

Dr. Hannah Christine Erlwein

EDUCATION

2011–2015 — PhD in Islamic Studies, SOAS University of London

Official award date 31 May 2016

Thesis title: *Arguments for the Existence of God in Classical Islamic Thought: A Re-appraisal of Perspectives and Discourses*

2009–2010 — MA in Middle East Studies, University of Exeter

Classification: Distinction

Focus of dissertation: democracy promotion in the Middle East under the George W. Bush administration – methods, results, and motives, including a comparison with those of the European Union

2008–2009 — MA in Islamic Studies, SOAS University of London

Classification: Distinction

Focus of dissertation: an examination of the origins of the death penalty for apostasy in classical Islam with a view to the Quran, Prophetic traditions (*ḥadīth*), and jurisprudence (*fiqh*)

2005–2008 — Magister in Islamic Studies, Economics, and Philosophy, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (not completed)

2005 — Abitur, Goethe-Gymnasium, Berlin

EMPLOYMENT & TEACHING

Since October 2019 — Postdoctoral Researcher Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science

Prof. Katja Krause's research group "Experience in the Premodern Sciences of Soul & Body ca. 800–1650"

October 2017–September 2019 — Postdoctoral Researcher LMU Munich

DFG-funded project "Natur in politischen Ordnungsentwürfen: Antike–Mittelalter–Frühe Neuzeit" ("The Role of Nature in Conceptualising Political Order")

Lehrstuhl VI für spätantike und arabische Philosophie, LMU Munich (with Prof. Peter Adamson)

Focus of research: Ibn Sīnā's political philosophy; the function of the state and the law (*al-sharī'a*); moral ontology; theory of law; and soteriology

2015–2017 — Editorial Assistant

Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS

Editorial work for the *Journal of Qur'anic Studies*

Organisation and hosting of the Centre of Islamic Studies Seminar Series

Co-organisation of the 2016 *The Qur'an: Text, Society & Culture* conference at SOAS

2014

Summer Term 2019 — Instructor

Institut für den Nahen und Mittleren Osten, LMU Munich

Arabisch II

2015–2017 — Senior Teaching Fellow

Department of the Languages and Cultures of the Near and Middle East, SOAS

Undergraduate courses *Introduction to Islamic Texts*, *Introduction to Early Islamic Texts*, *Introduction to the Study of the Qur'an*

2012–2015 — Teaching Fellow

Department of the Languages and Cultures of the Near and Middle East, SOAS

Arabic grammar tutorials for first-/second-year undergraduate students

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Arguments for God's Existence in Classical Islamic Thought: A Reappraisal of the Discourse. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019.

Articles/Chapters

“Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī on the Question ‘Why Worship God?’” *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 21:2 (2019): 39–67.

“Ibn Sīnā's Moral Ontology and Theory of Law.” In: *Philosophy and Jurisprudence in the Islamic World*, ed. P. Adamson, 29–51. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019.

“Grenzen zwischen Göttlichem und Menschlichem: Die Etablierung des perfekten Staates in der islamischen Philosophie.” In *Limina: Natur—Politik. Verhandlungen von Grenz- und Schwellenphänomenen in der Vormoderne*, ed. Annika von Lüpke, Tabea Strohschneider, and Oliver Bach, 47–62. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019.

“A Proof of God's Existence? Reassessing al-Rāzī's Arguments for the Existence of the Creator.” *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* 19:2 (2017): 31–63.

Encyclopaedia Entries

Entry “Blasphemy.” In *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, ed. Richard C. Martin, 2nd edn, 175–176. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2016.

Entries “Ibn Kullab,” “Ibn Tumart,” “Fakhr al-Din al-Razi,” “Ibn ‘Aqil,” and “Abu Hashim b. al-Jubba'i.” In *I.B. Tauris Biographical Dictionary of Islamic Civilization*, ed. Muhammad A.S. Abdel Haleem and Mustafa A.A. Shah. London: I.B. Tauris [forthcoming].

Book Reviews

Review of “Islamische Theologie im 14. Jahrhundert: Auferstehungslehre, Handlungstheorie und Schöpfungsvorstellungen im Werk von Sa‘d ad-Dīn at-Taftāzānī” by Thomas Würtz. *Journal of Islamic Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jis/etx083> (published 16 November 2017).

Review of “Power and Prophecy: Muhammad and the Qur’an in the Light of Comparison” by Marilyn Robinson Waldman. *Journal of Qur’anic Studies* 18:2 (2016): 149–155.

Review of “Kausalität in der mu‘tazilitischen Kosmologie: Das *Kitāb al-Mu‘aththirāt wa-miftāḥ al-muškilāt* des Zayditen al-Ḥasan ar-Raṣṣāṣ (st. 584/1188)” by Jan Thiele. *Journal of Qur’anic Studies* 16:1 (2014): 167–172.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2019

“The *sharī‘a* in Avicenna’s Political Thought”, Forschungskolloquium Arabistik/Islamwissenschaft und Judaistik, LMU Munich

“The Function of the *sharī‘a* in Ibn Sinā’s Political Thought”, BRAIS 2019

“Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī on Why We Should Worship God”, *Heirs of Avicenna* Workshop, LMU Munich

“Why Worship God? — Reason and Obligation in al-Rāzī’s Qur’anic Commentary”, *Casuistry, Contingency, and Ambiguity: New approaches to ethics in Islamic traditions* Workshop, University of Cambridge

2018

“Proofs of God’s Existence in Post-Classical Islamic Philosophy: a Reappraisal”, LMU Berkeley Workshop *Post-Classical Philosophy in the Islamic World*, LMU Munich

“How To Square Occasionalism and Secondary Causality? — Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī’s Position on Causality”, BRAIS 2018

“Al-Rāzī on Secondary Causality and Occasionalism”, *Heirs of Avicenna* Workshop, LMU Munich

“Why Worship God? The Problem of Causality in Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī (d. 606/1210)”, Forschungskolloquium Arabistik/Islamwissenschaft und Judaistik, LMU Munich

“Why Worship God? The Problem of Causality in al-Rāzī’s Qur’anic Commentary”, Centre of Islamic Studies Seminar Series, SOAS

2017

“Grenzen zwischen Göttlichem und Menschlichem: Die Etablierung des perfekten Staates in der Islamischen Philosophie” (“Boundaries between the Divine and the Human: the Foundation of the Perfect State in Islamic Philosophy”), *Limina: Natur – Politik* conference

“I am God; there is no god but Me, so worship Me’: the problem of causality in Rāzī’s arguments for God’s sole worthiness of worship,” Deutscher Orientalistentag 2017

“The Problem of God’s Existence in al-Ghazālī (d. 505/1111)”, BRAIS 2017

2016

“A Reappraisal of Classical Islamic Arguments for God’s Existence: Fakhr al-Din al-Razi’s Tafsir as a Case in Point,” *The Qur’an: Text, Society & Culture* conference, SOAS

“Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī’s Proof for the Creator – An Argument for God’s Existence?”, Centre of Islamic Studies Seminar Series, SOAS

2015

“The Terminology of Creation: The Debate between al-Ghazālī (d. 505/1111) and Ibn Rushd (d. 595/1198)”, Centre of Islamic Studies Seminar Series, SOAS

FUNDING

2013 AHRC Doctoral Scheme Studentship, Subject Area: Religious Studies

2010 HRH Prince Al-Waleed Al Saud Award, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

6 weeks Arabic language course at the Arabic Language Institute at the University of Damascus (November–December 2010)

LANGUAGES

English: fluent in writing and speech

Classical Arabic: highly proficient reading/translation skills

German: native speaker

Großes Latinum

Graecum