

## **Abjar Bahkou**

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### **Education**

Ph.D. in Islamic Studies, **Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies**, (PISAI) Rome, Italy 2008.

Dissertation: Critical Edition, Study, and English Translation of the Christian apology of Gerasimus, *Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma'nā al-Shāfī* (The Complete Book of the Proper Meaning). The author is Gerasimus, a Christian Arab theologian who lived in the pre-Ottoman Era.

Director of the Dissertation: Dr. Samir Khalil.

Master of Art in Islamic Studies, **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**, Fort Worth, Texas 2006.

Thesis: "The Christian Legend of Monk Bahira in Christian and Muslim sources: An English Translation and Study of the Syriac Manuscripts of Mardin 295/2."

Internal Examiner: Dr. Tony Maalouf (SWBTS, Fort Worth, Texas).

External Examiner: Dr. Abdul-Massih Saadi, (University of Notre Dame, Indiana).

Ph.D. in Education, **Salesian Pontifical University**, Focusing on Youth Education in the Contemporary Middle Eastern Culture, Rome, Italy 1998.

Dissertation: "Ipotesi di Educazione Religiosa Cristiana Nell Contesto Giovanile Arabo-Siriano" (A Proposal for the Religious Education of Young People in the Arabo-Syrian Context).

Director: Dr. Zelindo Trenti

Examining committee: Zelindo Trenti, Cyril De Souza, Jose Bajzek.

M.A. Education, **Salesian Pontifical University**, Focusing on Youth Education in the Contemporary Middle Eastern Culture, Rome, Italy 1996.

Thesis: "L'Educatione Religiosa dei Giovani Siriani: Analisi della Condizione Religiosa Giovanile in Riferimento alle Istituzioni Educative" (The Religious Education of Syrian Youth: Analysis of the Young Religious Conditions in Reference to the Educational Institutions).

B. A. in Education, **Salesian Pontifical University**, Rome, Italy 1995.

Diploma in Theology, **St. Ephraim Theological Seminary**, Damascus, Syria 1993.

### ***Additional Courses and Seminars Completed***

**Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University**, Fort Worth, Texas 2004.

**Loyola Marymount University**, Department of Theological Studies, Los Angeles, California 2002.

**Fuller Theological Seminary**, Pasadena, California 2001.

**Kimmage Manor**, School of Theology, Intercultural Studies, Dublin, Ireland 1998.

## **Professional Experience**

**Baylor University**, Waco, Texas 2009.

Adjunct professor of Arabic literature and language

**University of North Texas**, Denton, Texas 2009.

Adjunct professor of Arabic literature and language

**Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**, Fort Worth, Texas 2006 – 2008.

Instructor in Islamic Studies.

Courses taught: Islamic History, Culture, Philosophy, Christian Inquiry into Islamic Faith and Practice, History of Christianity in Pre-Islamic Period (Eastern & Western Christianity), Introduction to Mission and Intercultural Ministry.

Teaching Assistantship 2006 – 2007.

Courses assisted: Christian Inquiry into Islamic Faith, Islamic History, Culture, Philosophy, The Qur'an: Islamic Sources, The Hadith: Islamic Sources, History of Christianity in Pre-Islamic Period, Eastern & Western Christianity, Arabs in Biblical History, Church History (East and West).

**Salesian Pontifical University**, Rome, Italy 1996 – 1998.

Teaching Assistantship.

Courses assisted: Philosophy of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Anthropology, Seminar in Youth Education.

**St. Ephraim Theological Seminary**, Damascus, Syria 1998 – 1999.

Instructor in World Religion and Interreligious Dialogue.

Course taught: Christian Muslim Dialogue, Introduction to World Religions, Christian Youth Education in the Contemporary Arabic Context.

