

Ali Altaf Mian—*Curriculum Vitae*  
Theology and Religious Studies Department  
Seattle University 901 12<sup>th</sup> Ave Seattle, WA 98122  
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**Research Interests:** Islam in South Asia; gender and sexuality in the study of religion; Muslim legal ethics and theology; medieval Jewish and Islamic philosophy; and continental philosophy of religion.

### **Faculty Appointment**

Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies. Department of Theology and Religious Studies. Seattle University, Seattle, WA, USA. September 2015-present.

### **Education**

Ph.D. Religion. Duke University. May 2015. Dissertation Title: “Surviving Modernity: Ashraf ‘Alī Thānvī (1863-1943) and the Making of Muslim Orthodoxy in Colonial India.” Dissertation Committee: Ebrahim Moosa (Chair), Carl Ernst, Laura Lieber, Leela Prasad, and Robyn Wiegman.

M.A. Religion. Duke University. December 2008.

M.A. English. University of Louisville. May 2007.

B.A. Philosophy. University of Louisville. May 2005.

### **Certificates**

Certificate in Feminist Studies. Duke University. May 2015.

Certificate in Teaching in Religion. Duke University. May 2015.

### **Teaching Experience**

- “Religion and Colonialism: South Asia as Case Study.” Seattle University: Spring 2017
- “Introduction to Islam.” Seattle University: Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Winter 2017  
Duke University: Fall 2014; Summer 2014
- “Gender and Sexuality in Islam.” Seattle University: Winter 2016; Winter 2017
- “Introduction to the Qur’an.”  
Seattle University: Fall 2015; Winter 2016; Spring 2017
- “Comparative Mysticism: Christian Spirituality and Sufism.” Seattle University: Summer 2016; Summer 2017
- “Mystical Literature.” Duke University: Summer 2015
- “First-Year College Composition.”  
University of Louisville: Fall 2006; Spring 2007

### **Publications**

#### Monographs

*Muslims in South Asia*. Contracted with Edinburgh University Press, as a part of their series titled, “The New Edinburgh Islamic Surveys” (series editor: Carole

Hillenbrand). Contract Date: 30 October 2015. Expected Publication: 2020

*Surviving Modernity: Ashraf 'Ali Thanvi and the Genres of the Islamic Tradition in Colonial India.* Manuscript in Preparation.

#### Edited Volumes

*The Bruce Lawrence Reader: Islam beyond Borders.* Contracted with Duke University Press. Contract Date: 2 November 2015. Expected Publication: 2018

#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Theorizing Gender and Sexuality in Islamic Studies.”(forthcoming)

“Troubling Technology: The Deobandi Debate on the Loudspeaker and Ritual Prayer.” *Islamic Law and Society* 24.4 (2017): 355-383.

“Mental Disability in Medieval Hanafi Legalism.” *Islamic Studies* 51.3 (Indexed 2012; Actual 2014): 247-262.

“Muslim Political Philosophy and the Affective Turn: Farabi on Language, Affect, and Reason.” *Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies* 4.1 (2011): 47-70.

“Invoking Islamic Rights in British India: Mawlana Ashraf 'Ali Thanawi's *Huquq al-Islam*.” (co-authored with Nancy Nyquist Potter) *Muslim World* 99 (April 2009): 312-334.

#### Book Chapters

“The Quran (Koran)” (co-authored with Terri DeYoung). In *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to World Literature*, edited by Ken Seignurie (forthcoming).

“Love in Islamic Philosophy.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Love in Philosophy*, edited by Adrienne Martin. London and New York: Routledge, 2018: 395-408.

“Legal Religion: Ethical Norms and Demands of Justice.” In *Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Religion*, edited by Jeffrey Kripal. Macmillan, 2016.

