Arash Naraghi

Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy Moravian College, PA

1200 Main St. Bethlehem, PA 18018 Tel: (949) 436-3635

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara, CA PhD, (Philosophy), Summer 2008 MA, Philosophy, June 2003

University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran PhD, Pharmacology, May 1991

ARAEAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

- Applied Ethics: Social Ethics, Ethics of Human Rights, Ethics of Gender and Sexuality.
- **Meta-Ethics**: The Logic of Moral Dilemmas.
- **Philosophy of Religion and Islamic Philosophy:** God's Foreknowledge, Arguments for the Existence of God, the Problem of Evil.
- Reformist Movements in Contemporary Islam: Models of Reconstruction of Islamic Thought.
- Contemporary Shi'i Theology: Shi'i Political Theories- The Theory of Velayat-e Faqih.
- **Islamic Mysticism:** The School of Khurassan.

PUBLICATIONS

Books (in Persian)

- Sunnat wa Ofogh-hai Goshodeh (Critical Traditionalism: A New Model of Reform in Islamic Thought), Tehran, Negah-e Moasser, 2016.
- *Modara va Madanyyat (Toleration and Civility: Essays on Social Ethics)*. Tehran, 2014, 2nd edition, Tehran, 2016.
- *Ethics and Virtues*, A Collection of four of my articles on social ethics, translated by Musab Adham from Farsi into Kurdish, Published in Iraq, 2012,
- Hadith-e Hazer va Qayeb (A Theology of Absence: An Islamic Experience), Negah-e Moasser, Tehran, 1st edition, 2011.
- Akhlaq-e Huquq-e Bashar (The Ethics of Human Rights), Negah-e Moasser, Tehran, 1st 2010, 2nd edition 2011.
- Ayeneh Jān (The Soul's Mirror: On Rumi's Life and Ideas), Negah-e Moasser, Tehran, 1st 2010, 2nd edition 2011, 2nd edition 2011, 3nd edition 2016.
- Ressaleh Din-Shenakht: Modeli Dar Fahme Iman-e Ebrahimi (Reason and Faith: A Philosophical Model for Understanding the Theistic Faith), Tarh-e-No Publisher, Iran, 1999, and the 2nd edition 2011.

Selected Articles

• Trans-conceptual Consciousness and Experience of the Transcendental", *Andishe Pouya*, Feb. 2016, pp.82-85 (Tehran).

- "The Qur'an and Human Rights of Sexual Minorities", in *The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community of Iran: Examining Human Rights from Religious, Social, Legal and Cultural Perspectives*, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, 2015.
- "Ayatollah Khomeini's Theory of Government", in *Politics and Culture in Contemporary Iran: Challenging the Status Quo*, Abbas Milani and Larry Diamond, Eds., Lynne Rienner Publishes, Inc. 2015.
- "Boredom as a mystical experience", *Andisheh Pouya* 3 (16) 1393 [June 2014], pp. 57-59, Tehran, Iran.
- "Religion within the Limits of Civility: Civil Legitimacy of the Laws of Shari'ah", Jarass, 30 May 2014:
 http://www.rahesabz.net/story/83075/
- "Critical Traditionalism in the Realm of Religion: A Theory on the Logic of Reform in Islamic Thought", *Jarass*, 9 February 2014: http://www.rahesabz.net/story/81260/
- "The Virtue of Gratitude", *Andishe Pouya* 2 (13) 1392 [December/February 2013] pp. 100-104, Tehran, Iran.
- "A Critique to Professor Mujtahid Shabesstari's veiw on the Authority of atheistic Assumptions in the Qur'anic Exegesis", *Jarass*, 17 June 2012: http://www.rahesabz.net/story/54772/
- "The Ethics of Torture", Andisheh Pouya 2 (9) 1392 [August 2013], Tehran, Iran.
- "Euthanasia: yes or no?" Jaras, 30 December, 2012: http://www.rahesabz.net/story/64137/
 Note: This is a transcript of the debate between me and Professor Mohsen Kadivar from Duke University, on BBC Persian, broadcasted on 12/03/2012 from BBC Newwork.
- BBC Commentary: "The Death of Satar Beheshti: An ordinary crime or a violation of human right?", BBC Persian, 12/24/2012: http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/persian/viewpoints/2012/12/post-420.html
 Note: Satar Beheshti was an Iranian political prisoner who was killed by the government agents in the prison.
- "The Possibility and the Structure of Verbal Revelation", Jarass, January 27: http://www.rahesabz.net/story/46669/
- "Faith in the Age of Divine Eclipse", Jarass, December 28, 2011: http://www.rahesabz.net/story/47370/
- "The Holy Text and the hermeneutic Predicaments: Understanding the Qur'an in Modern Context", *Jarass*, December 13, 2011: http://www.rahesabz.net/story/46161/
- "The Functions of Religious Rituals: A Mystical Perspective", Jarass, November, 28, 2011: http://www.rahesabz.net/story/45909/
- "Paradox of Toleration", Gooya News, August 24, 2011.
 http://www.farhangreader.com/modules/pligg_web_toolbar/toolbar.php?id=4477
- "Islam, Toleration, and the Rights of Baha'is in Iran", *Gooya News*, July 12, 2011. http://www.farhangreader.com/modules/pligg_web_toolbar/toolbar.php?id=4477
- "Is Humanitarian Intervention Morally Justified?", Interview with *Gooya News*, March 30, 2011; (http://news.gooya.com/politics/archives/2011/03/119806.php#more)

