

# Alberto Tiburcio

Postdoctoral Researcher  
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science  
Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin, Germany

## Education

**PhD Islamic Studies, McGill University** **Montreal, granted: February, 2015**

Dissertation title: “Convert Literature, Interreligious Polemics, and the 'Signs of Prophethood' Genre in Late Safavid Iran (1694-1722): the Work of `Alī Qulī Jadīd al-Islām (d. circa 1722).”

Concentrations: Safavid Iran, Persian Studies, Shi’ism, Religious Polemics, Intellectual History and transmission of Knowledge, Muslim-Christian Relations.

Supervisor: Rula Abisaab

**MA Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Columbia University** **New York, 2007**

**BA Latin American Literature, Universidad Iberoamericana** **Mexico City, 2005**

## References:

Dr. Rula Abisaab, Associate Professor (McGill University)

Dr. Christoph Werner (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

Dr. Rudi Matthee, Professor (University of Delaware)

## Scholarships:

Dissertation Completion Award, McGill University, 2013-2014

Graduate Student Travel Award from the Faculty of Arts, McGill University (Summer 2012, Summer 2010)

Doctoral fellowship from the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University (2008-2013)

Arts Initiative Fellowship from the Faculty of Arts, McGill University (Fall 2008-Winter 2009)

Funding to study Turkish at the Eastern Consortium held at Ohio State University in July 2006 (declined for health reasons)

## Employment:

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin), Postdoctoral Researcher, 2019-

Philipps-University of Marburg (Germany), Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2016-2018 (and Guest Researcher in 2019)

McGill University, Teaching Assistant, 2009-2013:

### **Teaching experience**

#### **As Course Lecturer**

Fall-Winter, 2017-2018: Sources on Iranian History (Kurs, 628628)

#### **As Teaching Fellow**

Winter, 2013: Muslim Societies (Modern and Contemporary) (ISLA 210)

Winter, 2013: Higher Intermediate Arabic (ISLA 522D2/ 523D2)

Fall, 2012: Higher Intermediate Arabic (ISLA 520D2)

Winter, 2012: Introduction to Shi'i Islam (ISLA 325)

Winter, 2011: Islamic Civilization (ISLA 200)

Fall, 2009: Later Developments (Islamic History from 945 to 1258) (ISLA 506)

Winter, 2009: Islamic Civilization (ISLA 200)

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## **Publications and Forthcoming Work**

### **Book**

*Muslim-Christian Polemics in Safavid Iran* [in press, Edinburgh University Press]

### **Journal articles**

“Some Aspects of Conversion Narratives in Late Safavid Iran and their Circulation: The Case of ‘Alī Akbar Armanī,” *Eurasian Studies*, Vol. 15, no. 2 (2017) : 350-372.

“Muslim-Christian Polemics and Scriptural Translation in Safavid Iran: ‘Ali Qoli Jadid al-Eslām and his Interlocutors,” *Iranian Studies* 50, no. 2 (2017): 247-269.

### **Book Chapters**

“Converts and Polemicists as Bridges in Knowledge Networks: the Case of Safavid Iran”, in *Families, Authority and the Transmission of Knowledge in the Early Modern Middle East*, edited by Christoph Werner and Maria Szuppe. Turnhout: Brepols, 2019 [in press]

“Agency and Fatalism in the Judeo-Persian *Kitāb-i sar guzasht-i Kāshān*”, in *Recovering Lost Voices, The Role and Depiction of Persianate Subalterns during the Safavid and Afsharid Periods*, edited by Andrew Newman [accepted]

### **Entries in Multi-Volume Reference Books**

“Abgar ‘Alī Akbar Armanī,” in *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History. Volume 12 Asia, Africa and the Americas 1700-1800*, edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth. Leiden: Brill, 2018, pp. 256-259.

“‘Alī Murād Khān Zand,” in *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History. Volume 12 Asia, Africa and the Americas 1700-1800*, edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth. Leiden: Brill, 2018, pp. 309-312.

“‘Alī Qulī Jadīd al-Islām, António de Jesus” in *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History. Volume 12 Asia, Africa and the Americas 1700-1800*, edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth. Leiden: Brill, 2018, pp. 266-273.

