

## Mehdy Shaddel

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### Research interests

Early Islamic and late ancient history and historiography, the Qur'ān, apocalypticism and eschatology, economic history, comparative empires and state formation, Iranian studies, numismatics, history of political thought, modern European intellectual history.

### Languages

Persian (native); English (near native); Classical Arabic (reading competence); French (reading competence, limited to specialist literature); Middle Persian (basic); German (basic); Syriac (basic); Latin (basic).

### Publications

#### Books

*The Sufyanids and the Beginnings of the Second Civil War, 660-684* (with a contribution by Michael L. Bates), under consideration for inclusion in the series *Late Antique and Medieval Islamic Near East*, published by the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago.

#### In peer-reviewed journals

1. “Traces of the *hamza* in the Early Arabic Script: The Inscriptions of Zuhayr, Qays the Scribe, and ‘Yazīd the King”, [Arabian Epigraphic Notes](#) 4 (2018): pp. 35-52.
2. “Studia onomastica coranica: *al-raqīm*, caput Nabataeae”, [Journal of Semitic Studies](#) 62 (2017): pp. 303-318.
3. “The Sufyānī in Early Islamic Kerygma: An Enquiry into His Origins and Early Development”, [Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society](#), 27 (2017): pp. 403-434.
4. “‘Abd Allāh ibn al-Zubayr and the Mahdī: Between Propaganda and Historical Memory in the Second Civil War”, [Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies](#) 80 (2017): pp. 1-19.
5. “Qur’ānic *ummī*: Genealogy, Ethnicity, and the Foundation of a New Community”, [Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam](#) 43 (2016): pp. 1-60.
6. “‘The Year according to the Reckoning of the Believers’: Papyrus Louvre inv. J. David-Weill 20 and the Origins of the *hijrī* Era”, forthcoming in *Der Islam* 94 (2018): pp. 291-311.
7. “*Shūrā* in the Second Civil War”, forthcoming in *Festschrift for Ella Landau-Tasseron, Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam* 45 (2018).
8. With Michael L. Bates, “Note on a Peculiar Arab-Sasanian Coinage of Ibn al-Ash‘ath”, forthcoming.

9. “Muhammad and the Muslim Conquest of the Near East, or How Periodisation Can Affect our View of the Past”, forthcoming.
10. “Close-kin Marriage in Early Islam? A Reassessment of the Evidence”, forthcoming.
11. With Holger M. Zellentin, “From ‘False Pericopae’ to ‘Satanic Verses’: The Doctrine of Scriptural Falsification between the pseudo-Clementina and the Quran”, in preparation (tentative title).
12. With Robert G. Hoyland, “Papyrus Nessana 56: Edition, Translation, Commentary”, in preparation (tentative title).
13. “When Prophecy Fails and End Arrives: Early Abbasid *Reichseschatologie* and Its Revisions”, in preparation (tentative title).
14. “The Development of the Meccan Sanctuary in the First Two Islamic Centuries: An Epigraphic Approach”, in preparation (tentative title).

### Encyclopaedia entries

“Yazid I b. Mo‘āwiya”, forthcoming in *Encyclopaedia Iranica*.

### Book reviews

1. “Review of David Cook, *The Book of Tribulations: The Syrian Muslim Apocalyptic Tradition*, Edinburgh University Press, 2017”, [Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society](#) 28 (2018): pp. 758-760.
2. “Review of Mimi Hanaoka, *Authority and Identity in Medieval Islamic Historiography: Persian Histories from the Peripheries*, Cambridge University Press, 2016”, *Reading Religion*, March 2017, available at <http://readingreligion.org/books/authority-and-identity-medieval-islamic-historiography>.
3. “Review of Jamel A. Velji, *An Apocalyptic History of the Early Fatimid Empire*, Edinburgh University Press, 2016”, *Reading Religion*, November 2016, available online at <http://readingreligion.org/books/apocalyptic-history-early-fatimid-empire>.
4. “Review of Carol Bakhos and Michael Cook, *Islam and Its Past: Jahiliyya, Late Antiquity, and the Qur’an*, Oxford University Press, 2017”, to appear in *Reading Religion*.
5. “Review of Peter Webb, *Imagining the Arabs: Arab Identity and the Rise of Islam*, Edinburgh University Press, 2016”, to appear in *ID: International Identity*.

