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EDUCATION

Yale University – New Haven, CT. (2003 - 2009)

Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (2009)
(Dissertation title: The Art of Anthology: al-Tha'ālibī and His *Yatīmat al-dahr*)
M.Phil., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (2006)

American University of Beirut (AUB)– Beirut, Lebanon (1997-2003)

MA., Arabic Language and Literature (2003)
BA., Arabic Language and Literature (2001)
BS., Mathematics (major), Statistics (minor) (2000)

CURRENT RESEARCH

- *Adab* anthologies 3rd-5th/9th-11th centuries
- Classical Arabic Sufi handbooks and anthologies
- Early Arabic Sufi poetry
- Classical Arabic artistic prose and its evolution
- Abbasid Poetry
- *Maqāmāt* of Badī al-Zamān al-Hamadhānī
- The works of Abū Manṣūr al-Tha'ālibī

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies, Department of Arabic & NEL, AUB, 2009- present.
- Visiting Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 2011-2012
- Director of the Arabic Language School, CAMES, AUB, 2006-present.
- Instructor, Department of NELC, Yale University, 2008.
- Teaching Fellow, Department of NELC, Yale University, 2005-2007.
- Instructor, CAMES, AUB, 2002-2005.

PUBLICATIONS (Refereed)

A. Books

The Comfort of the Mystics: A Manual and Anthology of Sufism. Gerhard Bowering and **Bilal Orfali**. Leiden, Brill (in print, expected Feb 2012).

A Disputation over a Fragment of the True Cross: A Medieval Arabic Text from the History of Christian-Jewish-Muslim Relations in Egypt. [Critical edition with introduction, study, translation, and notes]. Stephen J. Davis, **Bilal Orfali**, and Samuel Noble. Beirut: Dar al-Machreq, Recherches (in print, expected 2012)

Sufism, Black and White: A Critical Edition of Kitāb al-Bayāḍ wa-l-Sawād of Abū l-Ḥasan al-Sīrjānī (d.ca.470/1077). **Bilal Orfali** and Nada Saab. Leiden, Brill, 2012

In the Shadow of Arabic: The Centrality of Language to Arabic Culture. Studies presented to Ramzi Baalbaki on the Occasion of His Sixtieth Birthday. Ed. **Bilal Orfali**. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

Zād safar al-mulūk of Abū Maṣṣūr al-Tha‘ālibī [Critical edition with introduction, study, and notes]. Ramzi Baalbaki and **Bilal Orfali**. Beirut: Orient-Institut (*Bibliotheca Islamica* 52), 2011.

Sufi Inquiries and Interpretations of Abū ‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Sulamī (d. 412/1021) and a Treatise of Traditions by Ismā‘īl b. Nujayd al-Naysābūrī (d. 366/976-7) [Critical edition with introduction and study]. **Bilal Orfali** and Gerhard Böwering. Beirut: Dar al-Machreq, 2010.

Sufi Treatises of Abū ‘Abd al-Raḥmān al-Sulamī [Critical edition with introduction and study]. Gerhard Böwering and **Bilal Orfali**. Beirut: Dar al-Machreq, Recherches, 2009.

B. Articles

“fann al-ikhtiyār fī l-adab al-‘arabī al-qadīm,” *al-Machreq* (forthcoming, 2012).

“A Lost *Maqāma* of Badī al-Zamān al-Hamadhānī (?),” *Arabica* (forthcoming, 2012).

“A Sketch Map of Arabic Poetry Anthologies,” *Journal of Arabic Literature* (forthcoming, 2012).

“The Sources of al-Tha‘ālibī in *Yatīmat al-Dahr* and *Tatimmat al-Yatīma*,” *Middle Eastern Literatures* (forthcoming, 2012).

“Ghazal and Grammar: al-Bā‘ūnī’s *Tadmīn Alfīyyat Ibn Mālik fī l-Ghazal*,” in *In the Shadow of Arabic: The Centrality of Language to Arabic Culture*. Ed. Bilal Orfali. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

“The Works of Abū Maṣṣūr al-Tha‘ālibī,” *Journal of Arabic Literature* 40 (2009), 276-321.

“An Addendum to the *Dīwān* of Abū Maṣṣūr al-Ta‘ālibī,” *Arabica* 56 (2009), 440-449.

“The Art of the *Muqaddima* in the Works of Abū Maṣṣūr al-Tha‘ālibī (d. 429/1039),” in *The Weaving of Words: Approaches to Classical Arabic Prose*, ed. Lale Behzadi and Vahid Behmardi, Beirut: Orient Institute, 2009, 181-202.

IN PREPERATION

Early Arabic Sufi Poetry (book in progress).

An Anthologist’s Pearl: Al-Tha‘ālibī’s *Yatīmat al-dahr* and the Art of Anthology in Classical Arabic Literature (book in progress)

A Critical Edition of the *Maqāmāt* of Badī al-Zamān al-Hamadhānī (in progress, with Maurice Pomerantz)

Maqāmāt of al-Hamadhānī: Authorship, Text, and History (book in progress, with Maurice Pomerantz)

“None but Satan Made me Forget”: On Forgetting and Losing Knowledge in Classical Arabic Anthologies (article in progress).

