

# Rosabel P. Ansari

Rosabel.Ansari@Stonybrook.edu  
Harriman Hall 233  
Department of Philosophy  
Stony Brook University

## Professional

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Stony Brook University, The State University of New York

2023 – current      Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

## Education

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2021    Ph.D., with distinction, Georgetown University

2012    B.A. (1<sup>st</sup> class degree), University of Cambridge

*Education abroad:*

- EDEP/ İSAR Institute, Istanbul, Turkey, 2015, 2016
- Ottoman and Turkish Summer School, Cunda, Turkey, 2015
- Ma‘had Abī Nūr and Ma‘had al-Fath, Damascus, Syria, 2010-11
- British School of Archaeology, East Jerusalem, 2010
- Mār Māsā Monastery, Nabak, Syria, 2009

## Research interests

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*Areas of Specialization:* Classical and post-classical Islamic philosophy (especially metaphysics, philosophy of language, philosophical Sufism and the commentary tradition on Avicenna); Graeco-Arabic Studies

*Areas of Competence:* Ancient and Medieval philosophy; early modern philosophy; philosophy of religion

## Publications

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*Books*

2025    *Language and Being in al-Fārābī: The Philosophy of Taṣkīk* (Oxford University Press).

*Journal Articles*

2024    “Necessary Existent Theology,” *Religious Studies* 60.2: 204-218 (co-authored with Billy Dunaway and Jon McGinnis).

- 2023 “A discussion of Jawdath Jabbour, *De la matière à l'intellect. L'âme et la substance de l'homme dans l'oeuvre d'al-Fārābī*,” *Les Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph* 69: 439-448.
- 2022 “One Way of Being Ambiguous: The Univocity of ‘Existence’ and the Theory of *Tashkīk* Predication in Rāzī and Ṭūsī,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 96.4: 545-570 (co-authored with Jon McGinnis).
- 2022 “Taftāzānī’s refutation of Akbarian metaphysics and the identification of absolute being with the Necessary Being,” *Oriens* 50.3-4: 207-243.
- 2018 “Ibn Kemal, Dawānī and the Avicennan lineage,” *Les Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph* 67: 237-264.

#### *Book chapters*

- Forthcoming “Avicenna and Later Islamic Sufism” in eds. J. McGinnis and M. Saleh Zarepour, *The Blackwell Companion to Avicenna* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell).
- 2025 “La métaphysique éléatique et son explication psychologique dans la philosophie d'al-Fārābī” in eds M. Brinzei, I. Caiazzo, Ch. Grellard, A. Robert, *Radical Thinking in Middle Ages. Acts of the XV International Congress of the SIEPM, Paris, 21-26 August 2022* (Rencontres de Philosophie Médiévale) (Turnhout: Brepols, 2025), 187-200.
- 2023 “The Existential Threat of Climate Change: A Practical Application of Avicenna’s Theory of Evil” in ed. M. Faruque, *Evil and Suffering and the Global Pandemic* (London: Routledge), 14-28.
- 2023 “Greek Philosophy and Sufism in Mecdi’s Ottoman Turkish *Gardens of Peonies*” in ed. M. Rustom, *Islamic Thought and the Art of Translation: Essays in Honor of William Chittick and Sachiko Murata* (Leiden: Brill), 311-322.

#### *Encyclopedia and sourcebook entries*

- Forthcoming “*Ṣakk* and *taškīk*” in ed. Chiara Rover, *Encyclopedia of Scepticism and Jewish Tradition* (Leiden: Brill).
- 2025 “Al-Fārābī, *The Book of Letters*” in ed. M. Rustom, *A Sourcebook in Global Philosophy* (Sheffield: Equinox, 2025), 149-155.

#### *Book reviews*

- 2024 *The Formation of Post-Classical Philosophy in Islam* by Frank Griffel, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 62.3: 502-504.

#### Under review

- A Fārābian account of the divine essence-existence identification

## In progress

- Avicenna on the Self-Disclosure of God
- Edition and translation of Avicenna's *Treatise on Love*

## **Grants and Fellowships**

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### *External*

- 2024            University of Notre Dame  
Summer Research Grant, History of Philosophy Forum
- 2019-20        John Templeton Foundation  
"The Christian West and Islamic East: Theology, Science, and Knowledge" Project  
University of Missouri-St. Louis, Department of Philosophy  
Dissertation fellowship
- 2015            Institute of Turkish Studies, Washington D.C.  
Summer Study Grant
- 2015            U.S. Department of Education  
FLAS Fellowship

## **Select Presentations**

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### *Invited Presentations and Comments*

- 2025    "The Animal Faculties in Avicenna's *Treatise on Love*", Islamic Philosophy Workshop, Fordham University, NY, October 11, 2025
- 2024    "Ancient Philosophy in the Islamic World: Illusion, Perception and Reality in al-Fārābī's refutation of Parmenides of Elea", Sacramento State University, December 4, 2024
- 2024    "Al-Fārābī and the Philosophy of Naming: Gaza and Genocide", University of California-Davis, December 3, 2024
- 2024    "Avicenna's *Treatise on Love* and the Foundations of Philosophical Sufism", Avicenna, Avicennism(s), and the Later Philosophical Traditions workshop, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, November 15-17, 2024
- 2024    Commentator for Cristina Cerami, "Al-Farabi and the kalam on the divine attributes", Toronto Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy, University of Toronto, September 20-21, 2024
- 2024    "An Essentialist Paradigm of Arabic Metaphysics: Fārābī at the origin of Avicenna's divine essence-existence identification", Philosophical Paradigms in Greco-Arabic Philosophy workshop, Georgetown University, April 12, 2024
- 2023    "Avicenna and the Foundations of Philosophical Sufism", Post-Classical Islamic Philosophy: New Directions conference, Princeton University, May 18, 2023

