

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

For Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī what separates condemned sorcery (*siḥr*) from the lawful science of incantations (*ʿilm al-ʿazāʾim*) is not ontology, i.e. the physical mechanisms behind them, but rather ethics, the practical ends to which they are used. This picture builds on Ibn Sīnā's psychology of the soul as the foundation for both magic and miracle. In his highly influential primer *al-Ishārāt wa-l-tanbīhāt* [The pointers and reminders], Ibn Sīnā offered a scientific explanation for extraordinary phenomena (*umūr gharība*). Ibn Sīnā's language of the strange finds in the psyche a physical basis for paranormal causation. This talk addresses the afterlives of Ibn Sīnā's treatment of the strange and wondrous through the many meanings of *ʿajāʾib wa-gharāʾib* in collections of natural history and handbooks of practical magic.