

**Ahmad Nazir Atassi**

(US Citizen)

1603 Saint John Ave.  
Ruston, LA 71270

Phone: (318) 257-5484  
E-mail: aatassi@latec.edu

**Education**

- University of California (UCSB), Santa Barbara, CA, January 2001 to present.

**M.A.** – History (Modern Middle Eastern history), May, 2004. GPA: 3.7/4.0.

**Ph.D.** – Early Islamic History. **December, 2009.**

- Michigan State University (MSU), East Lansing, MI, August 1993 to May 1999.

**M.S.** – Mathematics – Dynamic Systems, May 1997.

**Ph.D.** - Electrical Engineering – Control Systems, May 1999, GPA: 3.85/4.0.

- Ecole Supérieure d'Electricité, Paris, France, September 1988 to June 1991.

**Diploma** - Electrical Engineering, July 1991.

- Institut Supérieur des Sciences Appliquées et Technologie, Damascus, Syria, September 1985 to June 1988.

**Certificate** – Basic Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

**Dissertation**

Title: A History of Ibn Sa'd's Great Book of Strata or Kitāb al-Tabaqāt al-Kabīr.

The dissertation is a contribution to the field of book history. It is the first such study in the field of Islamic history. It traces of the history of the oldest extant biographical dictionary of transmitters of the Muslim prophetic tradition.

**Publications and Presentations****Presentations:**

- “A Social History of Ibn Sa'd's Kitāb al-T ~~Kitāb~~” to be delivered at the *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA)*, Washington D.C., December, 2011.
- “A History of Ibn Sa'd's Biographical Dictionary Kitāb al-T ~~Kitāb~~” al delivered at the *Annual Meeting of MESA*, San Diego, November, 2010.
- “Did Ibn H ~~anbal~~ and Ibn Ma ~~anbal~~ ~~Obstruct the Spread of Ibn Sa'~~ delivered at the *Annual Meeting of MESA*, Washington D.C., November, 2008.
- “The Role and Portrayal of Women in Ibn Sa'd's Biographical Dictionary of Transmitters of the Prophetic Traditions,” delivered at the annual meeting of the *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago, November, 2008.
- “Toward a Theory of Early Medieval State Formation and Disintegration: A Comparison between the Christian West and the Islamic Empire,” delivered at the *LaTech Liberal Arts Research Symposium*, Ruston, April, 2008.
- “Images of Piety in Ibn Sa'd's T ~~ab~~aqāt” Invited paper delivered at the *Annual Meeting of MESA*, Boston, November, 2006.
- “What Can We Learn from the Theory of Dynamical Systems? Elements of a New Approach to the Social Sciences.” *The Third International Conference on New Directions in Humanities*, Cambridge University, August, 2005.
- “Qur'anic Chronology: a New Attempt.” delivered at the *Annual Meeting of MESA*, San Francisco, November, 2004.

**Publications:**

- Atassi, A. N. “A History of Ibn Sa’d’s Biographical Dictionary Kitāb al-T al-Kabīr,” submitted to a special issue about the Islamic Book of the *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies (JAIS)*, February, 2012.
- Atassi, A. N. “H based Biographies in Ibn Sa’d’s Kitāb al-T Kabīr,” to be submitted in May 2012.
- Atassi, A. N. “Muh Ninth Century literature,” to be submitted to ABC-CLIO in April 2012.
- Twelve short articles to “alawan.com,” an online, Arabic, and peer-reviewed magazine advocating secularism in the Middle East
- Three editorials in the local newspaper The Ruston Daily Leader (during 2008), about current events in the Middle East.
  - Feb. 1, 2008 “The Difference Between international Jihadists and Mainstream Muslims”
  - April 11, 2008, “Keep the Focus on the Human Side in Iraq”
  - May 16, 2008, “A Perspective on Bush’s Visit to the Middle East”
- Three entries in the *Encyclopedia of Islam* (Hārūn, Mathematics, Science), ed. Juan Campo, NY: Facts on File, 2008.

#### Book Reviews:

- A 500-word review of Mahmūd Ismā‘īl’s *Al-Muhammashūn fī al-Tārīkh al-Islāmī*, or *The Marginalized in Islamic History*. Cairo: Ru’ya li’l- T Nashr, 2004. To appear at for *al-‘Usā’* *Wast* *October* 2011.

#### Invited Talks:

- “*To the Shores of Tripoli: The First Battle of the US Marines in the Middle East*,” part of the Lincoln Parish Library Annual Lecture Series, to be delivered on November 17, 2011.
- “The Rise and Fall of Dictatorships in the Middle East,” part of *The LA Tech College of Liberal Arts Lecture Series*, to be delivered in January, 2012.
- "Social Media in the Contemporary Middle East," an invited presentation about Social Media and the Arab Spring at *Shaping the 21st Century: Focus on the Middle East*, LA Tech, April 5, 2011.
- “Modern Islamic Movements in Algeria,” invited by Dr. Richard Hutchinson (Social Movements course), Dept. of Social Studies, LaTech, Winter 2009.
- “Cyber-Terrorism and Extremist Islamic Movements,” invited by Dr. Brian Etheridge (Cyberspace course), Honor Program, History Dept., LaTech, Winter 2009. The talk was also invited twice to the Cyber Discovery Camp, LaTech, Summer 2008 and 2009.
- "From Engineering to History: An Uncommon Path of a Historian." Talk given at the initiation ceremony of *Phi Alpha Theta* (History Honor Society), January 31st, 2008.
- “A Modern History of Saudi Arabia,” invited by Dr. Maria Logrono (Modern Middle East course), History Dept., UCSB, Summer 2006.
- Poetry Reading at the Arab American Press Guild 16th annual Poetry Festival, Glendale Main Public Library, CA, March 15, 2001

#### Web Sites:

- *Virtual Early Islamic Nano-Studies (VEINS)*, <http://www.veins-web.net/>. Owned, programmed, and operated. Contains major issues in the field of early Islamic

studies, approaches and techniques, bibliographies, discussions, searchable databases of medieval authors and books, new publications, and a wikipedia-style journal of Hadith criticism.