“Aimé Chézaud,” in *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History. Volume 10: Ottoman and Safavid Empires 1600-1700*, edited by David Thomas and John Chestworth, Leiden: Brill, 2017, pp. 592-597.

“Filippo Guadagnoli,” in *Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History. Volume 9: Southern and Central Europe 1600-1700*, edited by David Thomas and John Chestworth, Leiden: Brill, 2017, pp. 749-755.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of “Ali Anooshahr, *Turkestan and the Rise of Eurasian Empires: a Study of Politics and Invented Traditions* (Oxford University Press, 2018)”. *Historische Zeitschrift* [in press]

### **Publications in academic online blogs**

“Transmission of Polemics in Safavid Iran: a Case of Transmission of Knowledge”, *DYNTRAN Working Papers*, n° 20, online edition, January 2017.

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### **Invited talks**

“Muslim-Christian Polemics in Safavid Iran”. Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 29 November, 2017.

“The Genre of *dalā'il al-nubuwwah* and Polemics in Safavid Iran: the case of ‘Alī Qulī Jadīd al-Islām”. Center for Islamic Theology, Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen, 13 July 2017.

Guest lecture at the advanced doctoral seminar “Histoire des gens sans histoire”. Université du Québec à Montréal, 21 March 2016.

### **Conferences Papers, Colloquiums, and Panels Convened**

“The Construction of Shī‘ī tradition in Qāzī Nūr Allāh Shūshtarī’s *Majālis al-mū'minīn*”. *European Conference of Iranian Studies*, Berlin, September 2019.

“The genre of *dalā'il al-nubuwwah* and Shi'ism”. Colloque international : *Les interactions entre chi'ites duodécimans et chrétiens : histoire, théologie, littérature*, Paris, Institute Catholique de Paris, April 2018.

“A Network Theory for Polemics and Conversion”. *Symposium of the DYNTRAN Project (ANR-DFG): “Dynamics of Transmission: Families, Authority and Knowledge in the Early Modern Middle East (15th-17th centuries)”*, Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle – Paris 3, Paris, March, 2018.

“A Reconsideration of Sources on Jewish Communities in Iran (1666-1747)”. *Jews in Muslim Societies. History and Perspectives*, Berlin, October 2017.

“Interreligious Controversies in Safavid Iran”. 33. *Deutschen Orientalistentag (DOT) der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft (DMG)*, Jena, September 2017.

“Debates on Iconoclasm in Shi'i Polemics”. 22 *Annual Convention of the German Association for the Study of Religion: Media, Materiality, Methods*, Marburg, September 2017.

“Missionaries, Merchants, and Polemicists: a case of circulation of religious knowledge in the Persian Gulf and beyond”. *Summer School: The Indian Ocean World and Eurasian Connections* (organized by the Martin-Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg and NYU Shanghai), Halle, July 2017.

“The Role of Dreams in an Armeno-Persian Conversion Narrative”. 2<sup>nd</sup> *Workshop- The Role and Depiction of Iranian/ Persianate Subalterns from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century to the Modern Period*, Edinburgh, May 2017.

“Muslim-Christian polemics in Europe and the Middle East: Case Studies and Theoretical Frameworks”. *Kolloquium für Fortgeschrittene: Neuere Geschichte* (Universität Bern), Schloß Beuggen (Baden-Württemberg), May 2017.

“Interreligious Controversies in Late Safavid Iran: Two Case Studies”. *Symposia Iranica's Third Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies*, Cambridge, April 2017.

“Strategies of Transmission in Polemical Works in the Early Modern Middle East”. *Dynamics of Transmission-Third Workshop*, Naples, April 2017.

“Late Safavid Responses to Della Valle and Guadagnoli”. *Workshop: Constellations and Religious Positioning in the Dynamics of European-Asian Cultural Encounters in the 17th and 18th Century*, Frankfurt, March 2017.

“On Images and Dietary Restrictions in Shi'i-Christian Polemics (1600-1722)”. *European Doctoral Spring School 2017: “Islam, the Body, and the Self”*, Sarajevo, March 2017.

