List of Lecturers

# **SYMPOSIUM:** Philosophy between the Islamicate and Latin American traditions: Civilizational perspectives on alienation/*ghayriyya* (otherness) in the knowing/being

DATE: 22-24 June 2024. PLACE: Online. CO-ORGANIZERS: Anthony F. Shaker, Amilcar Aldama Cruz. SPONSOR: School of Classical Thought (Istanbul University, Türkiye).

## **OPENING STATEMENTS**

- Ekrem Demirli, Director, School of Classical Thought.
- Anthony F. Shaker, co-organizer.
- Amilcar Aldama Cruz, co-organizer.

# GUEST SPEAKER

**OPENING THEME**—"The human heritage and how philosophers think, dialogue interculturally and take stock of their contemporary abode."

Prof.Dr. Hans Köchler, professor emeritus Department of Philosophy University of Innsbruck Innsbruck, Austria

Professor Köchler is one of the most incisive scholars of Heidegger's works, on which he is recognized internationally as an authority, and has written hundreds of books and papers on phenomenology, philosophical anthropology, philosophy of law, theory of international law, among other fields. The bulk of these writings have been translated into many languages. From 1990 to 2008, he served as Chairman of the Department of Philosophy, University of Innsbruck, where he has also been chairing the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Wissenschaft und Politik (Working Group for Sciences and Politics) since 1971. He has been part of the advisory board of the Indian Yearbook of International Law and Policy since 2010. However, his academic research has also yielded some unusual fruits for a scholar. Early on, he was able to draw guidance from philosophy to develop a "transcultural understanding", in his words, particularly between the Islamicate and the European worlds. Since the early 1970s, he has been promoting the idea of intercultural dialogue, otherwise known as the dialogue of civilizations. Very early on, he began outlining his hermeneutical philosophy of dialogue and his concept of cultural self-comprehension, especially in lectures at the University of Innsbruck and at the Royal Scientific Society, Amman, Jordan. It was then, also, that he collaborated with Cardinal Karol Wojtyła of Kraków–later to become Pope John Paul II–within the framework of the International Society for Phenomenology. Touring the world, with the support and encouragement of Austrian Foreign Minister Rudolf Kirchschläger, he met with ministers from several foreign governments and intellectuals. In December 1983, Dr. Köchler even invited French poet Jean Genet to Vienna, Austria, for a reading from his text on Palestine. He became increasingly involved both in questions concerning world order in the heady days of the 1990s, gradually elaborating the role and philosophical foundations of civilizational dialogue and what he calls the dialectic relationship between power and law. He even served on expert committees associated with the Council of Europe (1998-2000), not to mention the Asia-Europe Foundation's expert meeting on Cultural, Religious and Social Conceptions of Justice in Asia & Europe (Singapore, 2004). He is now President of the International Progress Organization, an international non-governmental organization he founded in 1972, which enjoys consultative status with the United Nations and has members from 70 countries. Finally, Dr. Köchler is the coordinator of the International Committee for Palestinian Human Rights (ICPHR), among many other international organizations.

### LECTURERS

The names appear in the following order for purely administrative and thematic reasons.

1) Prof. Walter Mignolo Former Director, Center for Global Studies and the Humanities Duke University Durham, NC USA Professor Mignolo is a widely acclaimed scholar who, for three decades, has been at the forefront of studies on the modern colonial enterprise and its worldwide expansion. He focuses on the imaginary underpinning of this "Western" enterprise since 1500 as a presumed "Western civilization". In the past fifteen years, he has devoted many of his energies also to public work with artists, curators and journalists, and to workshops for faculty and graduate students in South and Central America, Asia and Europe. He has written widely over the years, most prominently two prize-winning books, *The Darker Side of the Renaissance: Literacy*, Territoriality and Colonization (1996) and The Idea of Latin America (2006). His writings have been translated into German, Italian, French, Swedish, Rumanian, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin and Korean. Professor Mignolo was an Honorary Research Associate for CISA (Center for Indian Studies in South Africa) of Wits University at Johannesburg. He received the Doctor Honoris Causa Degree from the National University of Buenos Aires in Argentina in 2016; an honorary degree from the University of London (Goldsmith, 2018); and, in 2023, an Honoris Causa from the National University of Cordoba and the National University of Formosa, respectively. Moreover, he served as a senior adviser of the Dialogue of Civilizations (DOC). He obtained his doctorate at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (France) in 1974.

