**Zeki Saritoprak, PH.D.**

Department of Theology and Religious Studies

John Carroll University

zsaritoprak@jcu.edu | 216-397-4935 | University Heights, Ohio

# EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in Islamic Theology,** The University of Marmara, Institute of Social Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey, 1991. Dissertation: *İslâm İnancı Açısından Deccal (The Antichrist from an Islamic Theological Perspective)*

**M.A in Islamic Theology and Philosophy,** The University of Marmara, Faculty of Divinity, Istanbul, Turkey, 1985. Thesis: *Ebu'l-Mu’in En-Nesefi'ye Göre Tekvin Sıfatı (Creating (al-Takwin) as an Attribute of God According to Abu al-Mu’in al-Nasafi)*

**B.A in Islamic Theology and Islamic Law,** The University of Marmara, Faculty of Divinity, Istanbul, Turkey, 1983. Exit Thesis: *The Aesthetic Argument of Kalam on the Existence of God*

# TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**John Carroll University,** Cleveland, OH

*Professor of Islamic Studies* 2014 – Present

*Bediüzzaman Said Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies* 2003 – Present

*Associate Professor of Islamic Studies* 2007 – 2014

*Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies* 2003 – 2007

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies* 2002 – 2003

**Berry College,** Mount Berry, GA 2001 – 2002

*Visiting Assistant Professor*

**The Rumi Forum for Interfaith Dialogue,** Washington, D.C. 1999 – 2001

*Founder and President*

**Georgetown University,** Washington, D.C. 1999 – 2001

*Research Associate/Fellow*, The Center for Muslim - Christian Understanding

**The Catholic University of America,** Washington, D.C. 1996 – 1999

*Scholar-in-Residence*, Department of Semitic and Egyptian Languages

**The University of Harran,** Sanliurfa, Turkey 1992 – 1996

*Assistant Professor of Islamic Theology*, Faculty of Divinity

# COURSES TAUGHT

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Introduction to Theology and Religious Studies
 | * Islamic Spirituality
 |
| * Introduction to Islam
 | * Islam and Terrorism
 |
| * Islam in America
 | * Biblical Elements in the Qur’an
 |
| * Islam and the Environment
 | * World Religions
* Classical and Contemporary Islamic Movements
 |

# LANGUAGES

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Turkish (Modern and Ottoman): Fluent/Native
* Arabic (Modern and Classical): Fluent
* English: Advanced Proficiency
 | * Kurdish: Fluent/Native
* Persian: Research Competency/Basic
* Syriac: Research Competency/Basic
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# HONORS AND AWARDS

* Grauel Fellowship for my book project on Islamic Eschatology, (postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19)
* Shared Scholar on Sanibel-Captiva, 2016
* Grauel Fellowship for my book project on Islamic spirituality, 2015
* McGregor Award to develop a course on Islam and Environment, 2013
* Crosscurrents Research Colloquium Fellowship, 2012
* Meeting with Pope Benedict XVI among 25 Muslims scholars in Washington D.C., April 17, 2008
* Meeting with Pope Francis in Vatican on the occasion of Scholas Occurrentes meeting, May 26-27, 2016
* McGregor Award to develop a course on Islam and Environment, 2013
* Crosscurrents Research Colloquium Fellowship; awarded for my proposal on “The Spiritual Dimension of Islam in the Workings of the Gülen Movement,” 2012
* Grauel Fellowship awarded for research project, 2007

# PUBLICATIONS

**Books**

* *Islamic Spirituality: Theology and Practice for the Modern World* (New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017)
* *Islam’s Jesus* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014)
* *Critical Edition of al-Sarakhsi’s (d.1100 CE) Sifat Ashrat al-Sa’a (The Description of the Portents of the Hour).* (Cairo: Dar al-Kalimah al-Tayyibah, 1993) (Arabic).
* *İslâm ve Diğer Dinlere Göre Deccal (Al-Dajjal in According to Islam and other Religions)* (Istanbul: Yeni Asya, 1992) (Turkish).
* *Sahabîler Ansiklopedisi (Encyclopedia of the Companions of the Prophet)* (vols. I-II), (Istanbul: Nesil Yayinlari, 1989) (Turkish). [Co-authored]

