William Rory Dickson

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Department of Religion and Philosophy Brookings, SD, 57006 USA

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**Professional History:**

(2013- ) Intructor, Religion and Philosophy, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

# **Doctoral Education:**

(2007-2012) Ph.D., Religious Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University-University of Waterloo Joint Program, Waterloo, Ontario. Specialization in Islamic Studies, Sufism, and Sociology of Religion.

**Dissertation:**

“Living Sufism in North America: Between Tradition and Transformation.”

**Other Education and Professional Experience:**

(2010) Graduate Research School: Islam and Muslims in a Plural World, University of Copenhagen and University of Toronto, the Danish Institute in Damascus, Syria.

(2009) Arabic Language School, Middlebury College, Middlebury at Mills, Oakland, California.

(2007) M.A., Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario.

(2005) B.S.W., Social Work, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.

(2001) B.A., History, University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, Camrose, Alberta.

## Scholarships and Awards

(2010-2011) Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Fellowship ($20,000)

(2010-2011) Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities ($15,000 – Declined)

(2009) Sally Jefferson Larry Toombs Teaching Award, Wilfrid Laurier University ($150)

(2009-2010) Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities ($15,000)

(2008-2009) Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities ($15,000)

(2007-2008) Ontario Graduate Fellowship, Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities ($9,000)

(1999-2000) Louise McKinney Scholarship, Alberta Heritage Scholarship Office ($2,500)

## Publications

**Books:**

*Sufism in North America: Between Tradition and Transformation*. Albany: State University of New York Press(Forthcoming, 2015).

**Peer-Reviewed Articles and Essays in Books:**

(2014). “An American Sufism: The Naqshbandi-Haqqani Order as a Public Religion.” *Studies in Religion* 43(3): 411-424.

(2014). “Traces of Panentheism in Islam: Ibn al-‘Arabi and the Kaleidoscope of Being.” In *Panentheism Across the World’s Religious Traditions*. Co-authored with Meena Sharify-Funk. Edited by Loriliai Biernacki and Philip Clayton, 142-160. New York: Oxford University Press.

(2013). “Islam.” In *World Religions: Canadian Perspectives - Western Traditions*. Co-authored with Meena Sharify-Funk. Edited by Doris B. Jakobsh, 150-200. Toronto: Nelson.

(2013). “The Way of the Sufi.” In *Ways of the Spirit: Celebrating Dialogue, Diversity, and Spirituality*. Edited by M. Darrol Bryant. Kitchener: Pandora Press.

(2010). “Religion as Phantasmagoria: Islam in Sam Harris’s *The End of Faith*.” In *Religion and the New Atheism: A Critical Appraisal*. Edited by Amarnath Amarasingam, 37-54. Leiden: Brill.

(2009). “The *Tablighi Jama‘at* in Southwestern Ontario: Making Muslim Identities and Communities in Canadian Urban Spaces.” *Journal of Contemporary Islam* 2(3): 99-112.

(2008). “A Contest of Grammar: Religion and Knowledge in the Thought of Ibn ‘Arabi and Ibn Taymiyyah.” *ARC: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill* 36: 35-51.

**Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries:**

“Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Wahhab,” “Islam and Modernity,” “Islamic Revivalism,” “Sayyid Qutb,” and “Rashid Rida,” In *Encyclopedia of Religion in the Modern World.* Edited by M. Darrol Bryant. New York: Facts on File.

**Book Reviews:**

(2008). Review of *Building Jewish Roots: An Israel Experience,* by Faydra Shapiro. *Journal of Religion and Culture* 18 (19).

(2007). Review of *Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics, and Territory*, by Brannon Wheeler. *Journal of Religious Studies and Theology* 26 (1).

**Non-refereed Publications:**

(2014) With Amarnath Amarasingam. “How ISIS gets its Western recruits.” *National Post*, October 3.

(2011) With Amarnath Amarasingam. “Peter King’s Radicalization Hearings Deaf to Reality. *The Huffington Post*, March 12.

### **Academic Conference Participation**

“Caretaker or Companion? Shifting Models of Authority in North American Sufism.” Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Brock University, St. Catherines, Ontario. May 24 – May 27, 2014.

