global Political Thought (delivered online, 11 March 2022).

“Alexander the Great in Malay Islamic Kingship.” Arizona State University, Center for Asian Research (delivered online, 18 February 2021).

“Politics and Rulership in Islam: Key Concepts and Vocabulary.” Wesleyan University, College of Social Studies and Middle East Student Union (21 February 2019).

“Negotiating History, Law, and Politics: Juristic Prudence in Ibn al-Jawzī’s Treatment of Rebellion.” Columbia University, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (6 March 2018).

**CONFERENCES, COLLOQUIA, AND WORKSHOPS****Conferences Organized**

“Constructing Ideologies, Communicating Identities.” Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations. Istanbul, Turkey (6 May 2017).

**Panels Organized**

“Emotions in the Medieval Islamic Intellectual Tradition.” 59<sup>th</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC (to be held, 22–25 November 2025).

“Rulers and Scholars in the Premodern Islamic World.” 56<sup>th</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO (1–4 December 2022).

“The Language of Power: Articulating Kingship in the Medieval Islamic World.” 49<sup>th</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO (21–24 November 2015).

## Papers Presented

“Managing Royal Anger in Medieval Muslim Mirrors for Princes.” 59<sup>th</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC (to be presented 22–25 November 2025).

“Ibn ‘Aqīl’s Ḥanbalī-Mu‘tazilī Approach to Sinful Rulers.” 235<sup>th</sup> American Oriental Society Annual Meeting. Boston, MA (9–12 April 2025).

“The Affective Performance of Piety in Medieval Muslim Hortatory Preaching.” American Academy of Religion-Western Region 2025 Annual Conference. Tempe, AZ (14–16 March 2025).

“‘I Put My Fear for You above My Fear of You’: The Role of Emotions in Muslim Advice Literature for Rulers.” Institute for Advanced Study School of Historical Studies Lunchtime Colloquia. Princeton, NJ (25 November 2024).

“Mediating *Siyāsa* and *Sharī‘a*: Ibn al-Jawzī’s Reassessment of Ruler-Scholar Relations.” Institute for Advanced Study Near Eastern and Islamic Studies Seminar. Princeton, NJ (6 November 2024).

“‘I Put My Fear for You above My Fear of You’: Ibn al-Jawzī and the Role of Emotions in Islamic Political Thought.” The North American Chapter on the History of Emotion 2024 Conference. Vancouver, BC, Canada (7–8 June 2024).

“Alexander the Great’s Ascetic Leanings in Medieval Muslim Mirrors for Princes.” 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. South Bend, IN (14–16 March 2024).

“Redeeming the Political Sphere: Ibn al-Jawzī’s Reassessment of Ruler-Scholar Relations.” Islamic Trust Studies International Conference. Tokyo, Japan (1–3 March 2024).

“Al-Māwardī’s Commentaries on the Anthropomorphic Qur’ānic Verses.” 57<sup>th</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Montréal, QC, Canada (2–5 November 2023).

“‘The Caliphate Will Last Thirty Years’: Political Debates over a Prophetic Hadith.” 119<sup>th</sup> American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA (31 August–3 September 2023).

“‘The Caliphate Will Last for Thirty Years’: Mamluk-Era Political Discourses on a Prophetic Hadith.” 233<sup>rd</sup> American Oriental Society Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA (10–14 March 2023).

“Legitimizing Politics: Ibn al-Jawzī’s Reassessment of Ruler-Scholar Relations.” 56<sup>th</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO (1–4 December 2022).

“‘The Caliphate Will Last for Thirty Years’: Political and Historical Debates in the Afterlife of a Prophetic Hadith.” 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies. Theme: “Lives of Hadith.” Online (20 October 2022).

“Preaching Justice and Piety: Ibn al-Jawzī and the Emotive Turn in Medieval Islamic Political Thought.” Inaugural Conference of the Society for the Study of Medieval Emotions. St. Andrews, United Kingdom (31 May–1 June 2022).

“Sidestepping Controversy: A Reassessment of al-Māwardī’s Mu‘tazilī Leanings in His Qur’ānic Exegesis.” 2021 Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX (20–23 November 2021).

“Converting Tyranny to Justice: The Role of Preachers in Ibn al-Jawzī’s Political Thought.” 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Symposium of the International Medieval Sermon Studies Society. Online (16–20 July 2021).

“Preaching across Sectarian Divides: Ibn al-Jawzī’s Sermon on ‘Ashura.” 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual International Conference on Equality, Religious Harmony and Peace. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (18–19 November 2020).

“Encoding Ritual and Power: The *Proskynesis* in Abbasid, Fatimid, and Byzantine Books of Ceremonies.” 55<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI (canceled due to COVID-19).

“History as Political Thought: The Saqīfa Meeting and the Sunni Theory of the Caliphate.” 52<sup>nd</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Antonio, TX (15–18 November 2018).