PAPER TITLE: "The decolonial dilemma today: Local memories and global disorders."

2) Dr. Luce López-Baralt Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature University of Puerto Rico San Juan, Puerto Rico

One of the best-recognized scholars in her field, an essayist and presently a board member of Academia Puertorriqueña de la Lengua Española, Prof. López-Baralt has written many of books and papers on the mystical literature and religious practices of Spain—renaissance and medieval (including al-Andalus), Christian and Muslim. A Puerto Rican academic, she acknowledges the influence of the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish "Arabist", the Rev. Miguel Asín Palacios, among others. In her studies, she has expertly traced the faded trail of fruitful interactions between Muslims and Christians in Iberia, which trail has continued up to writers like the Argentine Jorge Luis Borges. Her work, much of which focuses on San Juan de la Cruz (on whom she wrote her dissertation) and Santa Teresa de Ávila, has been translated into French, English, German, Dutch, Arabic, Urdu, and Persian. In the course of her career, she has taught at several universities in South America, North America, Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. In November 1998, finally, the University of Puerto Rico held a Congress in honour of Luce López-Baralt and her sister, also an academic, Mercedes López-Baralt (anthropologist, historian, and literary critic). She was also honoured by Felipe VI of Spain, who made her "Commander by Number of the Order of Isabella the Catholic", and thus the distinction of carrying the honorary title of "Her Most Illustrious Lord". Among her books are the following titles: *San Juan de la Cruz y el Islam. Estudio sobre la filiaciones semíticas de su literatura mística*; *Huellas del Islam en la literatura española. De Juan Ruiz a Juan Goytisolo* [translated by Andrew Hurley as: *Islam in Spanish Literature. From the Middle Ages to the Present*]; *Asedios a lo Indecible—San Juan de la Cruz canta al éxtasis transformante*, *The Sufi trobar clus and Spanish mysticism. A shared symbolism*; *El Viejo maravilloso de Buluqiya a los confines del universo*; *A zaga de tu huella: La ensenanza de las lenguas semíticas en Salamanca en tiempos de San Juan de la Cruz*, among others. She obtained her doctorate at Harvard University (1974).

PAPER TITLE: "The secret literature of the last Muslims of Spain."

Prof. Ángel Horacio Molina
 Professor of Arabic Language and Culture,
 San Jorge School
 Rosario, Argentina

Professor Molina teaches at the San Jorge School and the Argentine-Syrian Club. He is the founding member and secretary of the Relations and Exchanges of the Center for Oriental Studies (Faculty of Humanities and Arts, National University of Rosario, Argentina). He is also active in the Working Group on Colonial Present in Asia, Africa and Latin America of the Autonomous University of Mexico City, and is the coordinator of the Area of Political Science and International Relations for Argentina at the Centre for Islamic, Arab and Persian Studies "Dr. Osvaldo Machado Mouret", at the Al-Mustafa International University. A scholar of wide learning, Professor Molina continued his education at the Autonomous Metropolitan University (Mexico) in political science, and the philosophy of ethics at the Al-Mustafa International University (Iran).

PAPER TITLE: "Argentine Rodolfo Kusch: Towards a Latin American philosophy of liberation from alienated being and self."

4) Prof. José Antonio Antón Pacheco Honorary researcher
Universidad de Sevilla
Seville, Spain