## **Languages**

- |                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Arabic                     | Fluent reading, writing, and speaking |
| • Syriac (Classical Aramaic) | Fluent reading, writing, and speaking |
| • English                    | Fluent reading, writing, and speaking |
| • Italian                    | Fluent reading, writing, and speaking |
| • French                     | Strong reading knowledge              |
| • Hebrew (biblical)          | Strong reading knowledge              |

## Organizations

Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa  
American Academy of Religion  
Evangelical Theological Society  
North American Patristic Society  
Gruppo di Ricerca Arabo-Cristiana (GRAC) Italy, Lebanon, (the Arabic-Christian Group of Researches)  
North American Society for Christian Arabic Studies

## Academic Conferences and Presentations

- *Cristiani e Musulmani nel Mondo Arabo ieri ed oggi: Conflitti e Incontri Culturali e Religiosi* (Christians and Muslims in the Arab World, yesterday and today: conflicts and religious encounters) Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy, February 27 – 28.
- Baptist-Muslim National Dialogue, Andover Newton Theological School, Boston, MA, January 9 – 11, 2009.
- “Islam in America and their Relation to Christians,” Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Carrollton, Texas, August 31, 2008.
- “Kitāb al-Kāfī Fī al-Ma’nā al-Shāfī (The Complete Book of the Proper Meaning) the Christian Apology of Gerasimus,” An International Colloquium on the Literary Production of Melkites in the Pre-Ottoman Era (AD 750-1561), Beirut, Lebanon, January 2008.
- “Christians and the Challenge of Islam,” Annual Conference on Islam organized by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, April 19, 2008.
- “Journey of Faith, Islam and Christianity” four lectures at The University of Texas Arlington (UTA), April 2007.
  - “The Scripture, the Bible and the Quran,” April 2, 2007.
  - “Key Doctrines: Sin, Salvation, Jesus Christ,” April 9, 2007.
  - “Contemporary Issues in the Christian Muslim Relations,” April 16, 2007.
  - “Christians and Muslims, Dialogue or Confrontation,” April 23, 2007.
- “The Islamic Movements and their Challenges,” Grapevine Baptist Church, July 30, 2005.

## Publications

### Books

*A Proposal for the Religious Education of Young People in the Arabo-Syrian Context*, in progress.

### Articles

“Kitāb al-Kāfi Fī al-Ma’ nā al-Shāfi (The Complete Book of the Proper Meaning: A Christian Apology of Gerasimus,” Samir K. Samir (ed.) *The Literary Production of Melkites in the Pre-Ottoman Era ( AD 750 – 1561)* (forthcoming, 2008).

“Abraham between Islam and Christianity,” *Patriarchal Journal* 2006, pp. 23 – 33.

“The Person of Christ between Islam and Christianity I,” *Patriarchal Journal* 2006, pp. 25 – 40.

“The Person of Christ between Islam and Christianity II,” *Patriarchal Journal* 2006, pp. 40 – 55.

“The Legend of Monk Bahira in Christian and Islamic Sources, with the translation of Mardin Syriac Manuscript 259/2 I” *Patriarchal Journal* 2006, pp. 35 – 50.

“The Legend of Monk Bahira in Christian and Islamic Sources, with the translation of Mardin Syriac Manuscript 259/2 II” *Patriarchal Journal* 2006, pp. 47 – 62.

“Toward a Healthy Youth Ministry in Middle Eastern Churches,” series of articles in *Sabro (Hope)* from 2001 till 2002.

“Using the Existential Method in the Youth Religious Education, I” *Patriarchal Journal* 2000, pp. 191 - 193.

“Using the Existential Method in the Youth Religious Education, II” *Patriarchal Journal* 1999, pp. 53 - 72.

“Christian Education, Faith Education,” *Sabro (Hope)* 2000, pp. 19 – 21.

### **Translation Work**

#### From Arabic into English

Gerasimus, *Kitāb al-Kāfi Fī al-Ma’ nā al-Shāfi (The Complete Book of the Proper Meaning)* (Work in progress, 2008)

#### From Syriac into English

*The Legend of Monk Bahira*, (Translation of Mardin Syriac Manuscripts 259/2) 2006

#### From English into Arabic

Laurence L. White, *Life with God*, Houston, Texas 1995. (2007)

Sister Magdalene, *Children in the Church Today*, St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, Crestwood, New York 1991. (2002)

## Academic References

Dr. Abdul-Massih Saadi  
University of Notre Dame  
304 O'Shaughnessy Hall Notre Dame, IN 46556  
Tel: (574) 631-8419  
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Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary  
P.O. Box 22000  
Fort Worth, Texas 76122  
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Dr. Andrew Christian van Gorder,  
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