

| shobhana.xavier@queensu.ca (July 2023)

July 2023-

Associate

In progress

Co-edited with Geneviève Mercier-Dalphon.

2023

(Invited) Xavier, M. S. "Western Sufi Institutions and Practices." In Marcia Hermansen and Saeed Zarrabi-Zadeh, (Eds.) *Handbook of Sufi Studies*. Leiden: Brill.

- 2023 Xavier, M, S. Review of *Stealing my Religion: Not Just Any Cultural Appropriation* by Liz Bucar in *Reading Religion*. March 21, <https://readingreligion.org/9780674987036/stealing-my-religion/>
- 2020 Xavier, M, S. Review of *Gendered Morality: Classical Islamic Ethics of the Self, Family and Society* by Zahra Ayubi in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. August, Volume. 52. Pp. 592-594.
- 2020 Xavier, M, S. Review of *Peaceful Families: American Muslim Efforts Against Domestic Violence* by Juliane Hammer in *American Religion*. Indiana University Press. 1, no 2. Pp. 157-160.
- Accepted (Invited) Sharify-Funk, M., and "Overview: Sufi Orders and Movements North America" edited by Elora Shehabuddin. *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*.
- Under review (Invited) Xavier, M. S. "What do Muslims do when they visit shrines?" In Edith Szanto, (Eds.) *Islam in 5 Minutes*.
- Under review (Invited) Xavier, M. S. "Muslim Futurism meets Contemporary Sufism: Avoiding Ellisions in Popular Expressions of Gendered Whirling" edited by Amila Buturovic and Sara Kuhen in BRILL.
- 2021 Thashika Pillay, Setareh Ghahari, , Halima Wali, Suchetan James, Muhammad Sani, and Libby Alexander "The Necessity of Community Collaborations in Supporting Newcomer Student learning: Lessons ETr8.15 330.6 Tm4WB160



- 2023 "Rumi, Whirling, and the Making of Sufism in Canada" Canadian Society for the Study of Religion online Webinar and book launch. March 4<sup>th</sup>.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNmKLf2joqE>
- 2022 "Gender, Space, and Time" Islam, Gender and Women Unit, American Academy of Religion. Denver, Colorado. November 21st.
- 2022 "Between Islamic Mysticism and Popular Spirituality: Mapping the Beginnings of Sufism in Canada" Canadian Association for the Study of Islam and Muslims. McMaster University. May 26 and 27.
- 2022 (Invited panelist) "'Public as Space': The Possibilities and Contestations of Sufi

- 2018 (Invited speaker) "Sufi Shrines in Sri Lanka" Eastern University, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. June 21. (Talk given in English and Tamil).
- 2018 (Invited respondent) "Teaching about Islam, Gender and Women" Islam, Gender and Women Unit and Teaching Religion Unit (American Academy Religion), Denver, Colorado. November 19.
- 2018 "Between Religious Contestations and Accommodations: Sufi Shrines in Post-War Sri Lanka" Symposium on Tombs, Shrines, Samadhis and Relics at South Asia Conference, Madison Wisconsin, October 11.
- 2017 (With William Rory Dickson), "Disordering and Reordering Sufism: North American Sufi Teachers and the *Tariqa*" Transnational Sufism in Contemporary Societies, Giorgio Cini Foundation, Venice, Italy. November 9-11.
- 2017 "Piety and Religiosity at the Tomb of Sufi Saints: Sufi Shrines and the Public Sphere" Canadian Society for the Study of Religion. Toronto, Ontario. May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 2016 "Transnational Pilgrimages: Bawa Muhaiyaddeen and Shrines" at Pilgrimage Symposium William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. September 30 to October 2.
- 2015 "Lighting Incense and Oil Lamps during *Jum'ah*: Hindu-Sufi Practices in Contemporary Jaffna, Sri Lanka" Hindu and Others in South Asia and Overseas. Paris, France. February 17.
- 2015 (Invited speaker) "Sufism in North America" for the Middle Eastern Studies and Religion Program. Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, New York. April 21.
- 2015 (With William Rory Dickson) "Negotiating the Sacred in Philadelphia: Competing Sufisms at the Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Shrine" Roundtable on Transnational Identity and Religious Practice in North America, Congress (Canadian Society for the Study of Religion). Ottawa, Ontario. June 1.
- 2015 (Invited speaker) "Maryam to Bawa: Pilgrimages and Shrines in the Fellowship Communities" for the Center for Global Islamic Studies, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. November 9.
- 2015 "From Jaffna to Pennsylvania: Piety and Practice at the Shrines of Bawa Muhaiyaddeen" Islamic Mysticism Group, American Academy of Religion (AAR). Atlanta, Georgia. November 22.
- 2015 (With Amarnath Amarasingam) "Caught Between Rebels and Armies: Competing Nationalisms and Anti-Muslim Violence in Sri Lanka" panel on Complicating Tamilness at Home and in the Diaspora. Tamil Studies Symposium, York University. Toronto, Ontario. May 1.
- 2014 "A Sufi Community in Philadelphia" Forum panelist at the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. March 28.

