

Mehmet Emin Güleçyüz

Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies at Loyola University Chicago

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Employment

2025–present Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago

Education

2018–2025 The University of Chicago, Divinity School
PhD in Islamic Studies, *with Distinction*
Dissertation: “Mollā Fenāri (d. 1431) and the Sufi Metaphysics of Absolute Being”

2017–2019 Freie Universität Berlin
MA Intellectual Encounters of the Islamic World
Thesis: “Shahrastānī on the Eternity and the Creation of the World”

2016–2018 Istanbul 29 Mayıs University
Master’s Degree in Islamic Studies (concentration: Kalām)
Thesis: “Ascription of Human Emotions to God (Anthropopathism) in Early Ash‘arī Kalām” (in Turkish)

2012–2016 Istanbul 29 Mayıs University
Bachelor’s Degree in Islamic and Religious Studies, *Valedictorian*
Second Major in Philosophy (diploma conferral in 2017)

2011–2012 Istanbul 29 Mayıs University
Arabic Preparatory Program, School of Foreign Languages

Previous Teaching

2020–2021 Instructor, “Introductory Quranic Arabic” (three quarters)
The University of Chicago Divinity School

2019–2020 Adjunct Instructor, “Quran as Literature” (two semesters)
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Loyola University Chicago

Spring 2019 Teaching Assistant for “Introduction to Islamic Theology”
The University of Chicago Divinity School

Research Experience

- June 2024 Research on Islamic Manuscripts at Princeton University Library, Special Collections
Through a grant by the Friends of the Princeton University Library.
- 2022–2023 Doctoral Fellow at the Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED), Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey
Research in manuscript libraries, surveying approximately 20,000 Arabic and Persian manuscripts from the 14th–15th centuries.
- 2016–2018 Full-Time Research Assistant at the Faculty of Islamic and Religious Studies, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University

Editorial Experience

- 2023–2025 Editorial Assistant at *The Journal of Religion*, published by the University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2020–2023 Associate Editor at *Nazariyat Journal for the History of Islamic Philosophy and Sciences*

Other Work Experience

- July 2023–2025 Intern and Research Assistant at the Dean’s Office, the University of Chicago Divinity School
- 2021–2022 Archives and Manuscripts Processing Assistant, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, Joseph Regenstein Library, The University of Chicago

Languages

Native in Turkish; fluent in Arabic (reading, speaking, writing—both Classical and Modern Standard—with conversational knowledge of Levantine Dialect); proficient in German (reading, speaking, writing); advanced reading knowledge of Ottoman Turkish; basic reading knowledge of Judaeo-Arabic, Persian, and French.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Academic Articles & Book Reviews

“Molla Fenârî'nin ‘*Aynü'l-A'yan*’ında Çok Katmanlı Sebeb-i Telif” [Turkish peer-reviewed article titled “Multiplex *Sabab al-ta'lif* in Mollâ Fenârî's ‘*Ayn al-A'yan*’”] in *Sebeb-i Telif: Osmanlı Literatüründe Açık ve Örtük Yazma Nedenleri*, ed. Mustakim Arıcı & Sami Arslan (Ketebe, 2024), pp. 85-123.

“Divine Will and Anthropopathism in Mu‘tazilî Theology: Abū ‘Alī and Abū Hāshim al-Jubbā‘î,” in *The Attributes of God in Islamic Thought: Contemplating Allah*, ed. Mansoorah Khalilizand, Routledge Studies in Islamic Philosophy (Routledge, 2024), pp. 216-237.

Review of *The Formation of Post-Classical Philosophy in Islam* by Frank Griffel (Oxford University Press, 2021), *The Journal of Religion*, Volume 103, Number 3, July 2023, pp. 391-393.

<<https://doi.org/10.1086/724842>>

“Osmanlı İlim Çevrelerinde İbnü'l-Arabî Tartışmalarının Bir Vechesi: İbrahim el-Halebî ve İki Münekkidi” [Turkish peer-reviewed article titled “An Aspect of Ibn al-‘Arabî Controversies in Ottoman Intellectual Milieu: İbrâhîm al-Ḥalabî and His Two Critics”], in *Dost Bağının Meyveleri: Nurettin Albayrak Hatıra Kitabı* [Festschrift for Nurettin Albayrak] (Türk Edebiyatı Vakfı, 2022), pp. 381-404.

