

JASON WELLE O.F.M.

Curriculum Vitae

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Institutional Address:

The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies
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Home Address:

Convento San Francesco a Ripa
Piazza San Francesco d'Assisi, 88
00153 Roma
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+39 06-5819020 (p)

EDUCATION

- 2016 Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
Ph.D., Theology and Religious Studies
Concentration: Christianity and Islam
- 2009 Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL
M.Div.
Concentration: Interreligious Dialogue
- 2003 University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
M.T.S.
Concentration: Systematic Theology
- 2001 St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN
B.A., Magna cum Laude
Majors: English, Religion; Concentration: Middle Eastern Studies

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2018-present The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome
Director of Studies
Extraordinary Professor
- 2016-2018 The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome
Invited Professor

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes:

- 2019 *Special Issue: 800th Anniversary of the Encounter between Francis of Assisi and Sultan al-Malik al-Kāmil. The Muslim World* 109, no. 1-2. Co-edited with Fareed Z. Munir.

- 2018 *Vatican II: Remembering the Future – Ecumenical, Interfaith and Secular Explorations of the Council’s Legacy and Promise. Volume I: Catholicism Opening its Doors: Engaging the World and Other Confessions.* Co-edited with Vladimir Latinovic and Gerard Mannion. Palgrave Macmillan, New York.
- 2018 *Vatican II: Remembering the Future – Ecumenical, Interfaith and Secular Explorations of the Council’s Legacy and Promise. Volume II: Catholicism Opening to Other Faiths.* Co-edited with Vladimir Latinovic and Gerard Mannion. Palgrave Macmillan, New York.

Sole-Authored Journal Articles/Book Chapters:

- Forthcoming “That’s Gonna Leave a Mark: A Saint, a Sultan, and How Friendship Does (or Doesn’t) Change the Church.” In *Changing the Church: Essays in Honour of Gerard Mannion*. Ed. Mark D. Chapman and Vladimir Latinovic. Palgrave Macmillan, New York. Publication expected 2020.
- Forthcoming “Mind the Gap: The Spiritual Progress of Early Ṣūfī Women.” In *Les enjeux de l’écriture mystique*. Ed. Nejmeddine Khalfallah and Abdelaziz El Aloui. Publication expected 2020.
- 2020 “*Samā’* and the Senses: Listening along the Ṣūfī Path.” In *Le vie della mistica : tra ricerca di senso ed esperienza religiosa*. Ed. Donatella Scaiola. Urbaniana University Press, Rome, 199-216.
- 2019 “Damietta after 800: Sources, Effects, Prospects.” *Islamochristiana* 45, 39-65.
- 2019 “Arabic Sources for the Encounter between the Saint and the Sultan: Fakhr al-Fārisī’s Famous Adventure with Francis, or Lack Thereof.” *Collectanea (Studia Orientalia Christiana)* 48-49 (2015-2016), 7-75.
- 2017 “A Note on a Footnote: Pope Francis’s Ṣūfī Ecologist.” *Islamochristiana* 43, 141-147.
- 2017 “Two Friars Who Went Among the Muslims and the Realms of their Memory: Francis of Assisi and Anselm Turmeda / ‘Abdullāh al-Tarjumān.” *The Muslim World* 107, no. 3, 572-592. doi: 10.1111/muwo.12197
- 2014 “The Status of Monks in Egypt under Early Mamlūk Rule: The Case of Ibn Taymiyya (With an Annotated Translation of Ibn Taymiyya’s *Fatwā* on the Status of Monks).” *LOGOS: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies* 55, no. 1-2, 41-67.
- 2013 “Ṣūfī *Adab* Transcending Scruples: The Correspondence of Ibn ‘Abbād of Ronda.” *Islamochristiana* 39, 111-127.
- 2013 “The Evolution of the Assisi Gathering: To Humanism and Beyond?” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* 48, no. 3, 377-390.

Co-Authored Journal Articles/Book Chapters:

- 2019 With Fareed Z. Munir, “Foreword.” *The Muslim World* 109, no. 1-2, 3-13. doi: 10.1111/muwo.12272
- 2019 With Mohamed Kenawi and Alex Kronemer, “Two Filmmakers Reflect on Francis.” *The Muslim World* 109, no. 1-2, 119-125. doi: 10.1111/muwo.12280

- 2018 With Alan Godlas, “Another Note on a Footnote: ‘Alī al-Ḥawwās Revisited.” *Islamochristiana* 44, 269-273.