- 2014 "At the Grave of Bawa: Sufism, Shrines and the Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship in North America" Global Conference on Sacred Journeys, Oxford, England. July 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2013 "Tracing the Sufi Metaphysics and Cosmology of a Tamil Sufi Sheikh: Encountering the *Insan Kamil* of Bawa in North America" panel on Embodiment and Transformation for the Islamic Studies McGill Graduate Symposium, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. May 4.
- 2013 "Praying in Arabic and Singing in Tamil: A Sufi *Urs* in Toronto" panel on Modern Islam, Congress, Canadian Study for the Society of Religion (CSSR) University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. June 2.
- 2013 "Tracing the Metaphysics and Cosmology of a Tamil Sufi Sheikh: Encounter the *Insan Kamil* of Bawa" "Global Sufism" Islamic Mysticism Panel, American Academy of Religion (AAR), Baltimore, Maryland. November 24.
- 2013 "Praying in Arabic and Singing in Tamil: A Sufi *Urs* in Toronto" panel on South Asian Diaspora, South Asian Studies Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, October 19.
- 2012 "Talking about Religious Presences Instead: Understanding Religious Identities of Students for Meaningful Pedagogical Practices" Religion and Education Panel at the Eastern Regional American Academy of Religion, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo. May 5.
- 2012 "Talking about Religious Presences Instead" "Education and Religion" panel at the Annual Religion and Public Life Conference, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo.
- 2012 "Being Tamil in Philadelphia: The Influence of Sri Lanka on the Development of North American Sufism" Center for Islamic Studies at the National Association of African American Studies, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. February 14.
- 2011 "At the Grave of Bawa: Sufi Spaces and the Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship in North America" Outside the Box: Reimagining Sufism in / (



Tamil (native speaker).  
Arabic (primary reading)

Winter 2023



*Committee member and examiner completed*

- 2022 (Second Reader) Lauren McLeod. Major Research Paper: "Religious Rights versus the Religious Right: The Christianization of America Abortion Politics and the Role of the Religious Right in Shaping the Satanic Temple's Pro-Choice Activism. MA School of Religion, Queen's University. August 16.
- 2018-2022 (Committee Member) James Kwateng-Yeboah. PhD Dissertation Committee. Project: African Pentecostal Immigrants in Toronto: Assessing Migrants' Aspirations and Identities. PhD Program in Cultural Studies, Queen's University. Defended June 30, 2022.
- 2021 (Internal examiner). Golam Rabbani Shihab. "Commodifying Baul Spirituality: Changing Baul Literature and Music in Bangladesh." PhD Program in Cultural Studies School. Queen's University. Defended October 22, 2021.
- 2021 (Internal examiner) Jennifer Wigglesworth. "A Feminist Embodied Ethnography of Indoor and Outdoor Sport Climbing and Bouldering." PhD Program in School of Kinesiology and Health Studies. Queen's University. Defended September 22, 2021.
- 2020 (Internal Examiner) Sanober Umar. PhD Dissertation Committee. Project: Racializing Subalternity: Space, Caste, and Gender in Muslim Mohallas of Lucknow (1947-1993). PhD Program in History, Queen's University. Defended April 6, 2020.
- 2019 (Internal Examiner) Jennifer Lemche. PhD Dissertation Committee. Project: Is Daoism Green? Engaging Daoist Responses to Environmental Challenges in China. PhD Program in Cultural Studies, Queen's University. Defended February 19, 2019.
- 2019 (Second Reader) Katrina Rosie. Major Research Paper: The Evolution of Christian Commemorative Meals: Conversations Between Ritual and Theology. MA Program in Religious Studies, Queen's School of Religion.
- 2019-2020 (Committee Member) Craig Rogalsky. PhD Dissertation Committee. Project: Countering Violent Extremists- Islamic World Methodologies. PhD Program in Cultural Studies, Queen's University (Left the committee as the topic changed).
- 2019-2022 Ryan Anningson (PhD), *Transnational Asian Religion*, (Flora Jane Baker Postdoctoral Fellow)
- 2021 "Between Popular Spirituality and Islamic Mysticism" for Kingston Islamic History Month. October 18 (with Dr. Adnan Hussain).
- 2020 "Migration and Diaspora: Research at the Intersection of Religion and Law" for Gender Matters Speaker Series, Gender Studies. November 18 (with Dr. Ashwini Vasanthakumar, School of Law).