Review of *Unsayng God: Negative Theology in Medieval Islam* by Aydogan Kars (Oxford University Press, 2019), published on *Maydan*, March 5, 2020.

<<https://themaydan.com/2020/03/book-review-unsaying-god-negative-theology-in-medieval-islam-by-aydogan-kars-reviewed-by-mehmet-emin-gulecyuz/>>

Review of *al-Taḥkîr al-Lisānî ‘inda ‘Ulamā al-‘Aqliyyāt al-Muslimin: al-‘Adud al-İjî wa-l-Sa‘d al-Taftāzānî wa-l-Sharîf al-Jurjānî Namādhij* by ‘Imād Aḥmad al-Zabin (Amman: Dār al-Nūr al-Mubîn, 2014), *İslâm Araştırmaları Dergisi / Turkish Journal of Islamic Studies*, 38 (2017): 257-262 (in Turkish). <http://isamveri.org/pdfdrq/D01712/2017_38/2017_38_GULECYUZME.pdf>]

[Forthcoming] “İdrîs-i Bidlîsî on Why and How to Avoid Infection: Theological Compatibilism and Probabilistic Approach in Public Health,” book chapter in *Religion and Health* within Brill’s series *Beiträge zur Komparativen Theologie*.

[Forthcoming] “Mollâ Fenârî’s *Handlist of Books: Analysis and Transcription*,” submitted for the Cornell H. Fleischer Festschrift, ed. Judith Pfeiffer, İ. Evrim Binbaş, Kaya Şahin, Rita Koryan, to be published by Brill.

Critical Editions

Critical edition of İdrîs-i Bidlîsî’s (d. 1520) *al-İbâ ‘an mawâqî‘ al-wabâ* (*Refraining from Epidemic-Stricken Places*), consisting of an introductory study, the *editio princeps* of the original Arabic text, and the edition of a nineteenth-century Ottoman Turkish translation. Ibn Haldun University Press, 2025.

[Under contract] Critical edition of Molla Fenârî’s (d. 1431) partial Qur’ân exegesis *‘Ayn al-a‘yan fî Tafṣîr al-Qur’ân*, to be published within the project of “Complete Works of Molla Fenârî” at the Centre for Islamic Studies (İSAM), Istanbul, Turkey.

[In progress] *Editio princeps* of ‘Alā al-Dīn al-Bihishtī’s *al-Risāla al-‘ayniyya fī al-ḥikmat al-ḥaqīqiyya*.

Conference Presentations, Talks, Workshops (selected)

Participant in the “Workshop on Teaching Islam in the Contemporary World,” Center for Islam in the Contemporary World (CICW) at Shenandoah University, Leesburg, VA, August 3–5, 2025.

“An Inquiry into the Circulation of Theoretical Sufi Literature among Ottomans: Manuscripts of *Miftāb al-Ghayb* and its Two Commentaries,” [in Turkish] Symposium on *Kuyūdāt: Reflections of Personal and Social Memory on Manuscripts*, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 16-18, 2024.

“İdrīs-i Bidlīsī’s *Refraining from Epidemic-Stricken Places*,” within panel on “Disease in the Medieval Islamic World, IV: Retrieving the Corpus of Plague Treatises,” Leeds International Medieval Congress, United Kingdom, July 4, 2023.

“A Muslim Mystic-Skeptic Reads the Guide of the Perplexed in Medieval Yemen,” Conference on Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy, the University of Illinois at Chicago, November 15-16, 2022.

“İdrīs-i Bidlīsī on Why and How to Avoid Infection: Theological Compatibilism and Probabilistic Approach in Public Health,” International Meeting on Comparative Theology, Theologische Fakultät Paderborn, Paderborn, Germany, June 16-18, 2022.

“A Model for Understanding the Multilayered *Sebeb-i Telif* through Mollā Fenārī’s *‘Ayn al-‘A‘yān*,” International Symposium on *Sebeb-i Telif: Ottoman Authors’ Explicit and Implicit Reasons for Writing*, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University, Istanbul, Turkey, June 8-10, 2022.

