

Mohamed Sayed

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies , Indiana University, Bloomington	December 2026
- Dissertation: <i>The Islamic State Between Utopia and Submission: Taḥqīq al-Manāṭ as a Jurisprudential Methodology for Islamic Political Reasoning</i> - Committee: Asma Afsaruddin (Chair), William E. Scheuerman, Nader Morkus, Ovamir Anjum, Ibrahim Gemeah	
M.A., Religion , Temple University	2018
Thesis: <i>Recalling the Rulings of al-Ḥākim al-Mutaḡhallib: Should the Context Be Imported?</i> (Chair: Khalid Blankinship)	
Postgraduate Diploma, Islamic Studies , Cairo University (Islamic History and Civilization)	2015
B.A., Islamic and Arabic Studies , al-Azhar University, Cairo (Islamic Law and Legal Theory)	2011

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Qur'anic studies and exegesis (tafsīr); Islamic law and legal theory (uṣūl al-fiqh); Islamic intellectual and political thought; religion and the modern state; modern Egypt and the wider Muslim world.

Teaching competence: introductory and advanced Islam; the Qur'an; Islam and politics; comparative and cross-cultural study of religion; Arabic.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Indiana University - Instructor of Record

Muslim Political Thought (undergraduate/graduate)	Summer 2023
Arab Culture (undergraduate/graduate)	Summer 2022
Elementary Arabic I & II (undergraduate/graduate)	2018–2023

Islamic Center of Bloomington - Designed and Taught

Qur'anic Studies	Fall 2025
Islamic Law	Spring 2025
Readings in Classical Islamic Texts	2024–2025
Islamic Legal Theory	Fall 2024
Islamic Law	Spring 2024
History of Early Islam I & II	2023–2024

al-Azhar University - Designed and Taught

World Religions	Fall 2014
Muslim Political Thought	Fall 2013
Islamic Law of Muslim Minorities	Fall 2013
Methods and Approaches to the Study of Religion in Western Academia	Spring 2013
History of Muslim and Non-Muslim Relations	Spring 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

Sayed, Mohamed. "The Muslim Brotherhood: From the Caliphate to the Modern Civic State." *Muslim Politics Review* 1, no. 2 (2022): 243–259.

Sayed, Mohamed. “Muḥammad ‘Ayyād al-Ṭanṭāwī and *Tuḥfat al-adhkiyā*’.” In *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History, Volume 18: The Ottoman Empire (1800–1914)*, edited by David Thomas and John Chesworth, 522–527. Leiden: Brill, 2021.

Forthcoming

“From the Imam to the President: Taḥqīq al-Manāṭ and the Scriptural Negotiation of Obedience in the Modern State.” *Journal of Islamic Ethics* (forthcoming). Selected for and presented at the Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE) seminar, “Reasoning from the Scripture: Investigating the Hermeneutics and the Construction of Islamic Applied Ethics.”

Under Review

“The Vanishing Maḥall: al-Juwaynī’s Ghiyāth al-Umam and the Jurisprudence of Exception.” Under review at *Islamic Law and Society* (Brill).

Current Research Projects

Book project: *The Islamic State Between Utopia and Submission*, monograph in development from the dissertation.

A study of political-discourse transformations within Islamist movements, built on an original aggregated dataset of movement texts.

A historical inquiry into authority and influence in premodern Muslim political systems, drawing jointly on historical and jurisprudential sources.

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

[Seminar] “From the Imam to the President: Taḥqīq al-Manāṭ and the Scriptural Negotiation of Obedience in the Modern State,” Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE), “Reasoning from the Scripture: Investigating the Hermeneutics and the Construction of Islamic Applied Ethics” 2026

[Conference] “From the Caliphate to the Islamic State,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (accepted) 2026

[Conference] “A Muslim State Between Utopia and Submission,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC 2025

[Conference] “The Upholding of Justice in Muslim Political Thought,” Midwest AAR Conference, Springfield, MO 2025

[Invited Talk] “The Concept of Ḥalāl in Islamic Law and Muslim Culture,” Arabic Flagship Program, Indiana University 2024

[Conference] “Taḥqīq al-Manāṭ: Ijtihād in the Modern Nation-State,” Islam in a Changing World, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University 2024

[Invited Talk] “The Arab–Israeli Conflict and Its Future Trajectories,” Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington, IN 2023

[Invited Talk] “New Methodologies and Approaches to the Study of Islam,” Education Development Workshop for al-Azhar Leadership, Cairo 2023

[Invited Talk] “The Arab Spring: What Went Wrong,” Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University 2021

TEACHING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Religious Director and Scholar in Residence, Islamic Center of Bloomington, IN 2020–Present

- Design and teach a multi-year sequence of public courses on the Qur’an, Islamic history, Islamic law, and legal theory for adult learners of widely varying backgrounds and prior knowledge.

- Lead interfaith education and dialogue with Christian, Jewish, Hindu, and Buddhist communities; founded and run the ICOB Open House bringing non-Muslim neighbors into structured conversation; represent the Muslim community in the Bloomington Faith Leaders' meetings with the Mayor.

Mentor, Muslim Student Association and Middle East Student Association, Indiana University 2021–Present
Member, Bloomington Multifaith Alliance 2023–Present

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Co-Founder, Egyptian Student Club, Indiana University 2022–2024
Advocate, Graduate Students Coalition, Indiana University, secured reduced fees and increased compensation for international graduate students
Panelist and Judge, Fulbright Scholarship, Cairo 2022–Present
Co-author, three volumes of al-Azhar Review (Islamic Studies and Religions) 2013–2015

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

Associate Instructor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University 2018–2025
Senior Researcher, Islamic Studies, Office of the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Cairo 2013–2018
Lecturer, Islamic Studies, World Association for al-Azhar Graduates, al-Azhar University 2012–2016

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, Indiana University (two consecutive years) 2021–2023
Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship, U.S. Department of State (Temple University) 2016–2018
Class Valedictorian, al-Azhar University 2008

LANGUAGES

- **Arabic**: native (Modern Standard, Classical, Egyptian colloquial); extensive translation experience.
- **English**: fluent.
- **Persian**: advanced reading and translation; intermediate speaking.
- **French**: intermediate reading and translation; elementary speaking.

REFERENCES

Asma Afsaruddin: Class of 1950 Herman B. Wells Endowed Professor; Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures; Indiana University. *aafsarud@iu.edu*. *Chair, dissertation committee*.

Ahmad Atif Ahmad: Professor of Islamic Law; University of California, Santa Barbara. *aaahma@ucsb.edu*.

Nader Morkus: Associate Professor of Linguistics; Academic Director, Arabic Flagship Center; Indiana University. *nmorkus@iu.edu*. *Member, dissertation committee; can speak to my classroom teaching*.