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# Curriculum Vitae for John J. Curry

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## **Educational Background:**

- Ph.D., History, The Ohio State University, *summa cum laude*, June 2005.

Dissertation: “Defending Islamic Mysticism in an Age of Transformation: The Foundation and Development of the Şaʿbaniyye Branch of the Halveti Order in the Ottoman Empire as Reflected in Its Hagiographical Writings, 1500-1750.” Committee: Prof. Jane Hathaway (chair), Prof. Carter Findley and Prof. Stephen Dale.

*Brief Abstract: Examines the historical development of the Şaʿbaniyye branch of the Halveti mystical order, one of the most influential Sufi orders in the Ottoman Empire, between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries. Hagiographical works produced by this branch shed light on the interface between mystical practice and wider Ottoman religio-intellectual trends, as well as the interaction of various social groups in the Empire during the formative decades of its growth and transformation in the early modern period (refer to attached abstract).*

- M.A. History 1998, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, *summa cum laude*
- M.A. Arabic Language 1998, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, *summa cum laude*  
Dual M.A. program, pursued jointly through both departments.

Thesis: “The Precedent of ʿArbassūs: Arabic Sources on the Island of Cyprus from the seventh through the tenth centuries C.E.” Advisors: Profs. Jane Hathaway (History) and Michael Zwettler (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures–Arabic).

*Brief Abstract: Uses Arabic narrative sources and inscriptions to shed light on the condominium over Cyprus between the Byzantine Empire and the Umayyad and, later, ʿAbbasid, empires.*

- M.A. Program, Department of History, University of Michigan, 1993-1994.
- Arabic Language and Culture Program, The American University in Cairo, 1992-1993.  
(on J. William Fulbright fellowship).
- B.A., History, Northwestern University, *cum laude*, 1992.  
(Minor in sub-Saharan African Studies).

## ***Publications and Presentations:***

### *Monographs:*

- The Transformation of Muslim Mystical Thought in the Ottoman Empire: The Rise of the Halveti Order. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, *forthcoming in 2010.*

### *Edited Volumes:*

- The Nexus of Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800, co-edited with Erik S. Ohlander. London: Routledge (Sufi Series), *submitted for publication in 2009, forthcoming in 2010.*

### *Refereed Journal Articles:*

- “The Intersection of Past and Present in the Genesis of an Ottoman Sufi Order: The Life of Cemâl el-Halvetî (d. 900/1494 or 905/1499) and the Origins of the Halvetî *Tarîqa*.” Journal of Turkish Studies (In Memoriam Şinasi Tekin) 32 (2008), 121-141.
- “Some Thoughts on the Greater Integration of Islamic Sources into the Wider Framework of Medieval History.” Quidditas: Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association 28 (2007), 158-181.
- “Home Is Where The Shaykh Is”: The Concept of Exile in the Hagiography of İbrahim-i Gülşeni.” Al-Masaq: Islam and the Medieval Mediterranean 17: 1 (March 2005), 47-60.
- “Defending the Cult of Saints in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Kastamonu: Omer al-Fu’adi’s Contribution to Religious Debate in Ottoman Society.” In Frontiers of Ottoman Studies: State, Province and the West, vol. 1, 139-148. Edited by Keiko Kiyotaki and Rhoads Murphey. London: I.B. Tauris & Co., 2005.
- “Hagiography as a Source for Women’s History in the Ottoman Empire: The Curious Case of Ünsî Hasan.” Electronic Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 3:2 (Fall 2003), 50-58.
- “The Growth of a Turkish-Language Hagiographical Literature Within the Halveti Order of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries.” In The Turks, v. 3, 912-920. Edited by Hasan Celal Güzel et al. Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Press, 2002. (Simultaneously published in Turkish translation as “XVI. ve XVII. Yüzyıllarda Halveti Tarikatı İçindeki Türkçe Menâkıb Edebiyatının Gelişmesi.” In Türkler, v. 11, 815-822. Edited by Hasan Celal Güzel et al. Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Press, 2002).