“The Concept of Sunna in Early and Medieval Hanafi Legalism.” In *The Concept of Sunna and its Status in Islamic Law*, edited by Adis Duderija. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

“Hakim al-Umma Mawlana Ashraf Ali Thanawi.” In *The Path to Perfection: An Edited Anthology of the Spiritual Teachings of Hakim al-Umma Mawlana Ashraf Ali Thanawi*. Ed. Masihullah Khan. Santa Barbara: White Thread Press, 2005. 135-149.

#### Encyclopedia Entries

“Historiography.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Politics*. Emad El-Din Shahin, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

“Islam.” (co-authored with Ebrahim Moosa). In *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics, Second Edition*. Ruth Chadwick, ed. San Diego: Academic Press, 2012: 2:769–776.

#### Public Scholarship

“An Androcentric Discipline? The Gender Troubles of Qur’anic Exegesis.”  
*Marginalia: The Los Angeles Review of Books*. 10 September 2016.  
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/androcentric-discipline-gender-troubles-quranic-exegesis-ali-altaf-mian/>

“Fighting Transphobia: Analyzing the Pakistani Fatwa on Transgender Marriage.”  
*Contending Modernities: A Blog about Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World*. 06 August 2016.  
<https://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/08/08/fighting-transphobia-analyzing-the-pakistani-fatwa-on-transgender-marriage/>

### Book Reviews

- Stefania Pandolfo, *Knot of the Soul: Madness, Psychoanalysis, Islam*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. Review Essay forthcoming in *qui parle: Critical Humanities and Social Sciences*.
- Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *Islam in Pakistan: A History*. Princeton University Press, 2018. In *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*. 2018.
- Amy Hollywood, *Acute Melancholia and Other Essays: Mysticism, History, and the Study of Religion*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016. In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 85.2 (2017): 564-567.
- Seema Alavi, *Muslim Cosmopolitanism in the Age of Empire*. Harvard University Press, 2015. In *Canadian Journal of History* 52.2 (2017): 400-402.
- The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Theology*, ed. Sabine Schmidtke. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. In *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*. 26 September 2016.
- David S. Powers, *Zayd*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014. In *Religious Studies Review* 42.3 (2016): 217-218.
- Joseph A. Massad, *Islam in Liberalism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015. In *Sociology of Islam* 4.3 (2016): 1-7.
- Burjor Avari, *Islamic Civilization in South Asia: A History of Muslim Power and Presence in the Indian Subcontinent*. London and New York: Routledge, 2013. In *Sociology of Islam* 2.1 (2014): 91-93.
- The Qur’an: An Encyclopedia*. Ed. Oliver Leaman. Abingdon (Oxon.) and New York: Routledge, 2008. In *Journal of Shi’a Islamic Studies* 4.3 (2011): 349-350.

### **Research Experience**

- Program Coordinator. Mellon Grant for Globalization of Medicine and Science in Asia: Sciences Studies and/as Area Studies. Duke University. 2013-2014.
- Research Assistant. Professor Ara Wilson. Duke University. Spring 2013.
- Research Assistant. The Program in the Study of Sexualities at Duke University. Summer 2010; Summer 2011; Summer 2012.
- Research Assistant. Professor Ebrahim Moosa. Duke University. 2009-2010.
- Research Assistant. “Anti-Terror Lessons of American Muslim Communities,” a joint Duke-UNC project sponsored by the National Institute of Justice. 2007-2009.