**Book Chapters**

* “Peace, Nonviolence, and Islam” *Things that Make for Peace: Traversing Text and Tradition in Christianity and Islam* (New York: Lexington Books, 2020): 1-13.
* “Dignity: An Islamic Perspective” *in Value and Vulnerability: An Interfaith Dialogue on Human Dignity.* Matthew Petrusek and Jonathan Rothschild, eds. (Notre Dame, Indiana: Notre Dame University Press, 2020): 227-251.
* “Mary in Islam,” *in The Oxford Handbook of Mary*, Chris Maunder, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019): 93-103.
* “Afterword” in Michael Louis Fitzgerald, *Praise the Name of the Lord: Meditations on the Names of God in the Qur'an and the Bible* (Liturgical Press, 2017): 138-46.
* “The Story of Qarun (Korah) in the Qur’an and Its Importance for Our Times” in *Poverty and Wealth in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, Nathan Kollar and Muhammad Shafiq, eds. (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016): 23-30.
* “Migration, Feeling of Belonging to a Land, and the Universality of Islam,” in *Islam and Citizenship Education*, Ednan Aslan and Marcia Hermansen, eds. (Vienna: Springer VS, 2015): 45-54.
* “The Role of Religion in the Gulen Movement,” in *Hizmet Means Service: Perspectives on an Alternative Path Within Islam,* Martin E. Marty, ed. (Berkley: University of California Press, 2015): 57-73.
* “Islam,” in *World Religions in Dialogue*, co-author Rita George-Tvrtkovic, Pim Valkenberg ed. (Winona, MN: Anselm Academic, 2014): 79-132.
* “Muslims’ Perception of Fethullah Gulen and the Hizmet Movement: Accommodating or Hindering Modern Turkey,” in *Alternative Islamic Discourses and Religious Authority*, Carool Kersten and Susanne Olsson, eds. (London: Ashgate, 2014): 15-30.
* “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*. Brian E. Stiltner and Marinus C. Iwuchukwu, eds. (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen, 2013): 243-263.
* “Nursi on Theodicy and the Problem of Evil,” in *God, Man and Mortality: The Perspective of Bediüzzaman Said Nursi*, Hasan Horkuc and Colin Turner, eds. (Clifton, NJ: Tughra Books: 2013): 133-143.
* “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*, Reimund Bieringer and David J. Bolton, eds. (Leuven: Peeters, 2011): 75-92.
* “Fethullah Gulen’s Theology of Peace Building,” in *Islam and Peace Building: Gulen Movement Initiatives*, John Esposito and Ihsan Yilmaz, eds. (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*, Qamar-ul Huda, ed. (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*, John Borelli, ed. with a foreword by John L. Esposito, (ACMCU Occasional Papers, June 2009): 34-45.
* “Bediüzzaman Said Nursi,” in *The Islamic World*, Andrew Rippin, ed. (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*, M. Hakan Yavuz and John L. Esposito, eds. (University of Syracuse Press, 2003): 156-169.
* “The Mahdi Question According to Bediüzzaman Said Nursi,” in *Third International Symposium on Bediüzzaman Said Nursi* (1995): 483-497.

**Edited Books and Journals**

* Special Issue on Bediüzzaman Said Nursi, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, vol. 19, no. 1, January 2008.
* *Islam in Contemporary Turkey: The Contributions of Fethullah Gülen*, Special Issue of *The Muslim World* Journal, vol. 95, no. 3, July 2005.
* *Fundamentals of Rumi’s Thought: A Mevlevi Sufi Perspective* (Sefik Can), (New Jersey: The Light, 2004); second edition, 2005.

**Selected Articles**

* “Political Islamism and the Teachings of the Qur'an” Politurco.com (April 2018)
* “A Theological Examination of the Hadith, ‘War is Deception’” Politurco.com (Aug 2018) “An Islamic Approach to Migration and Refugees” *Cross Currents* 67, 3 (Sept 2017): 522-532.
* “The Place of Moses in the Qurʼan and Its Significance for a Jewish-Muslim Dialogue.” PaRDeS: *Journal of the Association of Jewish Studies* 22 (November 2016): 17-29.
* “Bediüzzaman’i Anlamak” [“Understanding Bediüzzaman”]. *Zaman* 9 April 2014.
* “Clash of Two Islams in Turkey.” Cleveland.com. 10 March 2014.
* “The Qur’anic Perspective on Immigrants: Prophet Muhammad’s Migration and Its Implications in Our Modern Society” *Journal of Scriptural Reasoning* 10.1 (2011). Link:<https://jsr.shanti.virginia.edu/back-issues/vol-10-no-1-august-2011-people-and-places/the-quranic-perspective-on-immigrants/>
* “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 Izlenimler”).
* 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’i Düsünürken” (“Thinking of Bediüzzaman Said Nursi”) in *Üstad Bediüzzaman Asrin Ruh ve Beyin Mimari (Bediüzzaman: The Centennial Architect of Spirit and Brain)*, (Istanbul, Nil: 2007): 24-27.
* “Hz. Peygamber’in Merhameti” (“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,” *The Fountain* 49 (2005): 27-29.
* “The Creation of Evil is not Evil: Nursi’s Theological Approach to the Existence of Evil,” *The 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.
* “A Critical Approach to the Science of Kalam (Dialectic Islamic Theology),” *The University of Harran Quarterly* (July 1997): 60- 71. (Turkish)
* “Esmâ-i Hüsnâ ve Yaratıcıyı Kavrama Meselesi (The Beautiful Names and the Question of Understanding the Creator),” *Kopru* (1995): 80-92. (Turkish)
* “On the Methodology of Prophet Abraham’s Proofs in His Arguments for the Oneness of God” *Yeni Harran Cevresi* (New Harran Environment) (1995): 3-10. (Turkish)
* “The Question of the Mahdi According to the Sunni Creed,” *Yeni Dergi* (1995): 62-74. (Turkish)
* “Islam in Germany,” *al-Azhar Journal* (1992): 712-718. (Arabic)

