

Ahmad Nazir Atassi

American Citizen

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Education

• University of California (UCSB), Santa Barbara, CA, January 2001 to present.

M.A. – History (Modern Middle Eastern history), May, 2004. GPA: 3.7/4.0.

A.B.D. – Advanced to Candidacy June, 2005. GPA: 3.7.

Ph.D. – Early Islamic History. **Expected: June, 2007.**

• Michigan State University (MSU), East Lansing, MI, August 1993 to May 1999.

M.S. – Mathematics – Dynamic Systems, May 1997.

Ph.D. - Electrical Engineering – Control Systems, May 1999, GPA: 3.85/4.0.

• Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité, Paris, France, September 1988 to June 1991.

Diploma - Electrical Engineering, July 1991.

• Institut Supérieur des Sciences Appliquées et Technologie, Damascus, Syria, September 1985 to June 1988.

Certificate – Basic Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

Dissertation and Ph.D. Committee

Title: The Making of Ibn Sa'd's Great Book of Strata or Kitāb al-Tabaqāt al-Kabīr.

The Tabaqāt is the earliest, ninth century, biographical dictionary of transmitters of the Prophet Muhammad's tradition (Hadīth). The dissertation investigates questions such as who wrote the book and why, who transmitted it, how it became an authoritative book of Hadīth transmission history, how it is organized and why, and who are the sources of the author. The study sheds a light on the rise of Sunnī Islam, as well as on the development of Islamic Historiography, its tools and its genres. The scope and methodologies used in the study should provide a well-needed model for similar studies focusing on the major sources of Islamic History.

Ph.D. Committee:

Professor Stephen Humphreys, History, UCSB. Chair and Ph.D. Advisor.

Professor Nancy Gallagher, History, UCSB.

Professor Harold Drake, History, UCSB.

Professor Juan Campo, Religious Studies, UCSB.

Professor Dwight Reynolds, Religious Studies, UCSB.

Publications and Presentations

Presentations:

• "Qur'anic Chronology: a New Attempt." *The Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, November, 2004, San Francisco.

• "What Can We Learn from the Theory of Dynamical Systems? Elements of a New Approach to the Social Sciences." *The Third International Conference on New Directions in Humanities*. University of Cambridge, August, 2005.

• "A Modern History of Saudi Arabia," Invited lecture (power-point presentation), Summer Session, UCSB, 2006.

• "Images of Piety in Ibn Sa'd's Tabaqāt" Invited paper to be delivered at *The Annual Meeting of MESA*, November, 2006, Boston.

Publications:

- Three entries in the *Reference Encyclopedia of Islam* (Files on-Line) ed. Juan Campo *et al.* (forthcoming).
- A.N. Atassi and H. Khalil, "A Separation Principle for the Stabilization of a Class of Nonlinear Systems," *IEEE Trans. Automat. Cont.*, September 1999.

Professional Experience

- **Teaching Assistant**

Sociology Department, UCSB, Santa Barbara, September 2005 to March 2006.

Grader and assistant for The Sociology of Deviance. Taught two discussion sections for Methods of Sociology.

Law & Society Department, UCSB, Santa Barbara, January 2005 to April 2005.

Three discussion sections for Socio-Legal Research Methodologies.

Religious Studies Department, UCSB, Santa Barbara. September 2003 to June 2004.

Drilling sessions for first and second year Arabic (Arabic I to VI).

History Department, UCSB, Santa Barbara, September 2001 to December 2001.

Taught three discussion sections for Western Civilization I.

- **Research Assistant** (Summer 2005)

Helped Prof. Dwight Reynolds collect data for a book project (combed through the Index Islamicus).

- **Arabic Instructor**

Religious Studies Department, Santa Barbara, Summer 2003, Summer 006

Taught the intensive Summer Session of Arabic. It lasted for nine weeks and covered the first year curriculum.

Foreign Languages Department, Santa Barbara City College (SBCC), 2003-2004, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007

Taught first year Arabic (two semesters).

- **Translator (freelance)**, September 2003 to December 2003.