- *Qāmūs Jadīd* (The New Dictionary), <http://www.qamusjadid.org/>. Owned, programmed, and operated. A wikipedia-style Arabic etymological dictionary and a user-filled database of dialectal vocabulary.
- *Al-Mawsū'a al-Sūriyya* (The Syrian Encyclopedia), <http://wikisuriya.org/>. Owned, programmed, and operated. A wikipedia-style encyclopedia of articles and publications pertained to the Syrian state, society, and to Syrian modern history; aimed at educating and aiding activists of the Syrian revolt of March 15, 2011.

### **Service and Continuing Formation**

#### **Committees:**

- Member of the Academic Senate, LA Tech, 2011.
- Member of the Undergraduate Committee (LaTech, History Department), 2009-10. Helped formulate a capstone course for our History major at LA Tech.
- Member of the organizing committee of *Shaping the 21st Century: Focus on the Middle East*, LA Tech, March 22-May 11, 2011. Recruited speakers, selected documentaries and participated in Q&A sessions afterward.

#### **Panels:**

- Organized a panel at MESA 2011 (Washington, DC), titled "History of the Medieval Islamic Book." We have three papers including one that I will write. The panel is sponsored by MEM (Middle East Medievalists)
- Chair of the session titled "New Readings in Islamic Historiography," MESA Annual Meeting, Montreal, November 17-20, 2007.

#### **Workshops:**

- Invited to the workshop titled "Teaching Islam and Gender," conducted by the Southwest Chapter of the AAR, Whittier College, CA, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

#### **Summer Institutes:**

- "Danish-Jordanian Islamic Jarash Project: Archaeological Field Institute," August, 2008, Jordan; under the supervision of Professor Alan Walmsley from the Department of Cross-Cultural & Regional Studies at the university of Copenhagen.

### **Professional Experience**

#### **Assistant Professor**

*History Department*, Louisiana Tech University (La Tech), Fall 2007 to present  
Taught World history to 1500, World History from 1500, Medieval Islamic History to 1500, Modern Middle Eastern History, Ancient Near East History, History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, History of Women in Islam, History of the American Foreign Policy in the Middle East (grad. Seminar).

#### **Teaching Assistant**

*Anthropology Department*, UCSB, Santa Barbara, April to June 2007.  
Taught two discussion sections for Introduction to Archaeology.

*Sociology Department*, UCSB, Santa Barbara, September 2005 to March 2006.  
Grader and assistant for The Sociology of Deviance. Taught two discussion sections for Methods of Sociology.

*Law & Society Department*, UCSB, Santa Barbara, January 2005 to April 2005.  
Three discussion sections for Socio-Legal Research Methodologies.

*Religious Studies Department*, UCSB, Santa Barbara. September 2003 to June 2004.

Drilling sessions for first and second year Arabic (Arabic I to VI).

*History Department*, UCSB, Santa Barbara, September 2001 to December 2001.

Taught three discussion sections for Western Civilization I.

- **Arabic Instructor**

*Religious Studies Department*, Santa Barbara, Summer 2003, Summer 006

Taught the intensive Summer Session of Arabic. It lasted for nine weeks and covered the first year curriculum.

*Foreign Languages Department*, Santa Barbara City College (SBCC), 2003-2004, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007

Taught first year Arabic (two semesters).

### Languages

**Arabic** (native language). **French** (fluent). **Spanish, Persian** (intermediate level). **German, Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, Turkish/Ottoman Turkish** (working knowledge), **Latin, Attic Greek** (basic level).

### Grants and Fellowships

- Spring 2008 Research Grant (\$1000), The Atassi Foundation to conduct archival research in Istanbul and Syria
- Spring 2008 Summer Research Grant (\$800), the College of Liberal Arts at LaTech, to collect Arabic manuscripts in Istanbul
- Spring 2008 Summer Research Grant (\$2500), History Dept., LaTech, to attend an archaeological summer institute in Jordan
- Spring 2005 Travel Grant (\$800), History Department UCSB, to attend a conference in Cambridge, Britain.
- Spring 2005 Humanities Research Grant (\$2000), Graduate Division UCSB to visit Dutch, German and British universities/Libraries and meet with scholars in the field of Early Islamic History in order to collect publications and ideas for my research.

### Professional Membership

MESA (Middle East Studies Association) since 2003.

MEM (Middle East Medievalists) since 2009.

AHA (American Historical Association), 2006-08.

AAR (American Academy of Religion), 2008-09.

ISAP (International Society of Arabic Papyrology) since 2009.

RAWI (Radius of Arab American Writers) 2002-05.