**Encyclopedia and Bibliography Entries**

* “Mary in Islam.” In *Oxford Bibliographies* New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.
* “Abu Bakr al-Siddiq.” In *Oxford Bibliographies* New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.
* "Said Nursi." In *Oxford Bibliographies* New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
* “Allah,” *The Qur’an: An Encyclopedia*, Taylor & Francis (2005): 33-41.
* “Eschatology,” *The Qur’an: An Encyclopedia*, Taylor & Francis (2005): 194199.
* “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.
* “Deccal,” (The Antichrist) *Islam Ansiklopedisi* 9 (1994): 67-72. (Turkish)
* “Dabbe,” (The Eschatological Beast) *Islam Ansiklopedisi* 8 (1993): 393-395. (Turkish)

# SELECTED TALKS AND LECTURES

# Frequently invited to talk and lecture at universities, religious and civic organizations, libraries and other similar institutions on various topics in Islamic studies including; Jesus in Islam, Islamic spirituality, Islamic theology, Islamic Mysticism, Islam and Nature, Interfaith Dialogue, Islam in America, etc. Below are some selected examples.

**Cal State University-Long Beach,**  Long Beach, CA

**Presenter**: “The Hizmet Movement and Political Islam: Clash or Cooperation?” at The Hizmet Movement: Responses to Contemporary Challenges conference, Feb 16, 2023.

Fordham University, New York

**Panelist**: “Welcoming the Stranger in Judaism, Christianity & Islam” at Welcoming the Stranger.

Abrahamic Hospitality and Contemporary Implications, Nov 14, 2022.

**The Holy Spirit Catholic Church,** Las Vegas, NV

**Presenter**: “Jesus and Mary in Islam,” December 7, 2019.

**Georgetown university,** Washington, D.C.

**Presenter**: “Treating Strangers in Islam,” in a panel entitled: “Welcoming the Stranger: Abrahamic Hospitality and Its Contemporary Implications,” October 28, 2019.

**Lakewood public library,** Lakewood, OH

**Lecture** **and Book Signing**: “Jesus in Islam,” November 1, 2018.

**mandel Jewish community center,** Beachwood, OH

**Presenter**: “The Wisdom of Ramadan,” May 28, 2018.

**Charles Stuart university,** Sydney, Australia

**Keynote Presentation**: “Peace, Nonviolence, and Islam” at “Things that Make for Peace: Peace and Sacred Texts,” March 9, 2018.

**the society of biblical literature convention,** Boston, MA

**Presenter**: “The Descent of Jesus in the Islam” at a session on “Jesus's Descent,” November 18, 2017.

**National Muslim-Catholic Dialogue,** Chicago, IL

**Presenter**: “An Islamic Theological Approach to the Essence and Attributes of God,” March 8-9, 2017.

**The Catholic University of America**, Washington, D.C.

**Presenter**: “Theological Perspectives on the Death of Jesus in Light of Q 3:55” at “Jesus in the Qur’ān: A Muslim-Christian Symposium” in the perspective of comparative theology, November 14-16, 2016.

**John Carroll University,** University Heights, OH

**Presenter**: “Spiritual Jihad as a Model to be Followed by Muslims: Reading Nursi’s Last Message” at “Spiritual Jihad: A Path for the 21st Century,” November 14, 2015.

**Ned University Engineering and Technology,** Karachi, Pakistan

**Lecture**: *“*Rumi, Muhammad Iqbal & Syed Ahmed Khan,” March 3, 2016.

**Katholieke Universiteit Leuven,** Leuven, Belgium

**Presenter**: “Fethullah Gülen, Mujahada in Islam and Countering Violent Extremism” ata conference entitled: “Countering Violent Extremism: Mujahada and Muslims’ Responsibility,” March 16, 2016.

**Nazareth College**, Rochester, NY

**Presenter**: “Nature Loves: The Living World in Islamic Theology” at a conference entitled: “Sacred Texts and Human Contexts: Nature and Environment in World Religions,” May 25, 2016.

