

W. SASSON CHAHANOVICH (chahanovich@fas.harvard.edu)

EDUCATION

- **Harvard University** (2013 – Current) – AM (2015); General Exams (May 2016, With Distinction); Ph.D. Program (Current G-6, ABD)
- **Boğaziçi University** (2018 – 2019) – Visiting Researcher, History Department (Prof. Edhem Eldem, sponsor); (2017 – 2018) – Visiting graduate student w/ FLAS Fellowship
- **Freie Universität/Berlin-Brandenburg Akademie der Wissenschaften** (2011 – 12) – DAAD Research Scholar
- **University of Saint Andrews** (2010 – 11) – Master of Letters (MLitt), Middle Eastern History
- **Georgetown University** (2005 – 08) – Bachelor of Arts (BA), Arabic Language and Literature

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Dumbarton Oaks – William R. Tyler Fellowship**: Scholarship for archival research 2018-2020
- **American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT)**: Scholarship for archival research 2018
- **Foreign Language Acquisition Scholarship (FLAS)**: Scholarship for Turkish language study (Boğaziçi University, İstanbul) 2017-2018.
- **Harvard Center for Jewish Studies – Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund**: Scholarship for summers 2015/2016/2017 research in Israel (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa); Winter research 2019.
- **FLAS**: Scholarship for summer (Haifa University, Israel) and academic year (Harvard) Hebrew language study at the advanced level, 2015-2016
- **Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD)**: Scholarship for research/study in Arabic at the Freie Universität Berlin, 2011-2012.
- **Ernest L. Ransome III Trust**: Scholarship for graduate study at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 2010-2011.
- **U.S. Fulbright Scholar – :** Scholarship for research on Omani folklore, 2009-2010; project resulted in publication of translation of folktale collection that is still used for Arabic instruction at the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center (Washington, D.C.)
- **Center for Advanced Study of Arabic Scholarship (CASA)**: 2009 (Declined award due to conflict with the Fulbright Scholarship)
- **National Security Education Program-David L. Boren Scholarship**: Scholarship for intensive Arabic language study, American University of Cairo, 2007-2008.
- **U.S. Department of State-Critical Language Scholarship**: Yemen 2006/Oman 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Articles – Journal

- “Kissing at the Ka’bah: Ġazal Poetry and Early Arabo-Islamic Conceptualizations of the Sacred and the Sensual.” (Forthcoming 2020, *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*)
- “Orientalism and Sexual Identity in the Works of Abdellah Taïa.” *Middle East Institute (MEI) Viewpoints: The State of the Arts in the Middle East (SAME) IV* (March, 2010): 110-12.
- “Metro: The Graphic Novel in Egypt.” *Civil Society and Democratization in the Arab World* 22.181 (2010).
- “Civil Society and Literature: The *Shabab* Literary Movement.” *Civil Society and Democratization in the Arab World* 21.180 (2009): 5-6.

- “Mostafa Fathi's *The World of Boys: The Shabab Literature Movement of Egypt and Breaking Taboos.*” *MEI Viewpoints: SAME III* (2009): 90-92.

Reviews

- Lawson, Todd. *Quran: Epic and Apocalypse*. London: Oneworld, 2017. in *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 21.2 (2019): 149-154.
- *Les origines du Coran, le Coran des origines: Actes du colloque organisé par l'Académie des inscriptions et Belles-Lettres les 3 et 4 mars 2011*. François DEROCHE, Christian Julien ROBIN, and Michel ZINK (eds.) Paris: Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, 2016. in *Review of Qur'anic Research* 2.6 (2016).
- Sobieroj, Florian. *Die Responsensammlung Abū l-Qāsim al-Qušairī's über das Sufitum. Kritische Edition der 'Uyūn al-ağwiba fī funūn al-as'ila. Vorgelegt und mit einer Einleitung versehen*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 2012. in *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung* 4/5 (2015): 345-348.

