

**30 Years after Richard M. Frank**  
**Al-Ghazālī and Avicenna in Post-Classical Islam**

April 28–29, 2023

Friday, April 28, 9:00am–5:30pm

**9:00–9:15am: Welcoming Remarks**

**9:15am–10:30am**

Jon McGinnis (University of Missouri, St. Louis), Keynote Speech

10:30–11:00am Coffee

**11:00–12:30pm: Avicenna and al-Ghazali**

Seyed Mousavian (Loyola University of Chicago, IL). “Avicenna, the Impossibilia, and the Letter.”

Marco Signoni (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy). “Malak wa-falak. Noetic and Angelic Terminology in al-Ghazālī’s *Maqāṣid* and *Tahāfut al-falāsifa*.”

Lunch break 12:30–2:00pm

**2:00–3:30pm: Reception of Avicenna**

Francesco Zamboni (University of Jyväskylä, Finland). “The Residual of Reality: The Ontological Status of Contingency in the Early Avicennized Tradition.”

Travis Zadeh (Yale University). “Strange Matters in Arabic Natural Philosophy: The Lasting Legacy of Ibn Sīnā’s *Ishārāt*.”

**4:00–5:30:00am: Reception of al-Ghazālī**

Mehdi Ali (University of Chicago). “Ayn al-Qudāt’s Solution to Divine Knowledge of Particulars.”

Aseel Alfataftah (Yale University). “Between Ḥikma and Kalām: Interrogating the Genre of Shams al-Dīn al-Samarqandī’s *al-Saḥāʾif al-ilāhiyya*.”

3:30–4:00pm Coffee

Dinner 6:30pm

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Saturday, April 29, 8:30am–5:30pm

**8:30–10:00am: Abū al-Barakāt al-Baghdādī**

Michael Lessman (Yale University). “A Case for Angels: Abū al-Barakāt al-Baghdādī’s Alternative to Avicenna’s Rationalism.”

Mariam Shehata (Université catholique de Louvain). “Abū al-Barakāt al-Baghdādī on Theodicy.”

10:00–10:30am Coffee Break

**10:30am–12:00pm: Avicenna’s Reception in Safavid Iran**

Sayeh Meisami (University of Dayton, Ohio). “Avicenna and Al-Ghazālī and the Making of Mullā Ṣadrā’s Metaphysics.”

Yusuf Ünal (Yale Law School). “Converting al-Ghazālī to Shī‘ī Islam: The Reception and Legacy of the Sunni Theologian in Safavid Iran.”

12:00–1:00pm Lunch Break

**1:00pm–1:45pm: The Ottoman Reception of Avicenna**

Ahmed Nur (Yale University). “Aḥmad Tashköprizāde (1495-1561) and the Reception of al-Ghazālī in the Ottoman Empire.”

1:45–2:00pm Coffee Break

**2:00–3:30pm: Avicennism and Modernity**

Abdul Rahman Afaki (University of Karachi, Pakistan). “The Ghazalian Brand Phenomenological-Hermeneutic Binary and its Impact on Postclassical Muslim Indian Mind: the Deoband (Mis)Interpretation of Islam-qua-Tradition Blending *fiqh* with *taṣawwuf*.”

Angela Giordani (Smith College, CT). “The Postwar Avicenna: Islamic Philosophy Answers the Crisis of Humanism.”

3:30–4:00pm Coffee Break

**4:00–5:30pm Panel Discussion:**

Thérèse-Anne Druart (Catholic University of America)

Frank Griffel (Yale University)

Jon McGinnis (University of Missouri, St. Louis)

Toby Mayer (Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, UK)

Jan Thiele (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, Spain).

Dinner 6:30pm