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Department of Theology and Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARMARA, Istanbul, Turkey

Ph.D. in Islamic Theology, Institute of Social Sciences, 1991

Dissertation: *The Antichrist (al-Dajjal) in Islamic Theology*

Examines the concept of *al-Dajjal* in the main sources of Islam, in particular the Qur'an, the Hadith, and their exegeses. Includes specific analysis of Judeo-Christian influence.

Advisor: Dr. Bekir Topaloglu (Professor of Islamic Theology at The University of Marmara's Divinity School and the editor of *The Encyclopedia of Islam*, Turkish)

M. A. in Islamic Theology and Philosophy, 1985

Thesis: *Creating (al-Takwin), as an Attribute of God According to Abu al-Mu'īn al-Nasafī* (d. 1114 CE).

Examines the debate on the attributes of God between the two major schools of Islamic thought—the Maturidite and the Ḥasharite.

B. A. in Islamic Theology and Islamic Law, 1983

Exit Thesis: *The Aesthetic Argument of Kalam on the Existence of God.*

AWARDS

McGregor Award to develop a course on Islam and Environment, 2013

2012 CrossCurrents Research Colloquium Fellowship; awarded for my proposal for a "The Spiritual Dimension of Islam in the Workings of the Gülen Movement." 2012

Grael Fellowship, awarded for fall 2007.

Distinguished Scholarship Award from Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Summer 2007

Niagara Foundation Grant for Faculty Development in Turkey, Summer 2005

Templeton Foundation Grant for Consulting in Islamic Medical Ethics, Rockville, MD, 1997

Honors Fellow of the University of Fatih, Istanbul, Turkey, 1994-1995

Graduate Student Fund Travel Grant (to Mainz, Germany), 1987

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Islam's Jesus and the Muslim Theology of the Afterlife, (University of Florida, 2014)

Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Special Issue on Bediüzzaman Said Nursi, vol. 19, no. 1, January 2008. (guest editor)

Islam in Contemporary Turkey: The Contributions of Fethullah Gülen, Special Issue of *The Muslim World Journal*, vol. 95, no. 3, July 2005. (guest editor)

Fundamentals of Rumi's Thought: A Mevlevi Sufi Perspective (Sefik Can), New Jersey, The Light, 2004; second edition, 2005. (editor and translator)

Critical Edition of al-Sarakhsi's (d.1100 CE) Sifat Ashrat al-Sa'a (Islamic Eschatology). (Cairo: Dar al-Kalima al-Tayyiba, 1993) (Arabic).

Al-Dajjal in Islamic Creed (Istanbul: Yeni Asya, 1992) (Turkish).

Encyclopedia of the Companions of the Prophet (vols. I-II), (Istanbul: Yeni Asya, 1989) (Turkish). Co-authored with Mehmet Paksu, et. al.

The People of Suffa (Ashab al-Suffa), (Istanbul: Yeni Asya, 1988) (Turkish).

Co-authored eight pocket-sized books for the *Divinity Series*, Yeni Asya (New Asia), 1983-1987.

BOOK CHAPTERS (Since 2000):

"Islam: An Insider's Perspective," in *World Religions in Dialogue*. ed. Pim Valkenberg, (Anselm Academic, 2014).

"Muslims' Perception of Fethullah Gulen and the Hizmet Movement: Accommodating or Hindering Modern Turkey," in *Alternative Islamic Discourses and Religious Authority*, ed. Carool Kersten, (Ashgate, 2014).

"Dialogue between Muslims and Christians: Qur'anic Guidance, Historical Precedence, and Contemporary Prospects in the United States," in *Can Muslims and Christian Resolve Their Religious and Social Conflicts?: Cases from Africa and the United States*. eds. Brian E. Stiltner and Marinus C. Iwuchukwu, (Lewiston, Queenston, and Lampeter: Edwin Mellen, 2013): 243-263.

"Nursi on Theodicy and the Problem of Evil," in *God, Man and Mortality*, (forthcoming).

"Muslim Reflection," in *Interfaith Just Peacemaking: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives on the New Paradigm of Peace and War*, ed. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012): 43-49.

"Fethullah Gülen and His Theology of Social Responsibility," in *Mastering Knowledge in Modern Times: Fethullah Gülen As an Islamic Scholar*, ed. Ismail Albayrak, (New York: Blue Dome, 2011): 85-96.

"Reconciliation: An Islamic Theological Approach," in *Reconciliation in Interfaith Perspective: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Voices*, eds. Reimund Bieringer and David J. Bolton, (Leuven: Peeters, 2011): 75-92.

"Fethullah Gulen's Theology of Peace Building," in *Islam and Peace Building: Gulen Movement Initiatives*, eds. John Esposito and Ihsan Yilmaz, (New York: Blue Dome, 2010): 169-87.

“Said Nursi’s Paradigm of Islamic Non-violence,” in *Crescent and Dove: Peace and Conflict Resolution in Islam*, ed. Quamar-UI Huda. (United States Institute of Peace: Washington D.C., 2010): 95-106.

“How Commentators of the Qur’an Define “Common Word,” in *A Common Word and the Future of Christian-Muslim Relations*, ed. John Borelli with a foreword by John L. Esposito, (ACMCU Occasional Papers, June 2009): 34-45.

