

MUHAMMAD VELJI

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
RUSSELL HOUSE, OFFICE 215
350 HIGH ST, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
E-MAIL: MUHAMMAD.VELJI@GMAIL.COM
WEBSITE: <HTTPS://MUHAMMADVELJI.COM>

ACADEMIC POSITION

Wesleyan University – Visiting Assistant Professor (2022 - 2024)

Wofford College - James A. & Susan K. Keller Predoctoral Teaching Fellowship (2020-2022)

EDUCATION

McGill University – PhD (2012 – 2022)

Dissertation Chairs: Prof. Alia Al-Saji and Prof. Daniel Weinstock

Committee Member: Prof. Natalie Stoljar

External: Prof. Serene Khader

University of South Florida – PhD (2009 – 2012) (transferred to McGill)

Carleton University – MA (2007 – 2009)

University of Toronto - (2001 – 2007)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

AoS: Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Race

AoC: Philosophy of Law, 20th Century Continental Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Velji, Muhammad. “Proposing an Islamic Virtue Ethics Beyond the Situationist Debates.” *Inquiry*, (Forthcoming) <https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2023.2296467>.

Velji, Muhammad. “From Resistance to Creativity: A Post-Colonial Critique of Feminist Teleology.” *Hypatia*, (Forthcoming) <https://doi.org/10.1017/hyp.2023.119>.

Velji, Muhammad. “Change Your Look, Change Your Luck: Religious Self-Transformation and Brute Luck Egalitarianism.” *Res Philosophica*, 92 no. 2, (2015): 453-471. (Peer-Reviewed inclusion in a special issue about “Transformative Experiences.”)

Velji, Muhammad. “Seductive Piety: Faith and Fashion through Lipovetsky and Heidegger.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 32. no. 1, (2012): 147-155

WORKS IN PROGRESS

A paper that demonstrates through ethnography of the Muslim women's *dawa* movement that affordances is the best way to define feminist relational autonomy and heal the rift between internalist proceduralists and externalist substantivists.

“Merleau-Ponty's ‘Institution’: A Different Way to think About Socialization and ‘Character Luck’”

“Order, Symmetry And Limit: *Kalon* As ‘Beauty’ In Aristotle's *Politics*”

A paper that borrows the term “niche construction” from the philosophy of biology to criticize our descriptive understanding of “adaptive preferences”.

BOOK MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

Mundane Yet Powerful: The Meso-Level of the Political, Transformative Justice and Rethinking Social Change

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

“Legislative Catharsis, Part Two: A Primer on Québec's Veil Bans for Europeans” for the University of Groningen blog on religion, *The Religion Factor*. <https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/religion-conflict-globalization/blog/legislative-catharsis-part-two-a-primer-on-quebecs-veil-bans-for-europeans-29-05-2019>

“Legislative Catharsis, Part One: A Primer on Québec's Veil Bans for Europeans” for the University of Groningen blog on religion, *The Religion Factor*. <https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/religion-conflict-globalization/blog/legislative-catharsis-part-one-a-primer-on-quebecs-veil-bans-for-europeans-22-05-2019>

Contribution to “Circumscribing the Body Politic: Circumcision, Religious Freedom and Identity in Europe” for the University of Groningen blog on religion, *The Religion Factor* <https://religionfactor.net/2018/03/29/circumscribing-the-body-politic-circumcision-religious-freedom-and-identity-in-europe/>

SELECTED REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- “Mundane Yet Powerful: The Meso-Level of the Political, Transformative Justice and Rethinking Social Change”
American Philosophy Association (APA) *Central Meeting* in New Orleans, LA from February 21-24, 2024.
- “Rethinking Saba Mahmood's Account of ‘Inhabiting a Norm’”
Feminist Ethics and Social Theory (FEAST) (online), from October 20-21, 2023
- “From Security to Safety: How the Transformative Justice Movement Allows us to See a New Way of Connecting Self Transformation to Social Transformation”

Association for Political Theory (API) at Union College, Schenectady, NY from Oct 11-13, 2023 and at *philoSOPHIA*: 16th annual Continental Feminist conference at UNC Charlotte from May 1-3, 2023.