Book Reviews:

- 2013-19 29 books reviewed for various journals:

Islamochristiana (24)

Journal of Ecumenical Studies (2)

Archivum Franciscanum Historicum (1)

Horizons: The Journal of the College Theology Society (1)

Journal of Church and State (1)

Selected examples:

- 2018 *The New Testament in Muslim Eyes: Paul’s Letter to the Galatians*, by Shabbir Akhtar (New York: Routledge, 2018), in *Islamochristiana* 44, 425-427.
- 2018 *Sufism, Pluralism and Democracy*, ed. Clinton Bennett and Sarwar Alam (Sheffield: Equinox, 2017), in *Journal of Church and State* 60, no. 4, 733-5. doi: 10.1093/jcs/csy060
- 2017 *Il libro dei cammelli errabondi e di quelli che li radunano*, by Abū Ḥayyān al-Tawḥīdī and Abū ‘Alī Miskawayh, ed. and trans. Lidia Bettini (Venice: Edizioni Ca’ Foscari, 2017), in *Islamochristiana* 43, 461-462.
- 2014 *Franciscanos y Sultanes en Marruecos: Relaciones entre el poder (al-sultān) y la obra religiosa y humanitaria de los Frailes Menores*, by Simeón Czesław Stachera O.F.M. (Granada: BTG, 2013), in *Archivum Franciscanum Historicum* 107, no. 3-4, 539-542.

Articles in Dictionaries/Encyclopedias:

- 2018 6 entries, *Oxford New Dictionary of Islam* (Oxford Islamic Studies Online).

Non-academic Publications:

- 2014 “Do We Have an App for That?” *The Cord: A Franciscan Spiritual Review* 64, no. 2, 165-177.

Other short pieces have appeared in *U.S. Catholic*, *The Holy Land Review*, *Ecumenical Trends* and *Fioccola* (Milan, Italy).

INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES

- 2019/12/11 “Fraternity Beyond Frontiers: St. Francis of Assisi Meets Sultan Malik al-Kāmil”
Autumn Conference Series
The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas, Rome, Italy

- 2019/28/10 “Mission in Islam” (in Italian)
Seminar: Religion Today
Pontifical Salesian University, Rome, Italy
- 2019/24/10 “Dialogue, Friendship, and Brotherhood: What a Tent in Damietta Means for Muslims and Christians Today”
Lectio inauguralis
PISAI, Rome, Italy
- 2019/17/09 Presentation (in Italian) of *Francesco d’Assisi, al-Malik al-Kamil, Federico II di Svevia eredità e dialoghi del XII secolo*, by Pino Blasone, Franco Cardini, and Carlo Ruta (Ragusa: Edizioni di Storia e Studi Sociali, 2019)
PISAI, Rome, Italy
- 2019/13/06 “Creating a Culture of Welcome: Ecumenical and Interreligious Perspectives”
Rome Seminar, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, Rome, Italy
- 2019/10/05 “Eight Centuries after Damietta: From the Encounter between St. Francis and the Sultan to Pope Francis and Human Fraternity”
University of Cyprus
Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2019/30/03 “Islamic Studies: Resources and Techniques of Research in Western Academia”
Spring School, Mominoun Without Borders for Study and Research
Marrakesh, Morocco
- 2018/07/07 “The Aesthetic Element of the Conversion of St. Francis” (in Arabic)
البعث الجمالي في توبة القديس فرنسيس
Roundtable: “The Aesthetic Element in the Religions and its Role in the Construction of the Person”
البعث الجمالي في الأديان ودوره في بناء الإنسان
Abū l-Ja‘d, Morocco
- 2018/14/06 “Creating a Culture of Welcome: Ecumenical and Interreligious Perspectives”
Rome Seminar, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, Rome, June 14
- 2017/24/03 “Al-Sulamī’s Ṣūfī Women: An Instance of Humanism?”
Giornata di studio *Il Sufismo: figure, testi, luoghi*
PISAI, Rome, Italy
- 2017/15/03 “Revisiting the ‘Veiled Tradition’ of al-Sulamī’s Ṣūfī Women”
Journée d’études *L’innovation de l’âme*
Université Paris VIII, Paris, France
- 2010/07/10 “Franciscans and Muslims”
Lecture for Franciscan Heritage Week
Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI, USA
- 2010/01/03 “Francis, Clare, and the *Vita Apostolica*”
Lecture for the Great Conversation Program
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, USA