"An Islamic Panentheism? Ibn al-'Arabi on the Transcendence and Immanence of God.” American Academy of Religion: Upper Midwest Region. Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. April 4 – 5, 2014.

“Can there be a Sufism without Islam? Exploring Answers from North American Sufi Teachers.” Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. May 29, 2012.

“Roundtable: What is Canadian About the World’s Religions?” Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. May 28, 2012.

“The ‘Koan’ of the Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship: Universal and Islamic Sufism.” American Academy of Religion: Eastern International Region. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. May 4 – 5, 2012.

“Ibn ‘Arabi and the Faces of the Absolute: A Sufi Perspective on Ultimate Reality and Meaning.”16th Biennial Conference of the International Society for the Study of Human Ideas on Ultimate Reality. Regis College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, August 11, 2011.

“A Mosque-Centered Spirituality: Islam, Space, and Identity Construction in Ontario.” Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, May 26, 2009.

“An American Sufism: The Naqshbandi-Haqqani Order as a Public Religion.” American Academy of Religion: Eastern International Region. Le Moyne College, Syracuse, New York. May 1 – 2, 2009.

# “The Tablighi Jama‘at in Southwestern Ontario: Making Muslim Identities and Networks in Canadian Urban Spaces.” 5th Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference. April 5 – 6, 2008.

## Invited Lectures

“Damascus: Islam and Urbanism.” ARCH571 Architectural Practice. South Dakota State University. Brookings, South Dakota. September 22, 2014.

“Reinvention as Rediscovery: Islam, Love, and Prairie Hospitality.” TEDx Brookings: Reinventing Rural. Brookings, South Dakota. February 21, 2014.

“Sufism in Turkish History.” South Dakota World Affairs Council Confernce on ‘Turkey: Past, Present & Why it Matters.’ South Dakota State University. Brookings, South Dakota. November 5, 2013.

“From Syria to Sri Lanka: The National Contours of Regional Revolutions.” University of Toronto Tamil Students Association Conference on ‘Can Sri Lanka be the Next Egypt?’ University of Toronto. Toronto, Ontario. March 22, 2011.

“Love Beyond Borders: Rumi’s Poetry in an Intercultural World.” Rumi Talk Series, Intercultural Dialogue Institute. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, March 8, 2011.

“Ibn ‘Arabi on the Significance of Being Human.” CT253 Ancients and Moderns: On the Good Life. Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford, Ontario, March 23, 2010.

“Ibn ‘Arabi and Ibn Taymiyyah: Epistemology and the Religious ‘Other.’” ML300: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Medieval Europe. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, March 19, 2009.

“Written in Stone: Sacred Narratives and Sufi Shrines.” RE332: Sacred Space. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, November 5, 2008.

## Teaching

**Instructor:**

**(**Winter 2014) PHIL100: Introduction to Philosophy. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

(Winter 2014) REL353: Islam and Hinduism in South Asia. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

(Winter 2014) RE213: Introduction to Religious Studies. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

(Fall 2013) PHIL100: Introduction to Philosophy. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

(Fall 2013) RE213: Introduction to Religious Studies. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

(Fall 2013) RE250: World Religions. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

(Winter 2013) RE370: Philosophy of Religion. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

(Fall 2012) RE265: Cults, Sects, and New Religious Movements. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario.

(Winter 2012) RE233: Stories and the Sacred. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario.

**Teaching Assistant:**

(Fall 2009) Teaching Assistant for Meena-Sharify Funk, Wilfrid Laurier University, RE213: Religious Heritage of Islam.

**Professional Service**

(2013) Peer-review of articles for journals: *Canadian Journal of Netherlandic Studies,* and *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture.*

(2012) Religion and Culture Hiring Committee for One-Year Limited Term Appointment in New Testament Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University.

(2009-2011) Joint Committee of the Wilfrid Laurier University – University of Waterloo PhD in Religious Studies.

(2010) Religion and Culture Hiring Committee for Tenure-track Position in South Asian Religions, Wilfrid Laurier University.

#### Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion

**References:** Available on request.

##### Last Revised: 7 October 2014