

# SAUD AL-ZAID

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

*born in Kuwait, 26 June 1981*

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## EDUCATION

2010-2016                Freie Universität Berlin

*Doctor of Philosophy  
Islamwissenschaft*

· *magna cum laude* · BERLIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MUSLIM CULTURES & SOCIETIES  
Thesis: *Modernity's Other: An Intellectual Anthropology of Radical Islamic Thought*  
Description: This text investigates the influence of Sayyid Quṭb on the radical discourses among the politically dominant sunnī Arabs of the so-called oil monarchies, specially those who claim descent from Najd and identify themselves as the *salafyya*. It argues that the confluence of Egyptian activism and Najdi cultural mores produced a Salafi Aesthetic that came to represent an "Other" to Modernity.  
Advisors: Prof. Gudrun KRÄMER & Prof. Ulrike FREITAG

2005-2009                The University of Chicago

*Master of Arts  
Divinity*

· *High Honors* · THE DIVINITY SCHOOL · *Anthropology & Sociology of Religion*  
Description: This degree focused on the secular study of Islam through theoretical approaches informed by western social science and philosophy within the Committee on Religion and the Human Sciences. My training was augmented with the traditional western approaches to the study of Islam in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.  
Advisors: Prof. Malika ZEGHAL, Prof. Michael SELLS & Prof. Bruce LINCOLN  
Notable Teachers in NELC: Prof. Wadad KADI, & Prof. Fred DONNER.

2003-2005                Georgetown University

*Master of Arts  
Arab Studies*

· *summa cum laude* · THE EDMUND WALSH SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE  
*Center for Contemporary Arab Studies* · Concentration: Culture & Society  
Description: This degree focused on the study of Islam within its historical, social, and political contexts in the Arab world. There was a particular focus on Qur'anic studies, contemporary Islamic movements, and American foreign policy towards the Arab Middle East.  
Advisors: Prof. Barbara STOWASSER, Prof. Ahmad DALLAL & Prof. John VOLL

1999-2003                The University of Chicago

*Bachelor of Arts  
Comparative  
Literature*

· *High Honors* · Humanities Collegiate Division · *The College*  
Description: Comparative literature at Chicago required an organizing theme for the coursework and a related thesis. My theoretical focus was primarily Freudian, and centered on twentieth century authors and their relationship to concepts of foreignness and the ancient past. Hence my theme was "Theme of the Foreigner in International Literature" and my thesis was "Joseph the Foreigner: A Modern Translation of the Story of Joseph in the Qur'an" Bachelor Thesis Advisors: Prof. Jonathan Z. SMITH, Prof. Wayne BOOTH & Prof. Richard RORTY

*Bachelor of Arts  
Economics*

· *Honors* · Social Sciences Collegiate Division · *The College*  
Description: My undergraduate studies in economics were mostly completed within my first two years at the college, where I focused on learning mathematical modeling of economic theory and quantitatively testing those models through statistical analysis.  
Notable Teachers: Prof. Gary BECKER, Prof. Robert LUCAS, JR. & Prof. David W. GALENSON

## SPECIAL SEMINARS

- 2004 Foreign Policy Toolbox  
 Taught by Fmr. Secretary of State, Prof. Madeleine ALBRIGHT  
*The SFS Joint Seminar*
- 2006 Jacques Lacan: A Lateral Introduction  
 Taught by Prof. Slavoj ŽIŽEK  
*The Critical Inquiry Visiting Professor Seminar*
- 2006 Readings in the Qurʾān  
 Taught by Prof. Michael SELLS  
*Martin E. Marty Center Seminar*
- 2008 The Buddha in Barcelona  
 Subtitle: Medieval Cosmopolitanism & the Transmission of Culture. Taught by Prof. Matthew KAPSTEIN & Assoc. Prof. James T. ROBINSON  
*The Jerald C. Brauer Seminar*

## PRESENTATIONS IN CONFERENCES

- American Comparative Literature Association  
 2006 · PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
*Marvelous Bridges: The Exegetical Rhetoric of Sayyid Quṭb and Ibn al-ʿArabī*
- 2008 · LONG BEACH  
*Tarsus, Halo, and the End(s) of the World*
- Middle East History and Theory Conference  
 2004 · THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
*The Apocalyptic Frontier: Tarsus and the End(s) of the World*
- In Search of the Kingdom  
 2013 · ZENTRUM MODERNER ORIENT  
*An Execution in Cairo*
- Nuqat Annual Conference  
 2015 · KUWAIT  
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- Re:publica  
 2016 · BERLIN  
*The Untold Genesis of ISIS: Regimes of Surveillance, Stereotypes, and Suppression*
- 2017 · BERLIN  
*After the Next Attack: Terrorism in the Trump Era*
- Chaos Computer Congress  
 2016 · HAMBURG  
*The Clash of Digitalizations: The Devolution of Arab Males from Humans to Fodder*

## PAPERS IN WORKSHOPS

- Political Theory  
Workshop*                      2006 · THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
*The Political Imagination:  
Towards Understanding Islamist Radicalization*
- Comparative  
Colonialisms  
Workshop*                      2007 · THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
*Joyce/Qutb:  
An Introductory Exploration in Post-Coloniality*
- Middle East History  
and Theory  
Workshop*                      2013 · THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
*Salafī Aesthetics*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2002–2003                      Research Assistant for Bertram Cohler
- 2003–2004                      Teaching Assistant for Barbara Stowasser, BA Course: THE ISLAMIC CITY
- 2003–2005                      Business Manager ARAB STUDIES JOURNAL
- 2004–2005                      Research Assistant for Samer Shehata
- 2010–2010                      Co-taught with Manan Ahmad, MA Course: MAWDUDI & QUTB
- 2013–2015                      Berater ALLGEMEINER STUDIERENDENAUSSCHUSS DER FU BERLIN

## LANGUAGES

- Arabic*                          Mothertongue
- English*                        Fluent
- German*                        DAHLEM RESEARCH SCHOOL LANGUAGE COURSE  
Upper Intermediate Spoken · B2 · Advanced Proficiency Reading · C1  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GRADUATE GERMAN TRANSLATION EXAM: High Pass
- French*                        Elementary Spoken · A2 · Upper Intermediate Reading · B2  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GRADUATE FRENCH TRANSLATION EXAM: High Pass
- Ancient Greek*                UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DIVINITY SCHOOL · Summer Intensive Koine Greek  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CLASSICS DEPARTMENT · One year of Attic Greek

October 11, 2017