**The Claremont School of Theology,** Claremont, CA

**Presenter**: “Extremism and the Roots of Sunni/Shia Conflict” at a conference entitled: “Sectarian Peace/Conflict in Religions: The Middle East & The Globe,” April 18, 2015.

**fatih university**, Istanbul, Turkey

**Paper presentation**: “The Story of Korah (Karun)” at the Sacred Texts and Human Contexts Symposium: “Poverty and Wealth in the Sacred Texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam,” June 9, 2014.

**Australian Catholic University,** Melbourne, Australia

**Keynote Address**: “The Qur’anic Foundations of Dialogue” as part of the International Theological Conference on Interfaith Dialogue: “Paths to Dialogue in our Age,” May 26, 2014.

**Siegal College**, Beachwood, OH

**Presenter**: “The Meaning of Being Human in the Universe” as part of the Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University titled: “Mankind’s Search for Meaning,” March 7, 2014.

**City Club of Cleveland**, Cleveland, OH

**Lecture**:“What Catholics Should Know About Islam” to the First Friday Club of Cleveland, March 6, 2014.

**Purdue University***,* West Lafayette, IN

**Panelist**: Panel member of a roundtable symposium on “The Culture of War,” February 6, 2014.

**Tirana University**, Tirana, Albania

**Paper presentation**: “Migration, feelings of belonging to the land and the Universality of Islam” at the Conference on Islamic Education in South East Europe: “Citizenship Education and Islam,” November 1, 2013.

**Chautauqua Institute**,Chautauqua, NY

**Lecture**: “Religion in Turkey” as part of a series called “Turkey: Crossroads of Many Faiths,” August 16, 2013.

**Nazareth College**, Rochester, NY

**Paper Presentation**: “Revisiting the Qur’an’s Chapter 49:13” on a panel titled: “Thematic Readings: Nation, Person, and Nature” at the Sacred Texts and Human Contexts Symposium, June 23-25, 2013.

**John Carroll University**, University Heights, OH

**Organizer and Speaker**: Organized the “Freedom of Expression and Respect for the Sacred” conference and presented a paper at the conference entitled: “Sacredness from an Islamic Theological Perspective,” April 13, 2013.

**University of Pittsburgh**, Pittsburgh, PA

**Lecture**: “Prophet Muhammad and the Universality of His Message,” February 11, 2013.

**Andover Newton Theological School**, Boston, MA

**Keynote Address**: “How Does Inner Peace Result in Outer Peace?” at the 2nd National Baptist-Muslim Dialogue, November 30 - December 2, 2012.

**Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies**, Baltimore, MD

**Participant**: Abraham’s Children Academic Consultation, October 21-23, 2012.

**John Carroll University**, University Heights, OH

**Discussant**: Faith and Food program, October 17, 2012.

**John Carroll University**, University Heights, OH

**Invocator**: Fall Faculty Meeting, October 10, 2012.

**Catholic Theological Union**, Chicago, IL

**Moderator**: for a discussion session entitled: “Living Our Faiths Together: The Experience of God in Modern Culture” at the Muslim-Catholic National Plenary, October 3-5, 2012.

**the Islamic Center of Akron,** Stow, OH

**Lecture**: “The Qur’an and Violence,” organized by St. Peter Community Church in cooperation with the Islamic Center, April 25, 2012.

**the Cleveland Council on World Affairs,** Independence, OH

**Lecture:** “Islam and Politics in Turkey,” April 23, 2012.

**St. Paschal Baylon Catholic Church**, Highland Heights, OH

**Lecture**: “Islam and Friendship,” April 9, 2012.

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

**Lecture:** with Peter Kreeft of Boston College: “Between Muhammad and Jesus: a dialogue with Peter Kreeft and Zeki Saritoprak,” March 8, 2012. Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdTQNh5CQOM>

**Western Illinois University**, Macomb, IL

**Lecture**: “Rumi: A Paragon of Love,” March 7, 2012.

**Siegal College,** Beachwood, OH

**Lecture**: “Islamic approach to the environment” for a class named “Exploration of the Abrahamic Faiths in Relationship to the Environmental Crisis,” February 28, 2012.