Professor Pacheco teaches the history of philosophy at the University of Seville. His research focuses on questions of traditional hermeneutics and thought. A scholar of Swedenborg's work in particular, he re-founded the Swedenborg Society of Spain. He has also co-founded the Center for Comparative Spiritual Studies and the Permanent Seminar on Comparative Hermeneutics, a discussion forum where authors such as Ibn Arabi, Sohravardi, René Guénon, Louis Massignon and Henry Corbin are discussed. He has been a member of the editorial boards of the journals Heterodoxia and Er. He currently serves on the editorial boards of Epimeleia and Boreas. His books include: Elementos de metafísica tradicional (Madrid, 1982); Symbolica *nomina* (Barcelona, 1988); a book on Swedenborg (Seville, 1991; English translation: *Visionary* Consciousnes. Swedenborg and the Immanence of Spiritual Reality, 2000); Ensayo sobre el tiempo axial (various editions); Emanuel Swedenborg. El habitante de dos mundos, in collaboration with Christen Blom-Dhl (Madrid, 2000); *Los testigos del instante* (Madrid, 2003); La sabiduría mazdea. Dos textos del Irán antiguo, in collaboration with Joaquín Rodríguez Vargas (Madrid, 2007); Formas de la forma: determinación formal e indeterminación (Senderos, 2021), and more than a hundred articles, some of them translated into Farsi, French and English.

PAPER TITLE: "The spiritual transformation among some Argentine philosophers (Vicente Fatone, Armando Asti Vera, Ismael Quiles)— $\dot{a}$  propos the concept of <u>hikma</u>."

5) Prof. Amilcar Aldama Cruz Professor Al-Mustafa International University, Irán Universidad de La Habana Havanna, Cuba

Dr. Cruz is a professor of Islamic thought at the Rafael Cepeda Higher Institute of Religious Sciences (ISECRE) in Havana and is a professor in the Department of Languages at al-Mustafa International University (Islamic Republic of Iran). He is the founding editor of *Ṣadrā*, a journal

of Islamic philosophy, established in 2020. His published works in this field include: The Transcendental Philosophy of Mullā Sadrā (English translation of the text by Muhammad Khamenei, Orient Foundation, 2015), *Lexicon of Islamic Philosophy* (in progress) and several papers, including "Graham Harman and Islamic Philosophy. Origin and Problems of Vicarious Causation" (Dialektika, 2.4 - 2020), "Meanings and Evolution of the Term Innivya in Classical and Contemporary Islamic Philosophy" (Dialektika, 3.7 - 2021), "The Pythagorean in Suhrawardī Philosophy and the išraqī School" (Dialektika, 4.9 - 2022), "The Diachrony of the Technical Term al-basit in Islamic Philosophy: Its Use from the Works 'Usul li-'uqlidus and <sup>9</sup>*Utūlūğīyā* to the onto-theology of Mullā Ṣadrā" (Proceedings of the Symposium Arab Thought, University of Valencia, 2022) and "Diachrony and logic in Suhrawardi's nūr term" (Dialektika, 5.14 - 2023). Professor Cruz holds a PhD in Pedagogical Sciences (Cuba, 2011); a bachelor's degree in Islamic Sciences from Al-Mustafa International University, Iran (2020). In addition, since 2013, he has been studying a master's degree in Islamic Sciences at Al-Mustafa International University and a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Havana. He is Coordinator of the area of studies on Epistemology and Research Methodology of the Center for Arab and Persian Islamic Studies "Dr. Osvaldo A. Machado Mouret" in Argentina.

TITLE OF THE PAPER: "*Feeling more powerful than the King of Persia, when attending a laughing dawn*. The imprint on José Martí's thought of the mystical *`išrāqī*."

6) Prof. Omneya Ayad Assistant Professor of Sufi Studies Institute for Sufi Studies Uskudar University Istanbul, Türkiye

Professor Ayad is currently Assistant Professor of Sufi Studies at the Institute for Sufi Studies at Uskudar University. She has published widely in the field of Sufism and her writings include "Abū Madyan al-Ghawth and Divine Unity in His Lāmiyya Ode", *The Journal of Islam and Muslim Studies*, and important studies on Sufi figures like Abū Madyan al-Ghawth, Aḥmad Ibn 'Ajība, Shaykh Ahmad Ibn Mustafa al-'Alawī (Algeria, under French colonial rule), Niyāzī Miṣrī, and on al-Fāriḍ's *Tā'iyya*. Her book on the Sufi Quranic hermeneutics of Ibn 'Ajiba is scheduled to be published in Routledge's Sufi Studies series in 2024. She completed her doctorate at the University of Exeter.

PAPER TITLE: "Aḥmad Ibn Muṣṭafa al-ʿAlawī (d. 1934) and his understanding of divine oneness."