### In non-peer-reviewed venues

1. “Instituciones del califato omeya”, *Desperta Ferro* 46 (2018): pp. 26-30.
2. “An Apocalyptic Reading of Qur’an 17:1-8”, the IQSA blog (July 2016), available at <https://iqsaweb.wordpress.com/2016/07/25/an-apocalyptic-reading-of-quran-171-8/>.
3. “Food, Identity, and ‘Third-Way’ Groups in Late Antiquity and at the Origins of the Qur’an”, contribution to the online forum *Conflict and Convergence in Late Antiquity*, hosted by the digital humanities website *Mizan* (December 2015), available at [www.mizanproject.org/food-identity-and-third-way-groups-in-late-antiquity-and-at-the-origins-of-the-quran/](http://www.mizanproject.org/food-identity-and-third-way-groups-in-late-antiquity-and-at-the-origins-of-the-quran/).

4. “Nusakh-i khaṭṭī-yi qur’ān” (Qur’ān manuscripts), contribution to the online forum *Discovery of Ancient Qur’ān Fragments in Tübingen and Birmingham*, hosted by *Dīn online* (December 2014), available online at <http://www.dinonline.com/doc/note/fa/4523/>.

### Op-eds and media features

1. “Donald Trump Thinks It’s His Fault that Iran’s Currency Is in Meltdown. He Shouldn’t Be so Arrogant”, *The Independent* (18 September, 2018), available at <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/iran-us-rial-currency-crisis-explained-a8543086.html>.
2. “This Is Why Iran Won’t Negotiate with Trump”, *The National Interest* (August 2018), available at <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/why-iran-wont-negotiate-trump-28937>.
3. “How Rouhani’s Neoliberal Policies Provoked Unrest in Iran”, *openDemocracy* (February 2018), available at <https://www.opendemocracy.net/north-africa-west-asia/mehdy-shaddel/how-rouhani-s-neoliberal-policies-provoked-unrest-in-iran>.

### Translations

1. *Jang-i jahānī-yi awwal* (Tehran: Hikmat Publications, 2016; 154 pages). Translation of Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).
2. “Muḥammad dar talaqqī-yi ‘amma: ulgūhā dar tafsīr-i pāradāymī islāmī”, in *Rahyāfthā-ī bi islām dar muṭāla ‘āt-i adyān* (Tehran: Hikmat Publications, 2017), pp. 83-107. Translation of Earle H. Waugh, “The Popular Muḥammad: Models in the Interpretation of an Islamic Paradigm”, in Richard Martin, *Approaches to Islam in Religious Studies* (Oxford: Oneworld, 2001<sup>2</sup>), pp. 41-58.
3. “Nakhustīn guzārishhā-i masīhiyān-i suryānī az futūḥ-i islāmī”, *Īrānshahr-i imrūz* 4 (2016): pp. 141-158. Translation of Michael Philip Penn, “God’s War and His Warriors: The First Hundred Years of Syriac Accounts of the Islamic Conquests”, in Sohail H. Hashmi (ed.), *Just Wars, Holy Wars, and Jihads: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Encounters and Exchanges* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 69-88.
4. Collaboration in the translation project of E. J. Brill’s *Encyclopaedia of the Qur’ān* (Leiden: Brill, 2001-2006), published as *Dā’irat al-ma ‘ārif-i qur’ān* (Tehran: Hikmat Publications, 2013-), 2014-2017.

### Current projects

1. Edition and translation of Muḥammad ibn ‘Abdūs al-Jahshiyārī’s *Kitāb al-Wuzarā’ wa-l-kuttāb* (under consideration for publication by New York University Press’s *Library of Arabic Literature* series).
2. Edition, with historiographical introduction, of *Dhīkr banī al-‘abbās wa-sabab zuḥūrihim*, a history of the Abbasids beginning with their eponymous ancestor and down to the death of the caliph al-Muqtadir bi-llāh in 320 AH.

3. A projected monograph on the socio-economic history of late Sasanian Iran, Byzantine Egypt, and the early Caliphate, tentatively entitled *Fiscal Regime and Social Transformation in the Late Ancient Near East, 500-800*.

#### **Services to the field**

Blog coordinator, International Qur'anic Studies Association, 2016-2018.

#### **Peer-reviewed manuscripts for:**

*Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*

*Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*

#### **Computer skills**

Adobe Acrobat; Adobe Illustrator; Adobe Photoshop; LaTeX; MS Office.

(continued on next page)

## References

**Robert G. Hoyland**

Professor of late antique and early Islamic  
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