

Dr. Adam Silverstein

Higher Education

- 1999-2002 Ph.D. in medieval Islamic Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies and Trinity Hall, Cambridge University
Dissertation: The Origins and Development of the Islamic Postal System
Advisor: Prof. Tarif Khalidi
- 1995-1999 B.A. in Arabic and Persian (1st class), Faculty of Oriental Studies and Robinson College, Cambridge University

Post Doctorate

- 2002-2005 Post Doctorate in Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Cambridge.
Research Project: The Origins and Development of the Islamic Postal System

Career

- 2012-Present Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Bar Ilan University
- 2010-2012 Senior Lecturer, then Reader in Jewish Studies and Abrahamic Religions, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London, University of London
- 2007-2010 Research Lecturer in Near Eastern Studies, The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford
- 2007-2010 Governing Body Fellow, The Queen's College, Oxford.
- 2005-2007 Departmental Lecturer in Islamic History, The Oriental Institute, University of Oxford.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2007-2010 Fellowship at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
- 2002-2005 British Academy Fellowship for Post-Doctorate at the University of Cambridge
- 2002-2003 Placed on final shortlist (interview) for Fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford; runner up (interview) for fellowship, Queens' College, Cambridge; final shortlist for fellowship, Clare College, Cambridge, and St. John's College, Cambridge; shortlist for fellowship, Clare Hall, Cambridge.

- 2002 R.A. Nicholson Prize for Ph.D., dissertation on The Origins and Development of the Islamic Postal System
- 2001 Awarded R. A. Nicholson Prize for outstanding Ph.D. Candidates, the Faculty of Oriental Studies.
- 1996-1999 Elected "Robinson College Scholar" for Academic Distinction, Cambridge
- 1996, 1999 Awarded "College Prize" for Academic Excellence, Robinson College, Cambridge

Selected Academic Conferences and Presentations

- 2010 "Redefining the Abrahamic Religions," The History department, SOAS
- 2010 "Satan, Shamash, and the Origins of Tashlich," The Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem
- 2009 "Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: Lessons from History," The Joseph Interfaith Foundation
- 2009 "The Qur'anic Satan and the Book of Job," Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- 2009 "On the Original Meaning of the Term *al-shaytan al-rajim*," Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2008 "Jews and News: Jewish Communication Networks from Sasanid Babylonia to Early Modern Europe," Brown University
- 2008 "The Qur'anic Pharaoh," SOAS International Qur'an Conference
- 2008 "The Early Islamic State: Three Models," From Justinian to Muhammad Seminar, Faculty of History, University of Oxford
- 2007 "Haman's Contribution to Muslim-Jewish Relations," Institute for Jewish Studies, UCL
- 2007 "*Jubilees* VIII-IX in Near Eastern Context," The Oriental Institute, Oxford
- 2007 "The Origins and Originality of Arabic Geographical Literature", Khalili Research Centre, Oxford
- 2006 "Hāmān: From Jāhiliyya to Islam," Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2006 "After Rome: All Roads Lead to Damascus," After Rome Seminar, Faculty of History, Oxford University
- 2006 "Haman's Mid-Life crisis," Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
- 2005 "Signed, Sealed and Delivered: Communications-Technology in the Middle Ages," Birkbeck College, University of London
- 2004 "*Tujjār and Akhbār*: The Documentary Evidence," Documentary Evidence and the History of the Early Islamic Mediterranean, Granada, Spain
- 2003 "The Marwānid *Barīd*," The Oriental Institute, Oxford

- 2003 "The *Barīd* in pre-Umayyad Arabia," Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2003 "The Contribution of Christians and Jews to Medieval Islamic Science," Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University
- 2003 "Arabic Geographical Literature," Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University
- 2002 "The Use of Documentary Evidence in Studying the *Barid*," Conference of the International Society of Arabic Papyrologists, Cairo
- 2002 "How to Read a Medieval Postal-System," King's College, Cambridge
- 2002 "On Some Aspects of the Abbasid *Barīd*," School for Abbasid Studies, Cambridge
- 2000 "The Anatomy of Surveillance in Near Eastern Literatures: A Cross-Cultural Survey," School of Oriental and African Studies, London
- 2000 "The Historical Background of the Ottoman term 'Frenk,'" The Skilliter Centre for Ottoman Studies, Newnham College, Cambridge

List of Publications – Refereed

Books

1. Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).
- 2.a. Postal Systems in the Pre-Modern Islamic World (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).
- 2.b. Turkish translation published in 2010.
- 2.c. Arabic translation published in 2011.