“Bediüzzaman Said Nursi,” in *The Islamic World*, ed. Andrew Rippin, (London and New York: Routledge, 2008): 396-402.

“Fethullah Gülen: A Sufi in his Own Way,” in *Turkish Islam and the Secular State: the Gülen Movement*, eds. M. Hakan Yavuz and John L. Esposito, (University of Syracuse Press, 2003): 156-169.

ARTICLES (Since 2000):

“The Qur’anic Perspective on Immigrants: Prophet Muhammad’s Migration and Its Implications in Our Modern Society” *Journal of Scriptural Reasoning* 10.1 (2011).
<http://etext.virginia.edu/journals/ssr/issues/volume10/number1/index.html>.

“Revisiting Islamic Eschatology: The Knowledge of ‘The Hour’ and Its Imminence in the Qur’an” *Arc: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies* McGill University, 39 (2011): 67-78.

“The Nature and Dignity of the Human Person From an Islamic Theological Perspective” *Chicago Studies*, 50.1 (Spring 2011): 27-38.

“Impressions from the Gülen Conference in Los Angeles.” *Today’s Zaman*, (December 12, 2009).

“Local Muslim Professor Among Faith Leaders to Meet Pope,” *Cleveland.com* (July 27, 2008).

“Impressions Upon Meeting the Pope,” *Today’s Zaman* (May 30, 2008) (also published in Turkish as “Papa’nin ABD Ziyaretinden İzlenimler”).

Editorial, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 19.1 (2008): 3-4.

“Said Nursi on Muslim-Christian Relations Leading to World Peace” *Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations*, 9 (January 2008): 25-38.

“Islam and Politics in the Light of Said Nursi’s Writings” *Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations*, 9 (January 2008): 113-127.

“Gülen and his Global Contribution to Peace Building” (op-ed) *Today’s Zaman* (October 31, 2007).

“Bediüzzaman’ı Düşünürken (Thinking of Bediüzzaman Said Nursi)” in *Üstad Bediüzzaman Asrın Ruh ve Beyin Mimari (Bediüzzaman: The Spirit of the Century)*. Istanbul, Nil: 2007: 24-27.

“Hz. Peygamber’in Merhamiti (The Mercy of the Prophet)” in *Gönüllerin Gülü Efendimiz, Sallallâhu*

Aleyhi Ve Sellem (The Prophet Muhammad, Blessings and Peace Be upon him). Istanbul, Nil: 2007: 55-58.

“An Islamic Approach to Peace and Nonviolence,” reprinted in *The Houston Catholic Worker*, July-August, 2006.

“Muslims, Cartoons and the Freedom of Expression,” *Zaman* (March 2006).

“Love: The Reason for the Creation of the Universe,” *Fountain* 49 (2005): 27-29.

“The Creation of Evil is not Evil: Nursi’s Theological Approach to the Existence of Evil,” *Fountain* 50 (2005) 26-28.

“Fethullah Gulen and the ‘People of the Book’: A Voice from Turkey for Interfaith Dialogue,” *The Muslim World* 95 (July 2005). (Co-authored with Sidney Griffith)

“An Islamic Approach to Peace and Nonviolence: A Turkish Experience,” *The Muslim World* 95 (July 2005).

“Pope worked to improve Catholic-Muslim relations,” *The Plain Dealer* (April 9, 2005).

“The Legend of *al-Dajjal* (Antichrist): The Personification of Evil in the Islamic Tradition,” *The Muslim World* 93 (April 2003): 291-307.

“An Islamic Approach to Nature: A Book to be Contemplated,” *The Fountain* (October-December, 2002): 32-35.

“The Mahdi Tradition in Islam: A Social-Cognitive Approach” *Islamic Studies* 41 (2002): 651-674.

“Said Nursi’s Teachings on the People of the Book: a Case Study of Islamic Social Policy in the Early Twentieth Century,” *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 11 (2000): 321-332.

“The Eschatological Descent of Jesus: Muslim Views,” *The Fountain* (January-March, 2000): 10-19.

ENCYCLOPEDIA and BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRIES (Since 2000)

“Mary in Islam.” *Bibliographies* in “Islamic Studies.” Ed. Andrew Rippin. New York: Oxford University Press, expected 2015.

“Abu Bakr al-Siddiq.” *Bibliographies* in “Islamic Studies.” Ed. Andrew Rippin. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

"Said Nursi." *Oxford Bibliographies* in “Islamic Studies.” Ed. Andrew Rippin. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

<http://oxfordbibliographiesonline.com/view/document/obo-9780195390155/obo-9780195390155-0147.xml>

“Allah,” *The Qur’an: An Encyclopedia*, Taylor & Francis (2005): 33-41.

“Eschatology,” *The Qur’an: An Encyclopedia*, Taylor & Francis (2005): 194-199.

“Rod,” *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* 5, Brill (2005): 508-509.

“Sand,” *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* 5, Brill (2005): 530-531.

“Fethullah Gulen,” *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* 1, Continuum Press (2005): 729-30.

“The Qur’an” *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* 2, Continuum Press (2005): 1321-25.