2009/03/04 “Bonaventure of Bagnoregio and the Early Franciscan Vision”
Lecture for the Great Conversation Program
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, USA

SEMINARS

2019/30/09 “Francis of Assisi, Sufism, and Spiritual Poverty: Comparative Insights”
Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII (FSCIRE)
Giorgio La Pira Library
Palermo, Italy

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020/04/11 “*Ambiguitatis Splendor*: Fluid Borders and the Dilemma of a Medieval Franciscan Convert to Islam”
International Conference: “Raimondo Lullo: il personaggio e il suo rapporto con l’islam”
Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome, Italy
- 2019/05/11 “Francis and the Sultan: The Sūfī Element”
International Conference: “The Franciscan Legacy”
Durham University, Durham, England
- 2019/07/03 “Remembering Francis and the Sultan: Approaches Old and New”
European Academy of Religion
Bologna, Italy
- 2018/19/11 “‘He is very much ours’: Current Catalan Attempts to Claim Anselm Turmeda, or the Lack Thereof”
American Academy of Religion (Religion in Europe Unit and Religious Conversions Unit), Annual Meeting
Denver, CO, USA
- 2018/17/11 “Theology of Migration and Holiness of Place: Reflections on Shrines in Two Traditions”
American Academy of Religion (Interreligious Reflections on Immigration Seminar), Annual Meeting
Denver, CO, USA
- 2018/26/06 “We Adore You...in All Your Churches: Reflections on Place in a Theology of Migration”
Ecclesiological Investigations Conference: “The Church and Migration: Global Indifference?”
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
- 2017/22/05 “Scholarly Companionship through Sacred Hospitality: Louis Massignon’s Journey in the Lands of Islam” (in Arabic)

الصحة العلمية بالضيافة المقدسة: رحلة لويس ماسينيون في أراضي الإسلام

International Conference: “The Effect of Companionship on the Framing of Religious Difference”

أثر الصحبة في تدبير الخلاف الديني

Université Chouaib Doukkali, El Jadida, Morocco

2017/13/04 “Mind the Gap: The Spiritual Progress of Early Ṣūfī Women”

British Association for Islamic Studies

University of Chester, England

2016/19/11 “Listening at Keyholes to the Heart: The Pious Sensorium of Early Ṣūfī *Samā*”

American Academy of Religion (Islamic Mysticism Group), Annual Meeting

San Antonio, TX, USA

2016/25/05 “New Christian Horizons Regarding Family Values,” in Arabic

أفاق جديدة مسيحية بشأن قيم الأسرة

International Conference: “The Family and Value Systems”

الأسرة ومنظومة القيم

Université Ibn Zohr, Agadir, Morocco

2015/23/11 “Clarifying Companionship: How *Ādāb al-Ṣuḥba* Function for al-Sulamī”

American Academy of Religion (Islamic Mysticism Group), Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA, USA

2014/19/09 “Anselm Turmeda: Model Mendicant or Recreant Renegade?”

International Symposium: “Religious Orders & Christian-Muslim Relations”

Benedictine University and DePaul University, Chicago, IL, USA

2014/10/04 “*Spe Salvi*: Will Francis Save Benedict’s Hope?”

Ecclesiological Investigations Conference: “Hope in the Ecumenical Future”

Ripon College, Oxford University, Cuddleston, England

2012/12/10 “The Status of Monks in Egypt under Early Mamlūk Rule: The Case of Ibn Taymiyya”

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Annual Conference

Washington, D.C., USA

2012/23/05 “The Evolution of the Assisi Gathering: To Humanism and Beyond?”

International Conference: “Understanding Religious Pluralism”

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., USA

2009/28/03 “A Common Word: How Common Have Christians Found It?”

Engaging Particularities Conference

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, USA

2007/31/03 Moderated Panel Discussion: “Perspectives on Interreligious Dialogue”

Engaging Particularities Conference

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, USA

2006/17/03 “*Dominus Iesus* and Comparative Methodology: Guidelines or Landmines?”