**Federated Church**, Chagrin Falls, OH

**Lecture**: “Abraham in the Qur’an,” January 22, 2012.

**Ohio Dominican University**, Columbus, OH

**Lecture**: “Islamic Perspective on the Importance of Education,” January 19, 2012.

**St. Alban Episcopal Church,** Cleveland Heights, OH

**Lecture**: “Common Themes of the Qur’an and the Bible,” January 8, 2012.

**John Carroll University**, University Heights, OH

**Conference:**“Challenges to Contemporary Islam: The Muslim World 100 Years After Nursi’s Damascus Sermon”

**Organizer and Panelist**: “Is the Human Person innately Good? Nursi’s Theology of Human Nature,” October 23-25, 2011.

**Catholic Theological Union,** Chicago, IL

**Participant**: The Midwest Muslim Catholic Dialogue, October 9-10, 2011.

**Case Western Reserve University**, Cleveland, OH

**Discussant**: Together with scholars from CWRU and from Siegal College on the film “My So-Called Enemy,” August 28, 2011.

**University of Western Sidney**, Sidney, Australia

**Conference**: “Enrichment of a Socially Inclusive Society: Challenges and Solutions”

**Keynote Speaker**: “An Islamic Ethical approach to Hospitality in a Pluralistic Society,” July 12, 2011.

**Isabel Menton Theatre**, Sidney, Australia

**Conference**: “Abraham for the Twenty-First Century”

**Respondent and Lecturer**: Served as a Muslim respondent to the keynote speech given by Dr. Daniel A. Madigan S.J., July 10, 2011.

**State University of New York in Buffalo**, Buffalo, NY

**Lecture**: “Islam and Sufism,” April 19, 2011.

**Niagara University**, Niagara University, NY

**Lecture**: “Islam and Jesus,” April 19, 2011.

**Mayfield United Methodist Church**, Chesterland, OH.

**Lecture**: Gave a lecture series on the Qur’an entitled: “The Qur’an: Fact vs. Fiction.” The event was featured by a local newspaper called “Chesterland News,” February 13, 27 and March 6, 2011.

**University Heights Public Library**, University Heights, OH

**Lecture**: Spoke about and responded to the book *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line between Christianity and Islam*, December 2, 2010.

**A Pub in Wooster, OH**

**Lecture**: “Islamic Theology” as part of a lecture series called “Theology on Tap,” November 17, 2010.

**Ashland University**, Ashland, OH

**Lecture**: “Islam, faith and practice” part of the “Newman Club” lecture series, November 8, 2010.

**Chicago Theological Seminary**, Chicago, IL

**Conference**: “Catholics and Muslims in the Public Square” organized by the Mid-west Muslim-Catholic Dialogue.

**Respondent**: Responded to a paper entitled: “Islam, Muslims and current Global Contexts: What US Catholics need to know” by Dr. Scott Alexander, October 25-26, 2010.

**Duquesne University**, Pittsburg, PA

**Symposium**: “The state of Muslim-Christian dialogue in Africa: What Africa interlocutors can learn from ongoing Muslim-Christian dialogue in the USA.”

**Keynote Speaker**: “The state of Muslim-Christian dialogue in the US: Promises and Obstacles,” October 22, 2010.

**St. Noel Church**, Willoughby Hills, OH

**Lecture**: “Islam and Violence: What the Qur’an teaches,” September 22, 2010

**International Association of the History of Religion’s Annual Conference,** Toronto, Canada

**Panelist**: “Muslims’ Perception of the Gülen Movement: Accommodating or Hindering to Modern Turkey.”

**Panel title:** “Alternative Islamic Discourses and Religious Authority,” August 17-21, 2010.

**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church,** Cleveland Heights, OH

**Participant**: at an event called “Divine Taste” and gave a brief talk on “Islam and dietary rules,” July 27, 2010.

**East Shore Unitarian Universalist** **Church**, Kirtland, OH

**Lecture**: “Rumi and Love,” July 18, 2010.

**Old South Church**, Kirtland, OH

**Lecture:** “Islam, Faith and Practice.” The event was featured in the News-Herald Newspaper under the title: “Faith Features,” February 10, 2010.

**Midwest Muslim-Catholic Dialogue Conference,** Milwaukee, WI

**Panelist**: “The Nature and Dignity of the Human Person,” October 25-27, 2009.

**The College of Wooster**, Wooster, OH

**Lecture**: “Nonviolence in Islam: Theory and Practice.” Given on the occasion of the 41st Annual Fall Academy of Religion, within a project called “Religion in a Perilous World: A Resource for Change,” October 7, 2009.

**Catholic Theological Studies Association annual meeting**, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Convener and Panelist**: “The Muslim Understanding of *Tawhid:* Why Muslims Reject the Doctrine of Trinity,” June 6, 2009.

**Scioto Educational Foundation**, Dublin OH

**Lecture**: at a conference titled: “Compassion in the Abrahamic Religions,” April 22, 2009.

**john Carroll university**, University Heights, OH

**Lecture**: “Islamic Eschatological Imagination: Jesus, Mahdi, Dajjall” as part of the Office of the Academic Vice President’s 2008-2009 scholarly lunch series, February 10, 2009.