### *Encyclopedia Articles and Reference Entries:*

- “Ömer el-Halvetî, Ebu ‘Abdullah Sirâcüddîn (d. 800/1397-98).” In Biographical Dictionary of Islamic Civilization and Culture. London: I.B. Tauris, *forthcoming*.
- “Yahyâ-yı Şîrvânî (d. 868-869/1464-65).” In Biographical Dictionary of Islamic Civilization and Culture. London: I.B. Tauris, *forthcoming*.

### *Book Reviews:*

- Karen Barkey. Empire of Difference: The Ottoman Empire in Comparative Perspective. In Journal of World History (JWH), *forthcoming*.

- Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac. Kingmakers: The Invention of the Modern Middle East. In The Historian, *forthcoming*.
- Beatrice Forbes Manz. Power, Politics and Religion in Timurid Iran. In Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES) 18:1 (Spring 2009), *forthcoming*.
- Suraiya N. Faroqhi, ed. The Cambridge History of Turkey Volume 3: The Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839. In Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES) 17:1 (Spring 2008), 128-136.
- Richard Bulliet. The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization. In Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES) 16:1 (2007), 119-125.
- Dina Le Gall. A Culture of Sufism: Naqshbandis in the Ottoman World, 1450-1700. In Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient 48 (2005), 336-339.
- Leslie Peirce. Morality Tales: Law and Gender in the Ottoman Court of Aintab. In Journal of the American Oriental Society (JAOS) 125:1 (2005), 102-104.
- Patricia Crone. God's Rule: Government and Islam: Six Centuries of Islamic Political Thought. In Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES) 14:1 (Spring 2005), 63-67.
- Michael Cook. Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Society. In Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES) 13:1 (Spring 2004), 41-44.
- Fred Halliday, Islam and the Myth of Confrontation, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., and Sohail H. Hashmi, ed., Islamic Political Ethics: Civil Society, Pluralism, and Conflict, joint review. In Digest of Middle East Studies (DOMES) 12:2 (Fall 2003), 59-66.
- Amnon Cohen. The Guilds of Ottoman Jerusalem. H-Net Review for H-Mideast-Medieval (Feb. 2003), <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=168891045306236>
- Jawad A. Mojeddedi. The Biographical Tradition in Sufism: The Tabaqat Genre from al-Sulami to Jami. In Middle East Studies Association Bulletin 36:1 (Summer 2002), 60-61.
- Jonathan Berkey. Popular Preaching in Medieval Islam. In Electronic Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 2 (March 2002), <http://web.mit.edu/cis/www/mitejmes/intro.htm>

### ***Teaching Experience:***

July 2006-Present

Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- *Responsible for teaching sections of World History 103 (a thematic survey of early modern and modern world history)*
- *Responsible for teaching History 208 (a survey of world history from the earliest human civilizations to 1500 C.E.)*
- *Responsible for teaching History 209 (a survey of world history from roughly 1500 C.E. to the present)*

- *Responsible for teaching History 478A (an upper division course surveying Islamic and Near Eastern history from the origins of Islam to the eighteenth century)*
- *Responsible for teaching History 478B (an upper division course surveying the history of the Modern Middle East)*
- *Responsible for teaching History 678A (a graduate student course that functions in conjunction with History 478 above)*
- *Responsible for teaching History 678B (a graduate student course that functions in conjunction with History 478 above)*
- *Responsible for teaching History 738 (a graduate student readings and topical colloquium focusing on development of research and professional skills)*

August 2005-June 2006

Instructor, Bowling Green State University

- *Responsible for teaching sections of both World History 151 (world history to 1500) and World History 152 (world history from 1500 to the present), and supervising graduate student teaching assistants*
- *Responsible for teaching History 391, which includes surveys of both pre-modern and modern Near Eastern and Islamic history*
- *Responsible for teaching a section of History 480, a seminar for upper-division undergraduate and graduate student on political and religious movements in Islamic history*

