

April 28–29, 2023

Convened by  
ASEEL ALFATAFTAH AND MICHAEL LESSMAN  
Yale University



Yale MACMILLAN CENTER  
Council on Middle East Studies

Sponsored by the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Fund at Yale and the Kurt W. Rosenthal and Else Kirschstein Lectureship Fund of the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations. With support from the Council of Middle East Studies and the Department of Religious Studies.

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

Friday, April 28, 9:00am–5:30pm

Humanities Quadrangle (320 York Street), Room 276.

9:00–9:15am: Welcoming Remarks  
by Aseel Alfataftah and Michael Lessman (Yale University)

9:15–10:30am  
Jon McGinnis (University of Missouri, St. Louis),  
“A Crazy Little Thing Called Love: Philosophical and Theological Accounts of Love in Medieval Islam.” (Keynote Address)

10:30am–11:00am Coffee

11:00am–12:30pm: Avicenna and al-Ghazālī | Chair: David Baldi  
Seyed Mousavian (Loyola University of Chicago).  
“Avicenna on the Impossibilia: The Letter on the Soul Revisited.”

Marco Signori (IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca, 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: The Reception of Avicenna | Chair: Aseel Alfataftah  
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*.”

3:30–4:00pm Coffee

4:00–5:30pm: The Reception of al-Ghazālī | Chair: Michael Lessman  
Mehdi Ali (University of Chicago).  
“Ayn al-Quḍāt’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-Ṣaḥā’if al-ilāhiyya*.”

Dinner 6:30pm

Saturday, April 29, 9:00am–6:00pm

Luce Hall (34 Hillhouse Avenue), Room 203.

9:00–10:30am: Abū l-Barakāt al-Baghdādī | Chair: Dominique Sirgy  
Michael Lessman (Yale University).  
“A Case for Angels: Abū l-Barakāt al-Baghdādī’s Alternative to Avicenna’s Rationalism.”

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

10:30–11:00am Coffee Break

11:00am–12:30pm: The Safavid Reception of Avicenna and al-Ghazālī | Chair:  
Ahmed T. Nur  
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.”

12:30–2:00pm Lunch Break

2:00–3:30pm: The Ottoman and the Modern Reception of Avicenna and al-Ghazālī | Chair: Sana Jamal  
Ahmed Nur (Yale University).  
“Aḥmad Tashköprizāde (1495–1561) and the Reception of Avicenna and al-Ghazālī in the Ottoman Empire.”

Abdul Rahim 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*.”

3:30–4:00pm Coffee Break

4:00–6:00pm Panel Discussion on Richard M. Frank and His Contributions to Our Fields of Study:

Thérèse-Anne Druart (Catholic University of America, Washington)

Frank Griffel (Yale University)

Jon McGinnis (University of Missouri, St. Louis)

Toby Mayer (Institute of Ismaili Studies, London)

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