Engaging Particularities Conference

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, USA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Rome:

- “Introduction to the Sunna” (5x, 2014-)
- “Šūfism” [Introduction](4x, 2016-)
- “Šūfism” [Texts](3x, 2018-)
- “Christians and Muslims: Theologies in Contrast” (4x, 2017-)
- “Translation from Arabic” (2x, 2017-)

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.:

- “The Problem of God” (2015)
- “The Morality of Institutions” (Teaching Assistant for Gerard Mannion, 2015)

Occasional guest lecturer for courses at:

On-site:

- Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA, USA)
- University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN, USA)

Off-site (via internet):

- Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC, USA)
- Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN, USA)

THESES DIRECTED/MODERATED

Doctoral Thesis Committees (as Reader): 1

- The Development of Islam in Yorubaland: The Impact of Arabic Education (PISAI, Rome, 2020)
- The Salvation of the ‘Religious Other’: The Contemporary Neo-Rationalist Perspective of Muslim Scholars (PISAI, Rome, 2019)

Licentiate Thesis Committees (as Advisor): 2

- “People of the Book! Our Messenger Has Come to You”. Faḥr al-Dīn al-Rāzī’s Commentary of *Sūrat al-Mā’ida* (5): 12-19 (PISAI, Rome, 2019)
- The Concept of *Ġihād* in *Ġamāl al-Bannā* vis-a-vis *Ġamā‘at ahl al-sunna li-l-da‘wa wa-l-ġihād* (Boko Haram): a Critical Analysis (PISAI, Rome, 2019)

Licentiate Thesis Committees (as Reader): 4

- A Collection of Mu‘tazilī Doctrines and Dilemmas on *Tawḥīd* Preserved by al-Aš‘arī (PISAI, Rome, 2020)

I bambini soldato secondo ‘Alī Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn al-Ṣawā. Estremismi islamici e «bambini soldato» (PISAI, Rome, 2019)

Blasphemy Laws and their Impact in Pakistan (PISAI, Rome, 2018)

Contemporary *Iğtihād* in the Perspective of Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī (PISAI, Rome, 2017)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Editorial Board:

Islamochristiana (2017-present)

Manuscript Review (Presses):

Georgetown University Press

Manuscript Review (Journals):

Religions (ISSN 2077-1444)

Melita Theologica (ISSN 1012-9588)

Grant Proposal Review:

Polish National Science Center (Humanities Panel, HS1)

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2019- Steering committee, Ecclesiological Investigations International Research Network.
- 2016-present *Islamochristiana* 42-. Editorial assistance with English submissions.
- 2016 Chiabotti, Francesco, et al., eds. *Ethics and Spirituality in Islam: Sufi Adab* (Leiden: Brill, 2017). Editorial assistance with English submissions.
- 2014-15 Organizing Committee for Conference, “Vatican II – Remembering the Future: Ecumenical, Interfaith and Secular Perspectives on the Council’s Impact and Promise,” The Ecclesiological Investigations Research Network, May 21-24, 2015, Washington, D.C.
- 2013-14 Mannion, Gerard, et al., eds. (The Ecclesiological Investigations Research Network), *Pathways for Dialogue Series*. Volume 1: *Where We Dwell in Common: The Quest for Dialogue in the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016); Volume 3: *Pathways for Inter-Religious Dialogue in the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). Editorial assistance, indexing.
- 2012-13 Esposito, John L. and Natana DeLong-Bas, *Shariah: What Everyone Needs to Know* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018). Data compilation and organization; editorial assistance.

LANGUAGES

English (native)
Italian (fluent)
Spanish (fluent)
Arabic (advanced)
French (reading)
German (reading)
Latin (reading)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2012-present American Academy of Religion
2017-present British Association for Islamic Studies (associate member)

REFERENCES

Diego Sarrió Cucarella preside@pisai.it +39 06-58392611	President The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies Viale di Trastevere, 89 00153 Roma Italy
Paul L. Heck plh2@georgetown.edu (202) 687-2051	Professor Founding Director, The Study of Religions Across Civilizations Department of Theology New North 125 Georgetown University P.O. Box 571135 Washington, D.C. 20057-1135 United States of America