Sept. 2004-June 2005

Student Section Leader, The Ohio State University

- *Responsible for designing, teaching, and grading for all lectures and assignments for History 181 (world history to 1500), autumn and winter quarters, for 52 students.*
- *Responsible for designing, teaching and grading for all lectures and assignments for History 182 (world history from 1500 to the present), spring quarter, for 52 students.*

Sept. 2002-June 2003

Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University

- *Responsible for the preparation and teaching of two sections per week, along with the grading for the entire course, for World History 597 (undergraduate capstone course on the history of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century world), autumn and spring quarters, for 60 students.*
- *Responsible for the preparation and teaching of two sections per week, along with the grading for the entire course, for European History 112 (European history from 1500 to the present), winter quarter, for 60 students. Occasionally stood in as lecturer for the professor.*

Sept. 1999-June 2000

Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University

- *Responsible for the preparation and teaching of two sections per week, along with the grading for the entire course, for World History 597 (undergraduate capstone course on the history of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century world), autumn and spring quarters, for 60 students.*

- *Acted as a grader and organizer for History/Archaeology 306 (development of modern archaeology from the Renaissance to the present), winter quarter, for 60 students.*

Sept. 1998-June 1999

Graduate Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University

- *Responsible for designing, teaching, and grading for all lectures and assignments for History 181 (world history to 1500), autumn quarter, for 60 students. Required to stand in for professor for a week during family emergency.*
- *Responsible for designing, teaching and grading for all lectures and assignments for History 182 (world history from 1500 to the present), winter quarter, for 60 students.*
- *Responsible for the preparation and teaching of two sections per week, along with the grading for the entire course, for World History 597 (undergraduate capstone course on the history of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century world), autumn and spring quarters, for 60 students.*

***Areas of Teaching Interests and Expertise:***

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Early and Medieval Islamic History | • Modern Middle East               |
| • Ottoman and Turkish History        | • World History and World Systems  |
| • European History                   | • Byzantine History/Late Antiquity |
| • Sub-Saharan African History        | • Central Asian History            |
| • Turkish Language and Literature    | • Arabic Language and Literature   |

***Scholarly Papers and Panels:***

- “Illness, Disease and Affliction in Sufi Hagiography: Literary Trope or Evidence of Ideological Evolution?” Middle Eastern Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2008.
- “The Nexus of Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800 C.E.,” Middle Eastern Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, November 2007.
- “Insights on provincial Ottoman cultural life from Sufi histories: the Şa`baniyye of Kastamonu,” American Research Institute in Turkey, Istanbul, Turkey, June, 2007.
- “Differences in Early Muslim Legal and Political Thought on the Status of Frontier Zones: the Case of Cyprus,” Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, Tempe, Arizona, February 2007.
- “Re-Describing the Nexus of Sufism and Society,” Middle Eastern Studies Association, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2006.
- “The Meeting of the Two Sultans: Three Sufi Mystics Negotiate with the Court of Murad III,” Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop, Toronto, Canada, March 2006.
- “Contrasting Approaches to the Life and Work of an Early Ottoman Saint: Cemal el-Halveti (d. 1494),” Middle Eastern Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2005.
- “Insights on the Psychology of a Medieval Ruler: The Correspondence and Dreams of Murad III as a Historical Source,” Middle Eastern Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 2004.

