

# Bilal Ansari

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## EDUCATION

Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA

DMin in Pastoral Counseling, 2019

Dissertation: "Shepherding as Islamic Pastoral Theology: Case Studies in American Muslim Chaplaincy"

Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT

GCIC in Islamic Chaplaincy, 2011

MA, MDiv in Islamic Studies, 2009

Dissertation: "The Foundations of Pastoral Care in Islam: Reviving the Pastoral Voice in Islamic Prison Chaplaincy"

Springfield College, Springfield, MA

BS in Human Services, 2002

Ohlone College, Fremont, CA

AS in Liberal Arts, 1994

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Williams College, Williamstown, MA

Director of the Davis Center, 2022-Present

Assistant Vice President for Campus Engagement, 2017-Present

Acting Director of the Davis Center, 2019-2020

Chaplain and Assistant Director, Center for Learning in Action, 2011-2014

Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, Hartford, CT

Associate Professor of Practice, Director of Islamic Chaplaincy, Co-Director of  
Master of Arts in Chaplaincy, 2019-Present

Zaytuna College, Berkeley, CA

Dean of Student Services / Director of Student Life, 2014-2017

## **PUBLICATIONS**

"A Muslim Pastoral Theology: 'God Did Not Send a Prophet but Shepherded Sheep.'" In *Divine Revelation and Communication: Contemporary Muslim Theological Approaches*, edited by Colin Turner, 287–[end page]. Berlin: Gerlach Press, 2025.

"Cases of Covering and Uncovering: At the Border of Interreligious Missteps and Racism." In *With the Best of Intentions: Interreligious Missteps and Mistakes*, edited by Lucinda Mosher, Elinor J. Pierce, and Or N. Rose, 155–. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2023.

"Pastoral Care as an Islamic Tradition and Practice," Chapter 5 of *Mantle of Mercy: Islamic Chaplaincy in North America*, ed. Muhammad A. Ali, Omer Bajwa, Sondos Kholaki, and Jaye Starr. Templeton Press, 2022.

"Chaplain Formation and Interreligious Studies: A Muslim Chaplaincy Educator's Perspective on the Interconnection," Chapter 45 of *The Georgetown Companion To Interreligious Studies*, ed. Lucinda Mosher. Georgetown University Press, 2022.

"Meaning Making in Chaplaincy Practice: Presence, Assessment, and Interventions," Chapter 3 of *Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in the Twenty-First Century: An Introduction*, co-authored with Dagmar Grefe and Pamela McCarroll, ed. Wendy Cadge and Shelly Rambo. The University of North Carolina Press, 2022.

"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen: A Lived Theological Education," *Journal of Pastoral Theology* 30.1 (2022): 71-76.

"Muslim Pastoral Theology: A Brief Reflection of Black Shepherds and Black Sheep," Chapter 7 of *Postcolonial Images of Spiritual Care: Challenges of Spiritual Care in a Neoliberal Age*, ed. Emmanuel Y. Lartey and Hellena Moon. Pickwick Publications, 2020.

"Islamic Pastoral Care and the Development of Muslim Chaplaincy," co-authored with Ibrahim J. Long, *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* 12.1 (Summer 2018): Vol 12, Issue 1.

"The Image of the Good Shepherd as Inspiration for a Prison Minister" in Chapter 32 of *Global Perspectives on the Bible*, Mark Roncace and Joseph Weaver, Pearson, 2013.

"Addressing Mental Health Issues among American Muslims in the Military." Report co-authored with Wahiba Abu-Ras, Osman M. Ali, Hamada Hamid, Shamael Haque, Omar Mahmood, Abdul Rasheed Muhammad, Aneesah Nadir, and Haleem Naeem, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, June 2010.

"Seeing With Bifocals: The Evolution of a Muslim Chaplain," *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry* 29 (2009): 170-177.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

"Gülen as a Pastoral Theologian: Identity and Conduct Formation in Muslim Chaplaincy." Paper presented at the conference Fethullah Gülen's Thought and Practice: Education, Dialogue, Peacebuilding and Identity Formation, Drew University, Madison, NJ, October 3–5, 2025.

"Shepherding the Islamic Secular: Hadith-Based Principles for Evaluating Muslim Chaplains." Keynote address presented at the International Conference on Muslim Chaplaincy: Practice, Research and Recognition, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland, June 24–26, 2025.

"Imams and Chaplains Convening," Online panel discussion sponsored by the AbuSulayman Center for Global Islamic Studies, George Mason University, Washington, D.C., December 2022.

"Training Muslim Chaplains To Serve Muslims," online panel discussion sponsored by Bayan Islamic Graduate School, October 2022.

"Essentials of Chaplaincy," Boston Islamic Seminary, Chelsea, MA, October 2022

"Back to Basics: Revival of Faith," Muslim Youth of North America Summer Camp, Jennerstown, PA, July 2022.

"Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in the 21st Century: Reflections On a New Textbook," ACPE/APC Virtual Annual Conference, May 2022.

"God Talk: Divine Revelation and Communication," Online lecture sponsored by International Foundation of Muslim Theology, London, February 2022.

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"The American Muslim Chaplaincy: Exploring Differences and Deepening Faith," Zoom lecture sponsored by Kenta KASAI, Ph.D., Project Associate Professor at the Institute of Grief Care, Sophia University, Japan, November 2021.

"Oppression, Liberation, and Restoration," online panel discussion Racial Justice and Jesus sponsored by Interfaith Coalition, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, October 2020.

"From CopyPaste to Domestic Training? Muslim Religious Leadership in Europe and North America," AIWG-International Conference, Berlin, Germany, October 2019.

## **AWARDS**

Martin Luther King Day Peacemaker Award, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, 2021

Michael M. Mendiola Prize in Ethics, Pacific School of Religion, 2019

Minority Coalition Administrator of The Year, Williams College, 2014 and 2012

Grassroot Leadership of Excellence Award, Connecticut Center for a New Economy, 2011

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Advisory Board of Directors, Trinity Health Care/St. Francis Partners in Clinical Pastoral Education, 2019-Present, 2014-2024

The Association for Campus and Spiritual Life in Higher Education, 2017-Present.

Board of Directors, The Institute of Muslim Mental Health, 2017-Present. Founding

Member and Special Advisor, the Association of Muslim Chaplains, 2005-Present.

Professional Advisory Group, University of California, San Francisco Medical Center and the University of California, San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital, 2015-2017

Board of Trustees, Muslim Student Association West, 2016-2017

Board of Directors, Jerusalem PeaceBuilders, Brattleboro, NH, 2011-2024

Affordable Housing Board, Town Committee, Williamstown, MA, 2012-2014

Executive Board of Directors, Connecticut Center for a New Economy, 2003-2011

Executive Board of Directors, Muslim Coalition of Connecticut, 2007-2011 Young

Executive Board of Directors, Interfaith Fellowship, Universal Health Care Foundation, 2009-2011

## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

Federal Bureau of Prisons, Danbury, CT  
Islamic Faith Leader (Contracted Muslim Chaplain), 2009-2011

Tunxis Community College, Farmington, CT  
Evening Administrator/Counselor, 2009-2011

Connecticut Department of Correction and Brooklyn Correctional Institution, Brooklyn, CT  
Chaplain, 1997-2009

Mutual Housing Association, New Haven, CT  
Head Community and Resident Organizer, 1997-2003

Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT  
Pharmacy Technician, 1997-2002

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, San Diego, CA  
Campus Ambassador, 1994-1995

Ohlone College, Fremont, CA  
Lecturer in Ethnic Studies, 1991-1994