“Caliph Yazīd ibn Mu‘āwiya’s Attack on Mecca and Medina in Islamic Historical Memory.” Pillaging Sacred Spaces: Diachronic and Cross-Cultural Perspectives. Cologne, Germany (3–4 May 2018).

“Alexander the Great in the Articulation of Malay Islamic Kingship.” Space and Speech: Discursive Environments Across Non-Arab Islam. Nashville, TN (7–9 September 2017).

“The Adamic Inheritance: Genealogical Legitimation in the Works of Abū Ḥafṣ ‘Umar al-Suhrawardī.” Constructing Ideologies, Communicating Identities. Istanbul, Turkey (6 May 2017).

“Ibn al-Jawzī and the Cursing of Yazīd b. Mu‘āwiya: A Debate on Rebellion and Rightful Leadership.” 227<sup>th</sup> American Oriental Society Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA (17–20 March 2017).

“Revelational Politics: Justifying the Necessity of the Caliphate in Medieval Sunni Theological Writings.” The Origins of the Islamic State: Sovereignty and Power in the Middle Ages. London, United Kingdom (16–17 February 2017).

“The Cursing of Yazīd and Ḥanbalī Political Thought.” 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference. Chicago, IL (6–7 May 2016).

“The Thirty-Year Caliphate: Revisiting Legitimate Authority in Medieval Islam.” 49<sup>th</sup> Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO (21–24 November 2015).

“The Caliphate of Adam: Theological Politics of the Qur’ānic Term *Khalīfa*.” Recent Trends in Qur’anic Studies International Conference. Yogyakarta, Indonesia (4–7 August 2015).

“Articulating Caliphal Legitimacy in Ibn al-Jawzī’s *al-Miṣbāḥ al-muḍī’ fī khilāfat al-Mustaḍī’*.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Saint Louis, MO (16–18 June 2014).

### **Discussant**

“Knowledge—Pasts and Futures.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Science, Religion, and Culture Symposium. Cambridge, MA (10–11 May 2016).

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS**

### **Invited Lectures**

“The Qur’an: Language, Message, and History.” Phoenix Burton Barr Central Library (8 August 2023).

“Envisioning a Learned Polity: Ibn al-Jawzī’s Reassessment of Scholar-Ruler Relations.” Malaysia Design Archive (30 November 2019).

### **Panel Discussions**

“Mahdis and Chosen Ones in Islamic History.” “Desert Power”: Religion and History in Dune, Arizona State University (19 March 2024).

Introduced high-school students to the key beliefs and practices of Islam in the “Philosophy of Religion” panel organized by Congregation Beth Israel (23 March 2023).

## Media Appearances

Interview with KJZZ (public radio station in Phoenix, Arizona) for “Collections” series discussing three medieval Qur’an leaves held in Phoenix’s Burton Barr Central Library (published 8 September 2023).

## ADVISING

Ph.D. (Religious Studies) Dissertation and Comprehensive Examinations Committee Member, Azis Fahcrodin, 2023–Present

M.A. (Religious Studies) Thesis Primary Advisor, Ikhda Rahmatina, 2024–Present

M.A. (Religious Studies) Thesis Committee Member, Skyler Bean, “How Saudi Political Orthodoxy Was Redefined: Challenges and Expansions of Al Saud’s Authority during and after the 1991 Gulf War, 1990–1992,” 2022–2023

B.A. Senior Honors Thesis Primary Advisor, Ahmad Khatib, “The Religious Foundations of the Islamic State,” 2023–2024

## SERVICE

### Service to the Field

Book Review Co-Editor, *al-‘Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā: The Journal of the Middle East Medievalists*, 2024–Present  
Advisory Council Member, Association for Global Political Thought, 2021–Present

### Service to the University

Associate Head of Undergraduate Studies, Religious Studies, Arizona State University, 2025–Present  
Committee Member, Religious Studies Committee for Undergraduate Education, Arizona State University, 2022–2024

Executive Committee Member, Center for Asian Research, Arizona State University, 2022–2024

Committee Member, A. T. Steele Faculty Award Selection Committee, Arizona State University, 2023

Committee Member, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Selection Committee (Asian Languages), Arizona State University, 2022

Search Committee Member, Jain Studies Postdoctoral Fellow Search, Arizona State University, 2022

Coordinator, Religious Studies Forum, Arizona State University, 2021–2022

## LANGUAGES

English (native proficiency)

Arabic (advanced classical and modern)

Persian (advanced classical and modern)

Malay (native proficiency)

Turkish (elementary)

Mandarin Chinese (native proficiency)

Hokkien Chinese Dialect (native proficiency)

Cantonese Chinese Dialect (native proficiency)

French (advanced)

German (reading proficiency)

## MEMBERSHIPS

Middle East Studies Association

Middle East Medievalists

American Society for Premodern Asia