“Explorations on the genre of *dalā'il al-nubuwwah* in Iran and the Persianate world (1500-1722)”. *Dynamics of Transmission-Second Workshop*, Cairo, November 2016.

“The Anti-Sufi Polemics of Ali Quli Jadid al-Islam”. *2nd International Conference on Shi'i Studies*, London, May 2016.

“Anti-Sufi Discourses in Late Safavid Iran.”  
*Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, International Society of Iranian Studies*, Montreal, August 2014.

Panel Convener of: “Discourses of Inclusion and Exclusion in Safavid Iran.” *Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, International Society of Iranian Studies*, Montreal, August 2014.

“Christian Converts and Polemics in Late Safavid Iran.” *McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Students Council Graduate Symposium*, Montreal, May 2013.

“Towards a Historiography of Plagues and Famine in Early Modern Iran.” *Indian Ocean World Center: International Indian Ocean Conference*, Montreal, October 2012.

“Towards a Historiography of Plagues in Northern Iran.” *Ninth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, International Society of Iranian Studies*, Istanbul, August, 2012.

Panel Convener of: “The *Shumāl* in Historical Perspective.” *Ninth Biennial Conference of the International Society of Iranian Studies*, Istanbul, August, 2012.

“Between the Letter of the Law and the Spirit of Reality: Conflicting Images of Zoroastrians in Late Safavid Iran.”  
*Middle East History and Theory Conference*, University of Chicago, May 2012.  
*McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Students Council Graduate Symposium*, Montreal, April 2012.

“Conversion, Testimony and Memory in Late Safavid Iran.”  
*Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations Graduate Students Conference at the University of Toronto*, March 2012.  
*Duke-University of North Carolina Graduate Islamic Studies Conference*, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, March 2012.

“Conversion Narratives in Late Safavid Iran: the case of ‘Alī Akbar Armānī.” *Seventh Conference of the European Society of Iranian Studies*, Cracow, September 2011.

“Historicizing *History*: the evolution of the understanding of historiography in Muslim India. The Cases of Shiblī and Barānī.” *McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Students Council Graduate Symposium*, Montreal, April 2011.

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### **Languages:**

Spanish (native), English, French, Portuguese, Persian, Arabic (reading), German (reading and intermediate speaking), Italian (reading), Turkish (lower intermediate)

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## **Academic Research Travel**

Archival Research at the *Archivio Storico di Propaganda Fide* in Rome. Summer, 2012.

Preliminary research work in Iran, mostly done at the *Kitābkhānah-yi Majlis-i Shūrā-yi Islāmī* and at the *Dā'irat-i al-mā`rif-i buzurg-i Islāmī* in Tehran. Summer, 2010.

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## **Refereeing activities**

Peer reviewer for *Iranian Studies* and *Church History and Religious Culture*

Reviewer of a project proposal which will be funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, DAAD) Fall, 2017.

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## **Other academic collaborations**

Member of the organizing committee of the Fourth Workshop of the *Dynamics of Transmission* Project (Philipps-Universität Marburg/ Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), held in Paris on March 7-9, 2018.

Member of the organizing committee of the Third Workshop of the *Dynamics of Transmission* Project (Philipps-Universität Marburg/ Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), held in Naples on April 3-4, 2017.

Collaborator at the “Development and Structure of the Indian Ocean World Economy” research team for the *Major Collaborative Research Initiative* at the Indian Ocean World Centre, McGill University, headed by Prof. Gwyn Campbell. (2011-2015)

Member of the organizing committee of the “First International Indian Ocean Conference,” Indian Ocean World Centre, Montreal, October 2012.

Member of the McGill Institute of Islamic Studies Student Council (MISSC) in the capacity of Graduate Studies Symposium Organizer (Academic Year 2012-2013), Library Liaisons Representative (Academic year 2010-2011), student representative to the Hiring Committee (Academic Year 2009-2010).

Staff member in the organization of the “International Conference on Madagascar” (hosted by the Indian Ocean World Centre), Montreal, October 2008.