- 2023 Faculty Discussant at the Early Career Workshop in Islamic Philosophy, Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion, Princeton University, May 17, 2023
- 2023 “*Tashkik* and the refutation of monism in post-classical Islamic philosophy”, Arabic Philosophy workshop, Department of Religion, Yale University, April 7, 2023
- 2023 “The Existential Threat of Climate Change: Islamic Philosophical Problems”, Contemporary Islamic Philosophy Workshop, Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia, March 27, 2023
- 2022 Discussant for Kara Richardson, “The Principle of Sufficient Reason in Medieval Philosophy”, Principle of Sufficient Reason and its History Conference, Department of Philosophy, Yale University, June 24-26, 2022
- 2021 “Multiplexity in Islamic metaphysics”, İbn Haldun Üniversitesi, Istanbul, Turkey, September 12th, 2021
- 2019 “An Islamic refutation of monism”, Department of Religion, Florida International University, March 25th, 2019
- 2018 “The ambiguity of being in Arabic metaphysics” Marquette University Philosophy Department, The Midwest Seminar in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018
- 2015 “Ibn Kemal, Dawānī and the Avicennan lineage,” Inaugural Workshop of the International Associated Laboratory (LIA): "The Reception of Arabic Philosophy in the Ottoman World" (CNRS-IFEA-Yıldız Technical University - Istanbul, 2-4 November 2015)

*Conference presentations and comments*

- 2025 “The psychology of Eleatic monism according to al-Fārābī”, invited panel at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, February 20, 2025
- 2024 “Al-Fārābī on the Presocratic Eleatics: instilling doubt and the misuse of epistemic authority”, Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, University of Notre Dame, March 14-16, 2024
- 2023 Commentator for Ferhat Taşkin, “A Problem for Avicenna’s Account of Divine Simplicity and Freedom: Omnirationality”, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO, February 22-25, 2023
- 2022 “Can human language represent reality? A discussion of ‘doubt-inducing terms’ (*asmā’ mushakkikah*) in al-Fārābī and Maimonides”, Medieval Islamic and Jewish Philosophy Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, November 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- 2022 “The psychology of popular Eleatic monism according to al-Fārābī”, The XVth International Congress of the SIEPM (La Société Internationale pour l’Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale), Paris, August 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- 2021 “Esoteric Intersections: Avicennan Philosophy, Ismaili Shi’ism, and Theoretical Sufism”, panel respondent, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

- 2021 “*Tashkik* as an epistemological problem”, Aquinas and the ‘Arabs’ International Working Group International Meeting, “Philosophy in the Abrahamic Traditions: Structures of Being, World and Ming”, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 [online]
- 2020 “*Tashkik* and sophistry in Fārābī’s philosophy of language”, American Philosophical Association Central Meeting, Chicago, February 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- 2019 “The Abbasids: society and culture”, panel discussant and chair, Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2019
- 2019 “Al-Fārābī’s refutation of Parmenides,” Workshop on *Classical Philosophy in the Lands of Islam and its Influence* sponsored by the Aquinas and the ‘Arabs’ International Working Group at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- 2019 “Al-Fārābī’s refutation of monism,” Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2019
- 2018 “Ṭūsī, Qūnawī and *tashkik al-wujūd*,” Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, November 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2018

## Teaching

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### Stony Brook University

- Moral Reasoning (PHI 104)
- Ancient Philosophy (PHI 300)
- Philosophy of Religion (PHI 336)
- Medieval Philosophy PhD Seminar (PHI 601)

### Loyola University Chicago (Spring 2019)

- Philosophy & Persons (PHIL 130)

### Student Advising

- PhD committee member, “The Complexion of Socratic Ethics: Reconsidering Socratic Intellectualism in the “Early” Platonic Dialogues”
- Undergraduate honor's thesis advisor, “Augustine and Plato's Form of the Good” (Spring 25-26)
- Science and religion directed readings (Spring 2025)
- PhD Interface Paper advisor, “Animism and Orality, Anthropology and Literacy” (Fall 24-Spring 25)
- Advanced dissertation workshop director (Spring 2025)
- Graduate teaching practicum (Spring 2025)
- Undergraduate teaching practicum (2021-2023)
- Avicenna graduate reading group (2020-present)
- Undergraduate honor's thesis reader, “The Search for Explanations: Platonic Replies to Aristotle’s Criticisms of Separation and Regress” (Spring 2022)
- MA thesis director, “The Mystical Philosophy of ‘Ā’isha al-Bā’ūniyya” (2021-2022)
- PhD Interface Paper reader, “Intentionality in Avicenna: Foundation and Structure”

- MA thesis director, “Examining the Role of Religion in al-Fārābī’s *Mabādi*’ [the Perfect State]: A New Approach” (Spring 2021)

## Languages

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**Native:** English

**Near-native:** French, Arabic

**Heritage:** Maltese

**Advanced:** Turkish, Spanish

**Reading knowledge:** German, Persian, Ancient Greek, Ottoman Turkish

## Professional Affiliations

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La Société Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences et de la Philosophie Arabes et Islamiques

La Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale

Aquinas and the ‘Arabs’ International Working Group

American Philosophical Association

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