Translations

Arabic – English (Books/Short literature)

- al-Dhahab, Kadija bint Alawi. *My Grandmother's Stories: Folktale's from Dhofar*. Published with the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center at the Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C., June 2012.
- Fathi, Mostafa. *The World of Boys*. Cairo, Egypt: Shahab Books, 2010.

German – English

- Neuwirth, Angelika. “The Challenge of Biblical Passion Narratives: Negotiating, Moderating, and Reconstructing Abraham's Sacrifice in the Qur'ān.” *Narratology, Hermeneutics and Midrash: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Narratives from Late Antiquity through to Modern Times*. Eds. Constanza Cordoni and Gerhard Langer. Goettingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Unipress, 2014: 251-64.
- -----, “From Tribal Genealogy to Divine Covenant: Qur'anic Re-Figurations of Pagan Arab Ideals Based on Biblical Models.” *Scripture, Poetry, and the Making of a Community: Reading the Qur'ān as a Literary Text*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2014. 53-75.
- -----, “A Discovery of Evil in the Qur'an? Revisiting Qur'anic Versions of the Decalogue in the Context of Pagan-Arab Late Antiquity.” *ibid.* 253-276.

CONFERENCES PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

- “Gog and Magog in the Early Modern Ottoman World: Propaganda, Art, and the Eschatological Imagination.” *Politics – History – Eschatology: Function, Inter(con)textual, Structural, and Comparative Approaches to Gog and Magog*, Freidrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany. 23-25 Sept. 2019
- “Islamic ‘Magic’ in Archives and Museums: A Comparative Analysis on the History and Politics of Magical Objects and Texts in Turkey, Egypt, and the UK.” *Living in a Magic World: Inner Lives, 1300-1900*, Oxford University, St. Anne's College, UK. 18 Sept. 2018.
- “Magic Squares in Ottoman Eschatological Texts: The Commentaries of Pseudo-Ibn al-‘Arabī's *The Tree of Nu'mān* and *The Cry of the Owl*– A Case Study in Occult Prophecy and the Symbolism of the Square.” *Unity and Disunity in Mathematical Magic Squares across Cultures and Languages*,

European Society for the History of Science & British Society for the History of Science, University College of London, UK. 16 Sept. 2018.

- “‘Hidden’ Connections – Shared Esotericism(s) between Ottoman Apocalypticism and Sabbatean Messianism in the Early Modern Eastern Mediterranean.” *Common and Comparative Esotericism: Western, Islamic, and Jewish*, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice. 13 June 2018.
- “Kissing at the Ka‘bah: Ġazal Poetry and Early Arabo-Islamic Conceptualizations of the Sacred and the Sensual.” *Les mots du désir* (colloque international). L’Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris. 6 May 2016.
- “Somewhere in Between: Adi Keissar’s Poetry of Alienation and Arabo-Jewish Identity in Modern Hebrew Literature.” Beyond Bondaries: MESAAS Graduate Conference. Columbia University, NY. 25 Feb. 2016.
- “The Qur’ān: From Oral Revelation to Book.” Freshmen Seminar 32c – The Christian Bible Then and Now: Formations and Debates. Sever Hall, Harvard University. 21 Oct. 2015. Seminar Lecture (Personal invitation from Prof. Dr. Laura Nasrallah, Harvard Divinity School).
- “*Sūrat aš-Šams*, or: An Example of Prophetic Rap?” Near Eastern Civilizations 97r – Sophomore Group Tutorial. Semitic Museum, Harvard University. 03 Nov. 2014. Seminar Lecture (Personal invitation from Prof. Dr. James Russell, NELC – Harvard University).
- “Taboo and Translating Modern Egyptian Short Stories.” The First International Conference on Written Arabic and Writing Arabic. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. 19 June 2012.

LANGUAGES

- Classical Arabic – Advanced reading, writing
- Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Standard Arabic – Near Native speaking, reading, writing
- Ottoman Turkish (15th-16th centuries) – Advanced reading
- Modern Turkish – Advanced speaking, reading, writing
- Hebrew – Advanced speaking, reading, writing
- German – Near native speaking, reading, writing
- Italian – Advanced speaking, reading
- French – Advanced reading