7) Prof. Hamidreza Ayatollahy, professor emeritus Professor of the Department of Philosophy Allameh Tabatabaii University Tehran, Iran

Professor Ayatollahy is a senior scholar in the comparative philosophy of religion whose authority is recognized in both Iran and internationally. He presently heads several academic institutions in Iran and organizations around the world, including the Research Institute for Hikmeh and Teachings, the Research Institute for the Humanities and Cultural Studies, the Iranian Association for the Philosophy of Religion, and the Mizan Educational Complex. He obtained his doctorate at Vrij Universiteit Brussel (Belgium 1998) and has published many books and papers.

PAPER TITLE: "Western humanism and the origin of modern man's incapacity for and confusion about the transcendence and strength of thought." PAPER TITLE [Farsi]: او مانیسم غربی منشا ناتوانی و سرگشتگی انسان مدرن در تعالی و استحکام اندیشه

8) Prof. Ekrem Demirli İlahiyat Fakültesi Sufism Department Department of Basic Islamic Sciences Faculty of Theology Istanbul University Istanbul, Türkiye

Professor Demirli is a well-known and respected scholar of Sufism. A prolific writer, his works extend from the early periods of Sufism to the "metaphysical" era which is thought to have started with Ibn Arabi. He has authored (titles in English): *Knowing and Being in Ṣadr al-Dīn Qūnawī, Fusus al-Hikam Translation & Commentary, God and Human in Islamic Metaphysics, The Metaphysics of Ibn Arabi, Sufi Poets, Articles on Islamic Thought, The Golden Era of Sufism.* He published the first complete Turkish translation of *Futuhat al-Makkiyya*, the

magnum opus of Ibn Arabi, in 18 volumes. He also translated the corpus of Ṣadr al-Dīn Qūnawī. His forthcoming translations include *Tadbirat al-Ilahiyya* by Ibn Arabi and the *Diwan* by Hallaj.

PAPER TITLE: "What does Sufism speak to the modern world: Remembering the principles of the doctrine of *waḥdat al-wujūd*?"

9) Dr. Stephen Hirtenstein Editor-in-chief *Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn <sup>c</sup>Arabi Society* 

Dr. Hirtenstein is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society* (MIAS), a MIAS senior research fellow, and director of Anqa Publishing. He is an editor for *Encyclopaedia Islamica* (Brill, in association with The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London), and teaches Sufism and Sufi poetry at the University of Oxford. Since 2001, he has been working on the MIAS archiving project cataloguing the historic manuscripts of Ibn 'Arabi. He lectures internationally on Ibn 'Arabi, and his publications include *Patterns of Contemplation* (2021) and *Prayers for the Week* (2021); and has authored with Pablo Beneito, *The Alchemy of Human Happiness* (2018) and *The Unlimited Mercifier* (1999).

PAPER TITLE: "Possessiveness and the otherness of perfection: Some reflections on *ghayr* and *ghayra* in Akbarian doctrine."

10) Prof. Mahdi Saatchi Assistant Professor of Islamic Philosophy and Theology Department of Islamic Philosophy and Theology Shahid Motahari University (Sepahsālār) Tehran, Iran

After graduating as a civil engineer, Professor Saatchi reoriented his studies towards philosophy and theology in both the *ḥawzeh* (privately and informally) and public university systems. In the former, he studied the main writings of Ibn Sīnā, Suhravardi, Mulla Ṣadrā and Allameh Tabatabaie, doing so under some prominent masters of the philosophical school of Allameh Tabatabaei (1903-81), the great teacher of a whole generation of contemporary Iranian scholars. In the latter, he obtained his MA in Islamic philosophy and *kalām* at Allameh

Tabatabaie University in Tehran, and his doctorate in Islamic Theology at Shahid Motahari University (Sepahsalar), Tehran. Since then, he has been teaching philosophy, the philosophy of religion and *kalām*. His main interests are in metaphysics, philosophy of religion and theoretical mysticism. Presently, Professor Saatchi is a faculty member at the Department of Islamic Philosophy and Theology, Motahari University (Tehran). In addition, he has, for some years, been a visiting lecturer at Tehran University.

PAPER TITLE: "The human being as an alien in the world: Suhrawardī and the story of *Ghurbat Al-gharbiyya*."