## Invited Talks

- “Sufi Shrines in Modern South Asia.” University of Washington. 6 March 2019.
- “Marketing Muslims: Islam in the Bazaars of Modern South Asia.” St. Anthony’s College, Oxford. 13 November 2018.
- “Reciting the Self: The Place of Poetry in Muslim South Asia.” Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. 29 October 2018.
- “Beyond Minority/Majority: Theorizing Islam in South Asia.” Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies. University of Exeter. 10 October 2018.
- “The Idea of ‘the World’ (*al-dunya*) in Ashraf ‘Ali Thanvi’s Sermons.” Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin. 18 July 2018.
- “Genres of Desire: The Erotic in Deobandi Islam.” Zentrum für Interreligiöse Studien. Universität Bamberg. 11 July 2018.
- “Rethinking (Hyper)Masculinity.” Wellspring Counseling Services. Seattle, WA. 12 October 2017.
- Panelist on “Decolonizing Sexuality in South Asia.” The South Asia Center at the University of Washington. 10 October 2017 (as a part of the annual Tasveer Film Festival).
- “Defending Hanafi Legalism in Modern South Asia: Zafar Ahmad ‘Usmani’s *I’la al-sunan*.” Usul al-Fiqh: Text-Based Workshop on Islamic Legal Theories in the Late Post-Classical Period. University of California-Berkeley. 29 September-1 October 2017.
- “Locales of Discipline: ‘Abd al-Majid Daryabadi’s *Hakim-ul-ummat* and the Sufi Lodge in Thana Bhawan.” Locality, Genre, and Muslim Belonging in South Asia Workshop. Wake Forest University 15-16 September 2017.
- “Muslims in South Asia.” Duke University. John Hope Franklin Center for the Humanities. 13 September 2017.
- “The Politics of Islamic Mysticism.” Epiphany of Seattle. Sunday 14 May 2017.
- “Spectral Queerness in Muslim South Asia.” Friday 5 May 2017. University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA.
- “Gandhi or Fanon? The Question of Violence in Anti-Colonial Thought.” The Last Lecture for the Naef Scholarship Program at Seattle University. Thursday 20 April 2017.
- “Documenting Lahore’s *Khwajasaras*: Subject Formation, Embodiment, and Politics.” Columbia University. 14 April 2017. Invited by the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life.”
- “Religion and Sexuality: Theorizing Queerness in South Asian Muslim Orthodoxy.” Columbia University. 23 January 2017. Invited by the Department of Religion.
- Panelist on “Welcoming in God’s Name: Religious Responses to the Refugee

Crisis.” Monday 29 February 2016. Campus Ministry. Seattle University.  
 Panelist on “America’s Response to Da’ish (ISIS).” Broadway Performance Hall.  
 Seattle Central College. Thursday 21 January 2016.  
 Panelist on “Immigrant Crisis: People of Faith Speak Out.” Monday 16 November  
 2015. Campus Ministry. Seattle University.  
 “Displaced Ornaments: The Feminine Between Immanence and Transcendence.”  
 Women’s Studies Grad Scholars Colloquium. Duke University. 26 January 2015.  
 “Simone de Beauvoir, Biopolitics, and the Nonsovereign Autonomous Subject.” Simone  
 de Beauvoir Today Symposium. Duke University. 23 September 2011.

### **Class Guest Lectures and Presentations**

“Sport and Islam” in Professor Patrick Kelly SJ’s Course titled, “Religion and Sport in a  
 Global Context.” Tuesday 31 May 2016. Seattle University.  
 “Methods in Islamic Studies” in Professor Donna Teevan’s Course titled, “Methods in  
 Theology and Religious Studies.” Monday 7 March 2016. Seattle University.  
 “Apocalyptic Themes in Islam” in Course titled, “Global Apocalypse!” Wednesday 24  
 February 2016. Seattle University.  
 “Scripture in Islam” in Professor Beatrice Lawrence’s Course titled, “Sacred Texts.”  
 Monday 8 February 2016. Seattle University.  
 “The French Ban on the Veil” in Professor Stephen Chan’s Course titled, “Christian-  
 Muslim Dialogue.” Monday 1 February 2016. Seattle University.  
 “Islamic Perspectives on Biomedical Ethics” in Professor Michael Jaycox’s Course titled,  
 “Biomedical Ethics.” Thursday 21 January 2016. Seattle University.  
 “Mercy and Justice in the Qur’an” in the October Meeting of Interreligious Dialogue  
 Initiative (IDI). Tuesday 20 October 2015. Seattle University.