A critical edition and a translation of *al-Zarāʿif wa-l-laṭāʿif* of al-Thaʿālibī (with Mario Kozah).

“Prestige” in Classical Arabic anthologies (article in progress).

Between Prose and Poetry: al-Thaʿālibī’s *Sajʿ al-manthūr*

Quoting the Qurʾān in Classical Arabic Literature (article in progress, with Maurice Pomerantz).

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (2011-2012)

AUB Faculty Research Grant (spring 2010)

Leylan Fellowship, 2008-2009 (Awarded to ten advanced students for academic merit to replace Yale University Dissertation Fellowship)

Yale University Dissertation Fellowship for Research, 2008-2009 (declined)

John F. Enders Fellowships & Research Grant, summer 2008

Princeton University Library Research Grant, May 2008

Yale Teaching Fellowship, Spring 2008

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Research Fellowship, Fall 2007

The Karl A. Schaefer Award Fellowship, 2005-2006

A. Bartlett Giamatti Award Fellowship (Awarded to ten first-year students in the Humanities for academic merit 2004-2005)

Yale Graduate School Award Fellowship, 2003-2006

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Al-Jāḥīz Viewing “Esteemed Nations”

American Oriental Society Conference, Chicago, 2011

Ushnāndānī’s *Maʿānī al-Shiʿr*: Its Sources, Content, and Reception

American Oriental Society Conference, St. Louis, 2010

The Sources of al-Thaʿālibī in *Yatīmat al-Dahr* and *Tatimmat al-Yatīma*

MESA Conference, Boston, 2009

Zād Safar al-Mulūk: An Anthology on Travel Literature by Abū Manṣūr al-Thaʿālibī

American Oriental Society Conference, Chicago, 2008

The Art of the *Muqaddima* in the works of Abū Manṣūr al-Thaʿālibī (d. 350-429/961-1039)

MESA Conference, Montreal, 2007

Representations of the Sea in Pre-Islamic Poetry

American Oriental Society Conference, San Antonio, 2007

GUEST AND INVITED LECTURES

A Lost *Maqāma* of Badīʿ al-Zamān al-Hamadhānī (?)”

Yale University, Yale Arabic Colloquium

2011

A Map of Arabic Anthology Literature

Guest lecture in Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies (MEST 301)

2010

AUB, CAMES

<i>Al-adab al-‘arabī wa-l-adab al-‘ālamī: al-ta’thīr wa-l-ta’aththur</i> AUB, CAMES Arabic Summer Program	2010, 2011
<i>Adab and Its Subcategories</i> Graduate Seminar on Research Methods Yale University, Dept. of Religious Studies	2008
<i>Sībawayhi’s Analytical Tools in al-Kitāb</i> (two lectures) Graduate Seminar on the history of Arabic Grammar Yale University, Dept. of NELC	2008
<i>Lamenting Sons and Daughters in Classical Arabic Literature</i> Guest lecture in “Classical Arabic Literature in Translation” Yale University, Dept. of NELC	2008
<i>The Art of the Muqaddima: In the works of Abū Mansūr al-Tha‘ālibī</i> Yale University, Yale Arabic Colloquium	2007
<i>Fayrūz wa-l-tajriba al-Rahbāniyya</i> AUB, CAMES Arabic Summer Program	2007, 2008, 2009
<i>The Genre of Rithā’ in Classical Arabic Literature</i> Guest lecture in “Classical Arabic Literature in Translation” Yale University, Dept. of NELC	2006, 2007
<i>Lamenting Cities in Classical and Modern Arabic Literature</i> Guest lecture in “Classical Arabic Literature in Translation” Yale University, Dept. of NELC	2006
<i>Fayrūz: Waṭan fī ṣawt</i> AUB, CAMES Arabic Summer Program	2003, 2005

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, ACTIVITIES, AND ASSOCIATIONS

American University of Beirut:

Member of the Steering Committee for Center for Humanities	2010-2011
Member of the Steering Committee for MA in Islamic Studies	2010-2011
Advisor for Undergraduate Studies (Arabic Dept)	2010-2011
Freshman Advisor (Faculty of Arts and Sciences)	2010-2011
Member of the Library Committee	fall 09-10, fall 10-11
Director of CAMES Arabic Summer Program	2006-present
Member of Executive Committee of CASAR	2009-2011

External:

Member of Editorial Board of <i>Texts and Studies on the Qur’an</i> , Brill
Member of Editorial Board of <i>Al-MACHRIQ: Revue Catholique Orientale</i> . Sciences, Lettres, Arts
Member of American Oriental Society
Member of Middle Eastern Studies Association
Member of the School of Abbasid Studies
Member of Yale Arab Alumni Association
Member of Association of Yale Alumni

COURSES TAUGHT AT AUB

- Arab201B: Readings in Arabic Literature
- Arab221: Arabic Stylistics and Metrics
- Arab233: Abbasid Poetry I
- Arab234: Abbasid Poetry II
- Arab243: Classical Arabic Prose
- Arab251J: The *Maqāmat* in Arabic Literature

BOOK COVERS