11) Dr. Anthony F. Shaker Scholar of Islamicate Philosophy Québec, Canada

Dr. Shaker is a philosopher and a scholar of *'ilm al-hikma* (philosophy in the Hikma tradition). In the late 1990s, he was elected to the Executive Council of the Canadian Parliament's official opposition party, where he chaired two committees, contributed to the formulation of policy and exchanged views with national political leaders. He has authored several books in *'ilm al*hikma and contemporary philosophy, most recently Reintroducing Philosophy: Thinking as the Gathering of Civilization (US, 2021) and Modernity, Civilization and the Return to History (US, 2017). His English translation and critical Arabic edition of Sadr al-Dīn Qūnawī's I'jāz al-bayān will be published in early 2024 (UK). He has also translated four books from Ghazālī's *Ihyā<sup>3</sup> alulūm* (Islamic Texts Society, Cambridge, UK). His published papers include: "Interpreting Mullā Sadrā on Man and the Origin of Thinking," Synthesis Philosophica (Zaghreb, Croatia, 2020); "Nature along Man's Journey of Return," Journal of Philosophical Theological Research (Qom, Iran, 2023); "The Paradigmatic Significance of Perception In Mullā Ṣadrā's Philosophy of Being," Journal of Philosophical Investigations (Tabriz, Iran, 2018); "Man, Existence and the Life Balance (Mīzān) in Islamic Philosophy," Journal of Islamic Studies (UK, 2015). Several others have been translated into Turkish and appear in Sabah Ülkesi; and an interview with him appears in Spanish translation in two issues of Sadra: Revista de Filosofia Islamica (Cuba/Iran, 2022). He obtained his doctorate and master's from the Institute of Islamic Studies (McGill University, 1997).

PAPER TITLE: "Insān (human being) and the function of ghayriyya (otherness) in philosophy."

12) Prof. Jim Maffie Senior Lecturer Department of History, Emeritus Departments of Philosophy Latin American Studies, & Religious Studies University of Maryland College Park, MD US

Professor Maffie is a renowned, philosophically trained Mesoamericanist and author of *Aztec Philosophy: Understanding a World in Motion* (University Press of Colorado, 2014), and numerous articles on Mexica (Aztec) moral philosophy.

PAPER TITLE: "Understanding Mexica (Aztec) Philosophy."

13) Prof. Bülent Sönmez Social and Humanities Faculties Katip Çelebi University Izmir, Türkiye

A philosopher of religion and specialist in logic, Professor Sönmez is a member of the social and humanities faculties at Katip Çelebi University, and has chaired the philosophy department at Dicle University for many years. He was also lecturer at Vienna University, Šiauliai University and the University of Latvia. He completed his doctoral studies at Seljuk University. Since then, he has been writing widely, especially on the history of Ḥikma and German thought.

PAPER TITLE: "The philosophical ground of alienation, forgetting and othering in Molla Fenari."

14) Prof. Reza Hadisi Assistant Professor Department of Philosophy and the Center for Medieval Studies University of Toronto (St. George Campus) Toronto, Canada

Professor Hadisi has explored questions relating to ethics, epistemology and action theory with a meticulous study of the history of philosophy. He is especially interested in both the Medieval Arabic and Persian tradition and in Kant. He obtained his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Illinois (Chicago).

PAPER TITLE: "Practical perfection and becoming Godlike."

15) Prof. Hilal Oytun Associate Professorship Jagiellon University Krakow, Poland

Professor Altun obtained her doctorate in Turkic philology at Marmara University (Istanbul, 2009). Her work is focused primarily on the linguistics of the modern Turkic languages, but also the classical literary Chagatay and Ottoman Turkish, with particular focus on interlingual relations and language changes. She has authored *Tercüme-i Tevârîh-i Mülûk. Nevâyî'nin Fars Hükümdarları Tarihi* (Translation of the History of Dynasties. Nevâyî's History of Persian Dynasties), published by Türkiye Ministry of Culture. She has also been awarded the Rector's Award of the Third Degree for Scientific Achievements by Jagiellon University in 2021. Before that, she worked at Ahmet Yassawi Turkish-Kazakh University (Kazakhstan), Marmara University (Istanbul), and Bitlis Eren University (Bitlis, Türkiye). She currently a Turkish language lecturer at Jagiellon University in Krakow, Poland. She has devoted her time to building an electronic text-corpus of materials belonging to historical Turkic languages. Her pursuits in this area have yielded an electronic version of the first encyclopaedia-like compilation of Ottoman accessible on http://derlemos.actaturcica.org/ website.