- 2020 " ' A Divine Infection' : Religious Communities and the Epidemiology of Covid-19' for Queen' s Contagion Culture Lecture Series. November 17 (with Dr. Eun-Young Lee, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies).
- 2020 " Women of Colour in Academia" panel for Queen' s Women of Colour Collective. November 16.
- 2020 " Queen' s Women in Computing" panel for Queen' s University Hack-Her Conference. November 7.
- 2019 " Navigating Academia as a Person of Colour" panel for Ignite Conference by Queen' s Equity Conference. February 2.
- 2019 Guest Lecturer, RELS 301: Sufi Dress, March 12, 2018.
- 2020 Speaker, " Challenging Methodologies" Speaks: Cultural Studies Speakers' Series. January 15. Queen' s University.
- 2019 Organizer, " Workshop on Sufi Whirling" with Farzad AttarJafari. March 18<sup>th</sup>. Queen' s University.
- 2019 Organizer, screening of *Wajd: Songs of Separation* with panel and music presentation with director Amar Chebib and Fahd Abou Zainedin. Queen' s School of Religion and Muslim Studies Global Perspectives. Queen' s University. October 29.
- 2019 Organizer, " Presentation of Sufi Whirling" with Farzad AttarJafari, Amir Koushkani and Zohreh Shahbazy. Queen' s School of Religion and Muslim Studies Global Perspective. October 4.
- 2019 (Co-organized with Dr. Courtney Szto) " Muslim Femininities in Sports" panel featuring Shireen Ahmed, Sarah Abood, and Amina Mohamed. Queen' s University. November 14.
- 2022 (Invited faculty mentor) " Approaching the Archive." *Workshop Tamil Studies Symposium* April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, via Zoom.
- 2018-2019 (Participant) Wabash Centre for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Early Career Religion Faculty in Colleges and Universities Workshop. Crawfordsville, Indiana. <https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/programs/workshops/2018-19-early-career-workshop/>
- 2018 (Invited faculty mentor) " ' Borders: Real and Imagined 2018 Sri Lanka Graduate Conference" , Pre-dissertation Development Workshop, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, November 9-10.
- 2016 (Participant) " Pre-Tenure Faculty Workshop" *International Institute of Islamic Thought*. Herndon, Virginia. May 25-26. <https://iit.org/en/2016-iit-islamic-studies-junior-scholars-biographies/>



- 2018 (Interviewee), Vaishna Sathanathan, (host) " Meet Merin Shobhana X avier, an expert on contemporary Sufism" profile feature for *Tamil Women Rising*.  
<https://www.tamilwomenrising.org/women-on-the-rise>
- 2022 Member, Abridged Headship Search Committee.
- 2022- Graduate Chair, School of Religion.
- 2022-2023 Member, University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (UCA RE), Queen's University.
- 2019-2021 Member, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Indigeneity Committee, Faculty of Arts and Science.
- 2019-2020 Member, Appointments Committee, QSR. (New faculty position; postdoctoral fellow; adjunct positions).
- 2018-