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Madison, WI

**Lecture:** “Jesus in the Qur’an,” December 5, 2008.

**American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting,** Chicago, IL

**Panelist**: “The Treatise of the Miracles of the Qur’an: An Unconventional Partial Tafsir?” November 1-3, 2008.

**Convocation of the Priests of the Diocese of Cleveland,** Cleveland, OH

**Lecture**: “Political, Social and Spiritual Aspects of Islam today,” October 23, 2008.

**Duquesne University,** Pittsburgh, PA

**Lecture**: “Islamic Mysticism: A Quest for the Unseen,” September 22, 2008.

**the consortium for educational resources on Islamic studies**, Pittsburgh, PA

**Lecture**: “Debating Conflict and Peace in Islamic Theology,” September 21, 2008.

**Cuyahoga County Educational Service Center Professional Development Center**, Cleveland, OH

**Lecture**: “Islam in Turkey: A Legacy of Tolerance” presented as a part of the Teacher Professional Development Workshop “Exploring Turkey, Its Peoples, and Their Cultures,” April 29, 2008.

**University of Texas**, Austin, TX

**Panelist**: “Revisiting Rumi: Analyzing his Archetype of Love” at a conference called “Essentials of Rumi’s Thought,” April 26, 2008.

**Oklahoma City University**, Oklahoma City, OK

**Panelist**: “Polluting Pristine Religion: A Theological Discussion on Islam and Terrorism” at “Denouncing Violence in the Name of God: The Case of Islam,” April 5, 2008.

**Georgetown University**, Washington, D.C.

**Panelist**: “A Common Word: How Commentators of the Qur’an Define It” at The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding’s conference “The Future of Christian-Muslim Relations: Where do we go from here?” March 14, 2008.

**East shore Unitarian Universalist Church**, Eastlake, OH

**Invited lecture**: “Islam: Faith and Practice,” February 17, 2008.

**The College of Wooster**, Wooster, OH

**Invited lecture**: “Islam and the Environment: A Book to be Contemplated” at the 42nd Wooster Spring Academy of Religion titled: “The Spirituality of Environmental Activism,” February 14, 2008.

**University of California, Berkeley**

**Invited lecture:** “Rumi and the Concept of Love” presented as part of the panel “Rumi: A Voice for our Times,” November 2, 2007.

**Moravian Theological Seminary,** Bethlehem, PA

**Panelist**: “Moses in the Qur’an and Muslim Tradition” at “Moses in the Bible and Qur’an: An Interfaith Conversation,” October 11, 2007.

**Monash university**, Melbourne, Australia

**Lecture**: “Rumi on Love,” 29 July 2007

**Panelist**:“Celebrating Rumi and Mystics of the East and West,” July 29, 2007.

**Intercultural forum for studies in Faith and Culture**, Washington, D.C.

**Lecture**: “Islamic Concept of Forgiveness and Repentance” presented in a conference on “Repentance and Forgiveness in the Catholic and Muslim traditions,” May 16, 2007.

**The Tuesday Study Club**,Cleveland, OH

**Lecture**: “The Five Principles of Islam,” May 15, 2007.

**the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven**,Leuven, Belgium

**Panelist**: “Reconciliation: An Islamic Theological Approach” at a conference called “Reconciliation in Interfaith Perspective,” March 26-27, 2007.

**Oberlin College**, Oberlin, OH

**Lecture**: “Islamic Spirituality and its Relevance for our time,” March 8, 2007.

**Siegal College**, Beechwood, OH

**Lecture**:“Islam—Faith and Practice,” February 23, 2007.

**United Methodist Church**, Willoughby, OH

**Lecture**: “Jihad in Islam,” February 4, 2007.

**Pope John Paul II Cultural Center**, Washington, D.C.

**Panelist**: “Fitrah: an Islamic Approach to Human Nature” at “The Primordial Relationship between God and the Human Person in Catholicism and Islam,” January 16, 2007.

**American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting**, Washington, D.C.

**Panelist**:“The Concept of Hijrah and the Practice of the Prophet,” November 23, 2006.

**John Carroll University**, University Heights, OH

**Panelist**: “Bediuzzaman Said Nursi on Muslim-Christian Relations” at “Islam in Contemporary Turkey: Perspectives of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi,” November 6, 2006.

**Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church**, Cincinnati, OH

**Lecture:** “Ramadan and Spirituality,” October 17, 2006.

**The College of Wooster**, Wooster, OH

**Panelist:** “The Story of Abraham: Perspectives from Islam” at the 38th Annual Lay Academy of Religion: “Genesis: Beginning again at the Beginning,” October 11, 2006.