- “Rethinking Revolution as Rupture: The Black Feminist Transformative Justice Movement, Habit, Skill and Its Relation to Creative Social Transformation”
Western Political Science Association in San Francisco from April 6-8, 2023
- “Against ‘the Moral System’ as a Standard for Public Reason and Religious Accommodation”
Association for Political Theory (APT) at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor from October 12-14, 2017
- “The Middle Strata: Rethinking the Dreaded ‘Choice/Chance’ Arguments About Religious Accommodation.”
Religion and Public Justification at University College, London from January 28-29, 2016
- “A Critique of the Role of Luck in Deciding on Legal Accommodation.”
Freedom of (and from) Religion: Debates Over the Accommodation of Religion in the Public Sphere at UCSB from April 30 – May 2, 2015.
- “The Beauty of the Multitude: Translating *Kalon* as ‘Beauty’ in Aristotle’s *Politics*”
Richard R. Baker Philosophy Colloquium on “Teleology in Plato and Aristotle” at the University of Dayton, Ohio from April 10th – 11th, 2015 and at *Graduate Political Theory Conference* at Duke University from February 12th – 13th, 2015.
- “Like A Second Skin: How the Theory of Extended Mind Changes How We Think of the Muslim Headscarf and Religious Accommodation”
Forum Scientiarum conference on *Religion and Secularism in Modern Democracies* and Summer school with Charles Taylor. At the University of Tübingen, Germany from June 2nd - June 7th, 2013
- “Seductive Piety: Faith and Fashion Through Lipovetsky and Heidegger”
Veiled Constellations: The Veil, Critical Theory, Politics, and Contemporary Society, York University and the University of Toronto from June 3-5, 2010.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Proposing an Islamic Virtue Ethics Beyond the Situationist Debates”
Contemporary Islamic Philosophy at University of British Columbia, March 27, 2023
- “Manifestation of Religion in European and Canadian Law and Quebec’s Bill 62”
Canadian Philosophical Association – Symposium on Quebec’s New Law on Secularism (Bill 62) in Montreal, Quebec from June 4th-7th, 2018
- “Against ‘the Moral System’ as a Standard for Public Reason and Religious Accommodation”
American Philosophical Association (APA) Central Division - Symposium on “Muslims, Minorities, and Liberal Rights” in Chicago, Illinois from February 21-24, 2018

AWARDS

- Affiliated Fellow with the Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalization at the University of Groningen (2019 - 2022)
- RGCS Summer Publication Fellowship (2018)
- Yan P. Lin – Oliver Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2017-2018)
- Nominated for Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill Teaching Award (Spring 2016) (Awarded to best 3 teachers in all of Arts and Science Faculty at McGill)
- Graduate Fellow of the Research Group on Constitutional Studies (RGCS)
- Graduate Fellow of the Groupe de Recherche Interuniversitaire en Philosophie Politique (Interuniversity Research Group on Political Philosophy) (GRIPP)
- McGill Grad Excellence award (2012-2017)
- USF Dean’s Excellence award (2009-2012)
- Imam Tawfiq Shaheen Scholarship (2009)
- Naida Waite Graduate Scholarship (for best GPA for a full-time master’s student) (2008)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Charles Taylor – Edited Manuscript of *The Language Animal: The Full Shape of the Human Linguistic Capacity* (2015 - 2016)
- Charles Taylor – Edited Manuscript of co-authored book with Hubert Dreyfus *Retrieving Realism* (2013-2015)
- Daniel Weinstock, Jacob Levy and Jocelyn Maclure – Assist with editing Charles Taylor’s Festschrift: *Interpreting Modernity: Essays on the work of Charles Taylor* (2014 - 2018)

EXPERIENCE AS SOLE INSTRUCTOR

- Wesleyan University (Fall 2023)
Course Title: Philosophy of Law (PHIL273)
- Wesleyan University (Spring 2023)
Course Title: Decolonial Theory (Senior Seminar) (PHIL358)
- Wesleyan University (Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
Course Title: Critical Philosophy of Race (PHIL211)
- Wesleyan University (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
Course Title: Introduction to Political Philosophy (First Year Seminar) (PHIL216)
- Wesleyan University (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
Course title: Self and Social Transformation (PHIL274)

- Wofford College (Fall 2021)
Course Title: Political Philosophy (PHIL 216)
- Wofford College (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)
Course Title: Philosophy of Race (PHIL 380)
- Wofford College (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
Course Title: Philosophy of Law (PHIL 301)
- Wofford College (Fall 2020, Spring 2021 and Spring 2022)
Course Title: Basic Problems in Philosophy (PHIL 203)
- McGill University (Spring 2016)
Course Title: Feminist Political Theory (in Political Science dept.) (POLI336) (*nominated for Arts Undergraduate Society of McGill teaching award given to best 3 teachers in all of Arts and Science Faculty at McGill*)
- McGill University (Fall 2015)
Course Title: Current Issues in Political Philosophy (PHIL446) (Seminar: Politics of Foucault's Late Work on Self-Transformation)
- University of South Florida (2011-2012)
Course Title: Bioethics (PHI 3363) (Fall and Spring Terms)
- University of South Florida (2010- 2011)
Course Title: Critical Thinking (PHI 1103) (Fall and Spring Terms)

SERVICE

- Referee for *Hypatia* (2023)
- Referee for *Politics, Groups, and Identities* (2019)
- Help organize Montreal Workshop in Critical Philosophy of Race (2019)
- Help found a MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) chapter at McGill (2019-2020)
- Referee for *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* (2015 and 2016)

REFERENCES

Alia Al-Saji

Associate Professor of Philosophy
McGill University
alia.al-saji@mcgill.ca

Charles Taylor

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
McGill University
cmt6603@gmail.com

Natalie Stoljar

Professor of Philosophy
McGill University
natalie.stoljar@mcgill.ca

Joseph T. Rouse

(*Teaching Reference*)
Hedding Professor of Moral Science
Wesleyan University
jrouse@wesleyan.edu

Daniel Weinstock

Katharine A. Pearson Chair in Civil Society and
Public Policy in Law and Philosophy
McGill University
danielweins@gmail.com

Serene Khader

Professor of Philosophy and Women's and
Gender Studies
CUNY Graduate Center
serene.khader@gmail.com