“Mollā Fenārī’s Theory of Interpretation: an Attempt for an Integrated Approach,” [in Turkish, virtual] paper presented for “Final Reading Seminars (Son Okuma Seminerleri)” at İSAR (İstanbul Foundation for Research and Education), June 15, 2021.

“Arabic Calligraphy: An Introduction,” Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, November 4, 2020.

“Sovereignty of Knowledge in Theory and Practice: Mollā Fenārī’s Karaman Sojourn and the Early Modern Ottoman Historiography,” MESA 2020 Annual Conference [virtual], October 8, 2020.

“Shahrastānī on Divine Agency and Creation”, Alumni Conference, MA Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, November 6-8, 2019.

“Review of *Unsayings God: Negative Theology in Medieval Islam* by Aydogan Kars (Oxford University Press, 2019)”, Third Annual Graduate Student Book Review Colloquium on Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, October 11, 2019.

“Early Kalām Discussions about Anthropopathism”, Guest Lecturer in “Introduction to Islamic Theology” Course, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL, April 17, 2019.

“On the Role of Tradition in Understanding and Living Islam: a Reassessment of Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī’s Thoughts Concerning Language and Certainty”, Abrahamian Reflections on Philosophy, Science and Religion, Kaufman Interfaith Institute & Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Amman, Jordan, July 10-13, 2017.

Awards, Grants, Scholarships

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| 2025 | Ibrahim Rashed Qur’anic Studies Prize
Awarded in recognition of the best-written paper in Qur’anic Studies. |
| 2024 | Library Research Grant (for the duration of four weeks) by the Friends of the Princeton University Library
Awarded for research on Islamic manuscripts preserved at Princeton University’s Firestone Library. |
| 2023 | The inaugural Jonathan AC Brown Prize in Islamic Studies
The University of Chicago
< https://mes.uchicago.edu/nelc-announces-winners-jonathan-ac-brown-prize-islamic-studies > |
| Summer 2022 | Ibrahim Rashed Summer Research Grant in the Islamic Religious Sciences
The University of Chicago Divinity School |
| Summer 2021 | Summer Research Grant awarded within the project “Theology, Science, and Knowledge” led by Jon McGinnis and Billy Dunaway, the University of Missouri – St. Louis, and funded by the John Templeton Foundation |
| 2021 | Grant for partial English translation of Idrīs-i Bidlīsī’s <i>Refraining from Epidemic-Stricken Places</i> , as part of Villanova University’s project “Reconceiving the History of Plague in the Era of COVID-19,” led by Monica H. Green and Nükhet Varlik |
| Summer 2019 | Islamic Studies Summer Travel Grant
The University of Chicago Divinity School
Granted for research in manuscript libraries in Istanbul, Turkey. |
| 2018–present | University fellowship for PhD Program, the University of Chicago |
| 2018 | Grant for Master’s program, travel and accommodation costs for two colloquia in Berlin, MA Intellectual Encounters of the Islamicate World, Freie Universität Berlin & DAAD |
| 2016–2018 | Two-year full fellowship for Master’s program (including tuition and merit-based stipend), Istanbul 29 Mayıs University |

- 2014–2018 Bachelor's and Master's degree scholarships, TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey)
- 2011–2016 Five-year full fellowship for Bachelor's program (including tuition and merit-based stipend), Istanbul 29 Mayıs University

Extracurricular Education and Training

- 2012–2018 Text-centered studies with traditional methods concentrated on:
Rational disciplines (Logic, Islamic Doctrinal Theology [*Kalām*])
Islamic sciences (Ḥadīth [with *ijāzas* for canonical collections], Islamic Jurisprudence)
Arabic Linguistics (*Naḥw*, *Balāgha*)
- 2016–2018 Arabic-Islamic Calligraphy (*Thuluth*) under the supervision of the calligrapher Mustafa Parıldar
- 2013–2016 Arabic-Islamic Calligraphy (*Riq'ā*) under the supervision of the calligrapher and art historian Muhittin Serin

References

Available upon request.