- “The Curious Case of Unsi Hasan: An Unsuccessful Muslim Saint in the Ottoman Empire,” 38<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2003.
- “A Sufi ‘State’: Muhyi-yi Gulsheni’s (d. 1606) ‘City of Virtue’ and Sultan Murad III,” American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, January 2003.
- “A Sufi ‘State’: Muhyi-yi Gulsheni’s (d. 1606) Concept of the ‘City of Virtue,’” Middle Eastern Studies Association, Washington, DC, November 2002.
- “Defending the Cult of Saints in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Kastamonu: Omer al-Fu’adi’s Contribution to Religious Debate in Ottoman Society,” Comite International d’Etudes Pre-Ottomanes et Ottomanes, London, England, July 2002.
- “‘Home is Where the Shaykh Is’: The Use of the Concept of Exile in the Hagiography of Ibrahim-i Gulsheni,” International Medievalists’ Conference, Leeds, England, July 2002.
- “The Growth of a Turkish-Language Hagiographical Literature Within the Halveti Order of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” Middle East Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 2001.
- “The Importance of Hagiography as a Historical Source for the Ottoman Empire. The Case of the *Menakib-i Ibrahim-i Gülşeni* and Others,” Sabancı University Colloquium on Topics in Ottoman History, Istanbul, Turkey, March 2001.

### ***Service:***

#### *University-wide*

- Served as Faculty Marshal on the Seating Community, UNLV Commencement Ceremony (Fall 2006, Spring 2008, Fall 2008).
- Organized and presented multiple public performances for the Turkish musician Latif Bolat, “The Sounds of the Wandering Dervishes: Turkish Mystical Music, Poetry and Images,” March 19-20, 2007. Done in conjunction with the UNLV Office of Student Diversity, Muslim Student Organization and the Ethnic Council.

#### *College of Liberal Arts*

- Elected to 2-year term on, and Chair of the COLA Financial Aid Committee (Fall Semester 2008).
- Served as Judge for the Graduate & Professional Student Association (G&PSA) and Graduate College’s Student Research Forum (March 2007 and 2008).

#### *Departmental*

- Member of Library Committee, 2006-2009 (served as Chair of Committee, 2007-2009).
- Presentation Organizer: Visiting Scholar Prof. Isa Blumi, Georgia State University, “Transcending Imperial Borderlands: A Discussion on Migrations and their Consequences on the Persian Gulf, Yemen and Albania, 1870-1971,” November 13, 2008.

- Member of Curriculum Committee, 2006-2008.
- Served as Faculty Advisor to the Graduate Students for Historical Development (GSHD) organization in the Department of History (2007-present).
- Monday Morning Coffee Roundtable Featured Speaker, organized by Graduate Students for Historical Development (GSHD), Monday, November 13, 2006.

*Professional / Organizational*

- Panel Co-Organizer, “Sufism, Legitimacy and Disease in the Ottoman Empire,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 24, 2008.
- Panel Chair, “Sufism and Politics” (NP14), Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 23, 2008.
- Panel Chair, Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference, “Historiographies Revisited” (NP59), Montreal, Canada, November 24, 2007.
- Thematic Conversation Organizer, “The Nexus of Sufism and Society: Arrangements of the Mystical in the Muslim World, 1200-1800 C.E.,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, Montreal, Canada, November 24, 2007.
- Roundtable organizer, “Re-Describing the Nexus of Sufism and Society,” for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, November 19, 2006.

*Public outreach*

- Served as Advanced Placement World History Exam reader, Educational Testing Services (ETS) Reading Session, Fort Collins, CO, June 1-9, 2008.
- Featured speaker: “In the Pursuit of Tolerance: Stories of Religious Brotherhood from al-Andalusia (Islamic Spain.” Hosted by the Council of Arab-Islamic Relations (Nevada Chapter) and the Nevada Muslim Students Association, December 6, 2007.
- Featured speaker: “Teaching Turkey Day: Political Notables in Turkish History.” Hosted by the Las Vegas World Affairs Council, April 21, 2007.
- Radio Interview on KNPR 88.9 of Las Vegas, on the State of Nevada Program moderated and hosted by Dave Burns, 3<sup>rd</sup> segment, July 25, 2006 (Topic: Israeli-Lebanese war of 2006).
- Served as Advanced Placement World History Exam reader, Educational Testing Services (ETS) Reading Session, Lincoln, NE, June 1-9, 2006.