PAPER TITLE: "Language reforms in the early decades of the Republic of Türkiye."

16) Prof. Kamal Cumsille Director of the Center for Arabic Studies Eugenio Chahuán Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities Universidad de Chile Santiago, Chile

Doctor Cumsille is a professor at the Eugenio Chahuán Center for Arabic Studies, Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities of the University of Chile, of which he is currently Director. His lines of work are: Islamic intellectual history, classical philosophy, contemporary thought, contemporary politics, and the history and critique of Orientalism and Middle Eastern studies. In addition, he is an Arabic musician, specifically a composer and interpreter of Oud. He has authored several books and articles, including "Al Farabi on the aims of Aristotles Metaphysics" (*Miscellany of Arabic and Hebrew Studies. Arab-Islam Section*, 2021), "Notes for a Political Theory of Media: Between Agamben and Ibn Khaldun" (*Poliética. Journal of Ethics and Political Philosophy*, 2017). He holds a PhD in political philosophy from the University of Chile.

PAPER TITLE: "Poetic discourse as a means of instruction for the inhabitants of the city in the political philosophy of al- Fārābī."

17) Prof. Hamedeh Rastaei Assistant Professor of Philosophy Aletaha Institute of Higher Education Tehran, Iran

A young and dynamic scholar, Professor Rastaei is also Managing Editor and editorial board member of *The Journal of History of Islamic Philosophy*. She has published many papers, including "Ibn 'Arabī Approach to Epistemic Disagreement", "Ibn al-Arabi and other Positive Religions on the Occasion of 'Other'", "Analysis of the two problems of recognition and responsibility before God and 'the other'", and "Corona and the Answer to Other's Suffering in the Light of Kant's Duty-Oriented Ethics and Responsibility Approach of Levinas".

PAPER TITLE: "From unity to plurality with 'other' in Ibn-Arabi's intellectual system."

18) Dr. Victor Taki Sessional lecturer Concordia University of Edmonton Edmonton, Alberta

### Canada

Dr. Taki (PhD 2008, Central European University) has taught at Carleton University, University of Alberta, Dalhousie University, the King's University, and Concordia University of Edmonton. His research explores Imperial Russia's Balkan entanglements and the intellectual history of the Eastern Question. His first book, *Tsar and Sultan: Russian Encounters with the Ottoman Empire* was published by IB Tauris in 2016. His second book, *Russia on the Danube: Empire, Elites, and Reform in Moldavia and Wallachia, 1812-1834*, come out at CEU Press in 2021.

PAPER TITLE: "Cultural madness: A study of alienation in nineteenth-century Romania."

19) Prof. M. Dawud Fazel Falavarjani Professor Imam Khumayni International University Qazvin, Iran

Professor Falavarjani holds a doctorate in the philosophy of religion (2017), a master's in theology from the Imam Khomeini Higher Institute (2012), a bachelor's degree in Islamic philosophy from the same Institute (2009) and a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Kashan University (2001). He has a degree in mathematics (1997) and has been Full Professor since 2017 at Al-Mustafa International University and Imam Khomeini International University (Qazvin). He has authored several books, articles in philosophy and translations—including, in Spanish, "Ten Points on the Knowledge of the Soul: The Characteristics of the Soul in the School of Mullā Ṣadrā and in the Poetry of Rumi" (2020). He teaches in the fields of logic, philosophy, mysticism and Islamic jurisprudence, and is Coordinator of area of studies in Shi'ī Gnosis and Islamic metaphysics at the Center for Arab and Persian Islamic Studies: "Dr. Osvaldo A. Machado Mouret" in Argentina.

PAPER TITLE: "Investigating effective sociological factors in modern natural sciences based on Islamic teachings."

20) Profesor Jamil Ibrahim Iskandar Profesor de filosofía islámica Universidade Federal de São Paulo Sao Paulo, Brasil