Edited Books

1. A. Silversteina and G. Stroumsa, eds., The Oxford Handbook of Abrahamic Religions (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
2. A. Silverstein and T. Bernheimer, eds., Late Antiquity: Eastern Perspectives (Oxford:Oxbow, 2012).

Articles

1. "Abrahamic Experiments in History," The Oxford Handbook of Abrahamic Religions (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
2. "On the Original Meaning of the Qur'ānic term al-shayṭān al-rajīm," Journal of the American Oriental Society (forthcoming; c. 12 pages).
3. "On the Original Meaning of the Qur'anic Term al-Shaytan al-Rajim," JAOS 133(i) (2013).
4. "From Atrahasis to Afrīdun: On the Transmission of an Ancient Near Eastern Motif to Islamic Iran," Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam 39 (2012), pp.95-108.

5. "Jews and News: The Interaction of Private and Official Communication-Networks in Jewish History," Highways, Byways, and Road Systems in the pre-Modern World, S.E. Alcock, J. Bodel and R. Talbert, eds. (Oxford: Blackwells, 2011 (c. 12 pages).
6. "The Quranic Pharaoh," The Qur'an in Historical Context, G.S. Reynolds, ed. (London: Routledge, 2011), vol. 2, pp. 467-477.
7. A. Silverstein and P. Crone, "From the Ancient to the Islamic Near East: The Case of Lot-Casting," Journal of Semitic Studies 55 (2) (2010), pp. 423-450.
8. "The Medieval Islamic Worldview: Arabic Geography in its Historical Context," Geography, Ethnography, and Perceptions of the World from Antiquity to the Renaissance, K. Raaflaub and R. Talbert, eds. (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2009), pp. 273-292.
- 9.a. "Documentary Evidence for the Early *Barīd*," Papyrology and the History of Early Islamic Egypt, P. Sijpesteijn and L. Sundelin, eds. (Leiden: Brill, 2004), pp. 153-61;
- 9.b. Reprinted in The Articulation of Early Islamic State Structures, F. Donner, ed. (Aldershot: Ashgate Variorum, 2009).
10. "Hāmān's transition from the Jāhiliyya to Islam," Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam 34 (2008), pp. 285-308.
- 11.a. "From Markets to Marvels: Jews on the Maritime Route to China *ca.* 850 - *ca.* 950 CE," Journal of Jewish Studies 58 (1) (2007), pp. 91-104.
- 11.b. Arabic translation is to be published in Festschrift for Prof. Joseph Sadan.
11. "The Book of Esther and the 'Enūma Elish,'" Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies 69 (2) (2006), pp.209-223
12. "A Neglected Chapter in the History of Caliphal State-Building," Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam 30 (2005), pp. 293-317.
13. A. Silverstein and J. Sadan, "Ornate Manuals or Practical 'Adab'? Some Reflections on a Unique Work by an Anonymous Author of the 10th century CE," al-Qantara 25 (2) (2004), pp. 339-54.
14. "On Some Aspects of the Abbasid *Barīd*," Abbasid Studies, J.E. Montgomery ed. (Leuven: Peeters, 2004), pp. 23-32.
15. "A New Source for the History of the *Barīd*," al-Abhāth 50-51 (2002-2003), pp. 121-134.
16. "Etymologies and Origins: A Note of Caution," British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 28 (1) (2001), pp. 92-94.

Other Publications

Articles

1. "Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: Lessons from History," Confronting Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, M. Niknam and F. Hameed, eds. (I.B. Taurus, 2011), pp. 34-44.

Encyclopedia Entries

1. The Encyclopaedia of Islam (3rd Edition).
 - Barīd
2. The Oxford Companion to World Exploration, D. Buisseret, ed. (Oxford University Press, 2006).
 - Arabo-Islamic Geography
3. Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopaedia, J. Meri, ed. (New York: Routledge, 2006).
 - Ibn Khurradādhbih
 - Post (*Barīd*)

Introductions to Books:

1. Adam Silverstein and Guy Stroumsa, Preface to The Oxford Handbook of Abrahamic Religions (Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
2. Introduction to Late Antiquity Eastern Perspectives, A. Silverstein and T. Bernheimer, eds. (Oxford: Oxbow, 2012).

Miscellaneous

- Expert consultant for forthcoming BBC three-part documentary on Children of Abraham.
- Co-editor (with Prof. Guy Stroumsa) of monograph series Oxford Studies in the Abrahamic Religions (Oxford University Press).
- Full member of The Magic Circle since 2000.