International Center for Transitional Justice.

English to Arabic, the Reconciliation Laws in South Africa and East Timor.

- **Mathematics Instructor**, September 2002 to December 2002.

Mathematics Department (SBCC), Santa Barbara, CA. Fall 2002.

Mathematics Department, Ventura College, Ventura, CA. Fall 2001, Fall/Spring 2002

Campus Learning and Assistance Services (UCSB), Santa Barbara, CA. 2000-2001.

Taught pre-Algebra, Beginning Algebra, Elementary Statistics, Intermediate Algebra, and Applied Calculus. Tutored groups and individuals in Mathematics (Algebra, Calculus, and Abstract) and Engineering.

Languages

Arabic (native language). **French** (fluent). **Spanish, Persian** (intermediate level). **German, Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew** (introductory level). **Turkish, Latin, Attic Greek** (basic level)

Courses Taken or Audited

- **Theory and methodology:** Sociological theory. Anthropological theory. Anthropological methodologies. Social theory in religious studies (two quarters). Historical Interpretation of Literature. Methodology in History. Approaches to studying the Islamic Religion.

- **Islamic history:** Medieval Islamic Empire. Islam as seen by others (research seminar). History of the Umayyads. History of the Islamic Religion (research seminar). Approaching Islamic history. The history of Cairo. Readings from Islamic historiography. History of Islamic Art.
- **History of the modern Middle East:** Readings in Ottoman history (research seminar). Readings in Post-colonial theory (research seminar).
- **Mediterranean Civilizations:** Roman republic. Roman empire. Late Antiquity. Greek History to Alexander. Greek City and Household.
- **Arabic Literature:** Pre-Islamic, Medieval, and Modern Arabic Literature and oral poetic traditions with Dwight Reynolds and Ruqayya Khan. Hajj literature. Qur'anic Arabic. Translating passages from al-Balādhurī.
- **Undergraduate:** History (modern America and Europe, women and gender in the M.E.), Psychology (introduction, memory, cognitive, motivation, prejudice), Philosophy (Critical Thinking), Religious Studies (the Hebrew Bible, Judaism).

Graduate Research Papers

- "The Rise of Islam: On the Look for New Questions," Winter 2001, with professor S. Humphreys, History.
- "A Historiography of Political Islamist Ideologies in Egypt and Syria: mid 19th to late 20th centuries," Spring 2001, with professor N. Gallagher, History.
- "Al-Tawhīdī's Defense of Literature," Fall 2002, with professor Alan Liu.
- "Defining Religion: Comparing Durkheim, Weber and Marx," Fall 2002 with professor S. Falasca-Zamponi, Sociology.
- "What is Religion? A Personal Attempt at Defining Religion." Fall 2002, with professor C. Roof, Religious Studies.
- "Tribal Politics in Modern Arabia: Prospectus for an Ethnography," Winter 2003 with professor S. Aswani, Anthropology.
- "Leadership in Tribal Arabia through Poetry: A Comparison of Pre-Islamic and Modern Nabatī Poetry," Fall 2003, with professor S. Humphreys, History.
- "Constructing the 'Self' and the 'Other': A Critical Look at the Modernity Discourse in Selected Writings of Ahmad Fāris al-Shidyāq," Spring 2004, with professor N. Gallagher, History.
- "A Bibliography of Pre-Islamic History and Archeology of Arabia," Spring 2004, with professor S. Humphreys, History.

Grants and Fellowships

- Spring 2003 Travel Grant, History Department UCSB to visit historical sites/museums in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharja, UAE.
- Spring 2005 Travel Grant, History Department UCSB to attend a conference in Cambridge, Britain.
- Spring 2005 Humanities Research Grant, Graduate Division UCSB to visit Dutch, German and British universities/Libraries and meet with scholars in the field of Early Islamic History in order to collect publications and ideas for my research.

Professional Membership

- **MESA (Middle East Studies Association)** student membership, since 2003.
- **AHA (American Historical Association)** student membership, since 2006.