**The Ohio State University,** Columbus, OH

**Lecture**: “Jesus in Islam,” 2 May 2006.

**St. Peter United Church of Christ,** Seven Hills, OH

**Lecture:** “Islam and its five pillars,” 28 April 2006.

**Cleveland Conference of Religions,** Cleveland, OH

**Lecture**: “Images in Islam,” April 23, 2006.

**Cleveland State University**, Cleveland, OH

**Lecture**: “The Prophet as Presented in the Qur’an,” April 18, 2006.

**Lutheran School of Theology**, Chicago, IL

**Respondent** **for panel**: “What Our Sacred Texts Say about Others: Reading with Sensitivity,” March 19, 2006.

**Cleveland Clinic**, Cleveland, OH

**Lecture**: “The particular needs of Muslim patients for health care professionals,” March 14, 2006.

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY

**Lecture:** “Rumi: A Paragon of Love,” March 8, 2006.

**Marquette University**, Milwaukee, WI

**Lecture:** “Islamic Mysticism” for the Department of Theology, March 6, 2006.

**American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting**, Philadelphia, PA

**Respondent**: “Sectarian Identities and Diverting Interpretations of Islam,” November 19-22, 2005.

**Witherspoon Institute at Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ

**Presenter**: Islamic Approach on “Marriage: The Political Landscape and the Situation in the Faith Communities,” November 3-5, 2005.

**University of North Carolina-Asheville**, Asheville, NC

**Chair and** **Respondent**:at conference entitled: “Teaching Islam for Undergraduate Curriculum,” June 2-4, 2005.

**Monash University**, Melbourne, Australia

**Keynote Address**: “The Legacy of Abraham in Islam: Beyond Dialogue to Co-operation and Social Action” at the International Inter-Religion Abraham Conference, May 28-29, 2005.

**Monash University**, Melbourne, Australia

**Presenter:** “Smiling at the Face of Calamities: The Power of Faith” at a panel on Religion and Healing the Mind through Prayer and Meditation---Mental Disorder, Grief and Depression at the International Inter-Religion Abraham Conference, May 28-29, 2005.

**Church of the Covenant**, Cleveland, OH

**Lecture: “**Islamic perspective of the crucifixion and ascension of Jesus,” March 20, 2005.

**Ursuline College**, Pepper Pike, OH

**Lecture**: “Islam: Faith or Practice,” November 30, 2004.

**Purdue University**, West Lafayette, IN

**Lecture**: “Islamic Understanding of Fasting,” October 15, 2004.

**Istanbul Cultural and Science Foundation**, Istanbul, Turkey

**Presenter:** “An Islamic Approach to Nonviolence: The Case of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi,” at an international conference “Bringing Faith, Meaning and Peace to Life in a Multicultural World: The *Risale-I Nur*’s Approach,” October 3-4, 2004.

**Severance Hall**, Cleveland, OH

**Introductory Address:** at performance of the “Whirling Dervishes of Rumi,” September 24, 2004.

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY

**Public Lecture**: “Jesus and Muslim-Christian Relations,” March 11, 2004.

**The Cleveland Ecumenical Institute For Religious Studies,** Cleveland, OH

**Lecture Series**: “Jesus and Mary in Islam” six lectures, February-March 2004.

**University of Michigan,** Ann Arbor, MI

**Public Lecture**: “Islamic Mysticism,” January 19, 2004.

**Saint Martin’s Episcopal Church,** Chagrin Falls, OH

**Two Lectures**: “Pillars and Articles of Faith in Islam,” January 2004.

**Indiana University,** Bloomington, IN

**Lecture**: “Muslims and Jesus,” December 2003.

**Cleveland State University,** Cleveland, OH

**Public Lecture**: “Ramadan and Spirituality,” November 2003.

**MESA Annual Conference**, Washington, D.C.

**Presenter**: “Comparing and Contrasting Two *Mathnawis* on Love: The *Mathnawi* of Nursi and the *Mathnawi* of Rumi,” November 25, 2002.

**Association of Muslim Social Scientists (Amss),** Washington D.C.

**Conference**: “The Muslim World after September 11: Agenda for Change”

**Presiding**: “Islamic Vision for the Next Millennium,” October 26, 2002.

**University of Texas at Austin, Department of Sociology at al.,** Austin, TX

**Conference**: “Preventing another September 11th”

**Panelist**: “The Era of Colonization and its Effects on Muslims’ Mind,” September 8, 2002.

**Oglethorpe University,** Atlanta, GA

**Conference**: “September 11 and the Future of American Liberty”

**Discussant**:“Radical Islam and the Terrorist Threat: What is it and What are its Causes?” March 6, 2002.

**Berry College,** Rome, GA

Roundtable Discussion on September 11th Attacks

**Panelist:** “Islam, Peace and Middle East issues” Department of Religion and Philosophy; Department of History and Government, September 20, 2001.