### **Conference Presentations**

“Embodying the Sunnah: Deobandi Hadith Commentaries.” Panel on “Arabic in South  
 Asia.” 25th European Conference on South Asian Studies. École des Hautes  
 Études en Sciences Sociales. Paris, France. 24-27 July 2018.  
 “The Concept of Taqlid: A Philosophical Inquiry.” Annual Meeting of the American  
 Academy of Religion. Boston, MA. 18-22 November 2017.  
 “The Proselytization of Certainty in Modern Islam: Faith and Action in Tablighi  
 Theology.” The 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Deutscher Orientalistentag, “Asia, Africa and  
 Europe.” 18-22 September 2017. Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany.  
 “Genre Matters: Sameness and Difference in Sunni Traditionalism.” Global Muslim  
 Encounters: Homogenisation and Diversity across Time and Space.” University of  
 Cambridge. 9-10 December 2016.  
 “Troubling Technologies: The Regulation of Modern Media in Deobandi Orthodoxy”  
 Negotiating Technologies Workshop, organized by the Muslim South Asian  
 Research Initiative of SOAS, London. Workshop Held at Trinity College,  
 University of Cambridge, 14-15 October 2016.  
 “Governmentality Sufi Style: Muslim Appropriations of Colonial Power Logics and  
 Practices.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. Seattle, WA. 31  
 March-3 April, 2016.  
 “Revealing and Concealing Technologies: Ashraf ‘Ali Thanvi on Technological

- Modernity in British India.” Princeton South Asia Conference (Conference Theme: “Technologies and Traditions”). Princeton University. 17-18 April 2015.
- “Muslim Politics in the Virtual: Muhammad Qasim Nanautvi’s Ontology.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. Philadelphia 27-30 March 2014.
- “Naiza Khan’s Queer-Feminist Art.” Annual Meeting of the Modern Languages Association. Chicago. 9-12 January 2014.
- “Knowledge in Late Sunni Traditionalism: Genealogy of a Concept.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Baltimore, MA. 23-26 November 2013.
- “Ashraf ‘Ali Thanvi’s *Bihishti zewar* and the Paradox of Traditionalist Authority.” The Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium Graduate Student Conference on “Failure” in Islamic Reform. Princeton University. 12-13 April 2013.
- “The Speculum of a Different *Aurat*: South Asian Muslim Traditionalism Meets Irigaray.” South Asia by the Bay Graduate Conference. Stanford University. 9-11 May 2012.
- “Gender Trouble in Islamicate Texts and Contexts: Ashraf ‘Ali Thanawi on the Body, Gender, and Sexuality.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Montreal, Canada. 7-10 November 2009.
- “Between Memory and Imagination: Muhammad Iqbal’s Hermeneutics of Temporality.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Montreal, Canada. 7-10 November 2009.
- “Constant Craving for the Divine: Psychoanalytic Practices in North Indian Sufi Hospice.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Chicago, Illinois. 1-3 November 2008.
- “‘What their Hands Have Sent Forward’: Performatives of the Hand as Described in Qur’anic Exegesis and Hadith Literature.” Fifth Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference. Duke University. 5-6 April 2008.
- “‘Gender Trouble’ in Islamic Cultures: Unearthing Androcentric Assumptions in Traditional Islamic Discourse.” Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, Georgia. 7-9 March 2008.
- “The Performative of the Hand in Islam: A Derridean Reading of Muhammad on ‘Touching’.” Co-Think: A Philosophy Colloquium. Department of Philosophy, University of Louisville. 19 January, 2007.
- “Poets/Poetics of Self-Identity: Iqbal and Heidegger on the Cosmopolitanist ‘Originological’ Anxiety.” 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Muslim Social Scientists Conference. Hartford Seminary. 27-29 October 2006.
- “(De)Constructing Early American Identity: Rhetoric of the Barbary Captivity Narratives.” Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition. University of Louisville. 5-7 October 2006.
- “*Tajdid-i Tasawwuf-o Suluk*: South Asian Ulamas’ Attempts at Translating and Situating Sufism in an Orthodox Theological Framework.” Third Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference. Duke University. 14-15 April 2006.
- “Islamic Perspectives on Dissent.” Dissent: An Interdisciplinary Symposium. University of Louisville. 23-25 March 2006.
- “The Islamic Concept of the Spirit (*Ruh*), the Rational Soul (*Nafs Natiqa*), and the Lower Self (*Nafs*).” Transylvania University Philosophy Conference. Lexington, KY. May 2005.