**Georgetown University,** Washington, D.C.

**Presenter**: “Towards a New Paradigm in Islamic Theology” the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and the Association of Muslim Social Scientists, October 2000

**Presenter**: “God, Law, and Ethics in Islam” in A Jewish-Muslim Dialogue, Georgetown University Campus Ministry, Diversity Working Group, April 2000

**Lecturer**: “The Nur Movement of Turkey and Political Islam: A Comparative Discussion” Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, March 1999.

**University of Houston**, Houston, TX.

**Presenter**:“The People of the Book in the Qur’an: Islamic Social Policy in the Early Twentieth Century,” Millennium Islamic Foundation, December 2000.

**Davies Memorial Universalist Church**, Prince George’s County, MD

**Lecturer**: “An Islamic Approach towards Knowledge and Sciences: The Stories of the Prophets in the Qur’an and their Applications” (see *Washington Post* June 29th, 2000, pg.M12).

# INTERVIEWS

**The Christian Century**, Chicago, IL

* Interviewed by Amy Frykholm of the *Christian Century*. The interview was published under the title “Who is Jesus for Muslims” in *Christian Century*, June 17, 2017.

**NPR**, Washington, D.C.

* Interviewed by Tom Gelten of NPR for a story on Fethullah Gulen, July 18, 2016.
* Interviewed by Tom Gelten of NPR for the about learning the Qur’an, April 30, 2015.

**The Catholic Register**, Toronto, Canada

* Interviewed by Michael Swan, “Jesus is a point where Christians, Muslims can meet” *The Catholic Register*, October 4, 2014.

**Michael Birkel**, Earlham College in Richmond, IN

* Interviewed by Professor Birkel for a book project about how the Qur’an is understood by Muslim leaders in North America. The interview was conducted via email in August and September 2012.

**Catholic News Service**, Washington, D.C.

* Interviewed by Dennis Sadowski for article, “Catholics, Muslims Begin to Value How Much They Share Across Faiths,” February 5, 2009.

**David C Barnet, WVIZ**, Cleveland, OH

* Interviewed for a story “Northeast Ohio Muslims Seek to Overturn Stereotypes,” September 4, 2009. <http://www.ideastream.org/news/feature/27695>

**Thomas Michel**, Georgetown University

* Interviewed for his *America* article entitled “An Unusual Partnership: Islamic Scholars at Jesuit Universities,” September 15, 2008.

**The Plain Dealer**, Cleveland, OH

* Interviewed by Robert Smith, “Public Scrutiny is Underway for New Imam,” September 29, 2007.
* Interviewed by Frank Bentayou, “Give and Take: What others owe those in need is crucial question after Katrina,” September 3, 2005.
* Interviewed by David Briggs, “Pope affected other faiths,” April 5, 2005
* Interviewed by David Briggs, “The Healing Balm of a Poet’s Words,” October 15, 2004.
* Interviewed about the Whirling Dervishes, “Spiritual Spinners,” September 21, 2004.

**ABC Radio**, Melbourne, Australia

* Interviewed by Rachel Cohen during the “Spirit Things” program about 13th century Muslim mystic Mawlana Jalal al-din Rum, July 26, 2007.
* Interviewed by Margaret Coffey during the “Encounter” program about Fethullah Gülen, October 7, 2007. Link: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/encounter/fethullah-gulen/3224814#transcript>

**The Carroll News**, University Heights, OH

* Interviewed by Maria Roberts for article, “Doctor Jailed for Revealing Ultrasound,” April 6, 2006.
* Interviewed on women’s rights in Saudi Arabia, September 2011.

**The Muslim World**, Hartford, CT

* Interviewed Fethullah Gulen, “An Interview with Fethullah Gulen,” Vol. 95, July 2005, pp. 447-67.

**Radio Australia**, Melbourne, Australia

* Interviewed about dialogue and Islam, May 30, 2005.

**The San Francisco Chronicle**, San Francisco, CA

* Interviewed by Jonathan Curiel on Sufism in Islam, November 2, 2004.

**Al-Sahafa: An Arab-American newspaper**, Cleveland, OH

* Interview by Mark Hopkins, “In Rumi’s Words,” November 2004.

**WCLV TV**, Cleveland, OH

* Interviewed about Rumi and the Whirling Dervishes, September 13, 2004.

**The Voice of America**, Washington, D.C.

* Interviewed on Rumi and Sufism and contemporary followers of Rumi’s legacy, April 14, 2004.
* Interviewed on “Modern Islamic Movements and the Kurdish Problem in Turkey,” February 1999.

**Rome News Tribune**, Rome, GA

* Interviewed, “Turkish Professor: Standing united will confound terrorists*,*”September 16, 2001.