“Islam and Early American Literature.” Kentucky Honors Roundtable Conference.  
University of Louisville. April 2005.

### **Honors and Grants**

Research Grant. “From Somalia to Seattle: Theological Reflections on the Pacific Northwest’s Muslim Refugees.” Institute of Catholic Thought and Culture. Seattle University. Academic Year 2017-18.

Summer Faculty Fellowship for “Muslims in South Asia: Embodied Spaces, Textual Traces.” Provost’s Office. Seattle University. Summer 2016.

Short-Term Research Grant for “Embodying the Sunnah: The Turn to Hadith in Modern South Asian Hanafism.” International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT). Herndon, VA, USA. 2016.

Course Development Grant for “Comparative Mysticism: Christian Spirituality and Sufism.” Academic Year 2016-2017. Institute of Catholic Thought and Culture. Seattle University.

Women’s Studies Dissertation Fellowship. Duke University. Academic Year 2014-2015.  
Bass Instructional Fellowship. Duke University. Fall 2014.

Dissertation Research Grant for International Travel. Duke University. Academic Year 2014-2015.

Arcapita Foundation Summer Research Fellowship. June-August 2014.

Arcapita Foundation Summer Research Fellowship. June-August 2013.

Kearns Summer Research Fellowship. June-August 2012.

Arcapita Foundation Summer Research Fellowship. June-August 2011.

FLAS Summer Fellowship. Studied Classical and Medieval Arabic Texts in Amman, Jordan. July-August 2011.

Arcapita Foundation Summer Research Fellowship. June-August 2010.

FLAS Summer Fellowship. Studied Classical and Medieval Arabic Texts in Amman, Jordan. July-August 2010.

FLAS Summer Fellowship. Studied Arabic in Morocco. July-August 2009.

FLAS Summer Fellowship. Studied Arabic at the University of Chicago. June-August 2007.

University of Louisville English Department Graduate Teaching Assistantship. 2005-2007.

University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s List. 2004-2005.

Office of Minority Affairs Scholarship. University of Louisville. 2001-2005.

### **Professional Service**

Colloquium Leader. Grad Scholars Colloquium Series. Women’s Studies. Duke University. Fall 2012-Spring 2014.

Organizer. ISTHMUS (Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies) Colloquium. Duke University. Spring 2011-Spring 2012.

Coordinator. Teaching and Learning Lunches. The Graduate Program in Religion. 2010-2011.

### **Language Training**

Studied advanced Arabic at the University of Chicago. Summer 2007.

Studied advanced Arabic at the Qalam wa Lahw Arabic Language Center in Rabat, Morocco. Summer 2009.

Studied classical and medieval texts (in Islamic law) at the Markaz Anwar al-'Ulama in Amman, Jordan. Summer 2010.

Studied classical and medieval texts (in Islamic theology and Islamic law) at the Markaz Anwar al-'Ulama in Amman, Jordan. Summer 2011.

### **Other Professional Training**

Participant. "Islamic Studies Junior Faculty Workshop."

International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), Herndon, VA. 25-26 May 2016.

Participant. "Queer Imaginaries." Summer Sexuality School. University of Manchester.

21-24 May 2013.

Participant. Mini-Course on "Queer Theory's Foucault," taught by Professor Robyn

Wiegman. University of Bergen, Norway. 28-30 August 2013.

### **Service to the Profession**

Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2017-present)

### **Languages**

Urdu: Native language

Punjabi: Native language

Arabic: Advanced reading, speaking, and writing

Persian: Reading knowledge

**References available upon request.**