- "Non-Violence Movement", Interview with Tehran Review, March 18, 2011: (http://tehranreview.net/articles/8011)
- "Democracy and Ethnic Rights", Gooya News, April 23, 2011, (http://news.gooya.com/politics/archives/2011/04/120843.php)
- "The Qur'an and the Issue of Homosexuality", *Gooya News*, January 7, 2011 (http://news.gooya.com/society/archives/115688.php) Also, reprinted in: (http://tavaana.com/archive.jsp?restrictids=nu_repeatitemid&restrictvalues=20715020003412 90845479583&lang=fa)
- "Is "Secular Muslim" Possible?", RoozOnLine, June 28, 2010
 (http://www.roozonline.com/persian/opinion/opinion-article/archive/2010/june/28/article/dcfe990490.html)
- "The Moral Status of Violence in a non-violent Civil Movement", *Roozonline*, January 5, 2010.
- "Moral Appraisal of the Doctrine of 'The Political Guardianship of Islamic Jurist", *Roozonline*, August 27, 2009, Reprinted in, *Radio Zamaneh Website*, February 11, 2010.
- "Political Rape as a Violation of Human Rights", *Roozonline*, August 23, 2009.
- "Iran's Green Movement and the Question of Civil Disobedience", Roozonline, August 10, 2009.
- "Moral Foundations of the Right to Secession", Roozonline, 13/08/08.
- "Ayatollah Khomeini's Theory of Government: Genesis, and Evolution", A chapter in the book, *Prospects of Democracy in Iran*, eds. By Larry Diamond, Mike McFaul, and Abbad Milani, Stanford University Press, forthcoming.
- "Approaches to Moderate Islam in Iran", A project for The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBAR)", August 2007.
- "On the nature of revealed words: A Critique to *Mojtahed Shabesstari*'s theory on Islamic Revelation", *Madreseh*, July 2007, Vol. 6.
- "Some Critical Remarks about the Morality of Nuclear Weapons", *Roozonline*, April, 12th, 2007.
- "John Rawls and the Issue of Human Rights", Madreseh, January 2007, Vol. 5.
- "Divine Hiddenness: Some Remarks about Theology of Absence", *Madreseh*, September 2006, Vol.4.
- "Political Legitimacy and Human Rights: A Critical Study of the Moral Standing of Humanitarian Intervention", *Madreseh*, December 2005, Vol. 2.
- "Moral Skepticism and Moral Realism in Western and Islamic Philosophy: A Comparative Study", *Kherad Nameh*, November 2005.
- "A Critique of Abdul Karim Soroush's Theory of Revelation", Madreseh, July 2005, Vol. 1.
- "On Abortion", Zanan; The Persian Journal for Feminism, October 2004.
- "The Moral Status of Homosexuality", Personal Website, November 2004.

- "Alvin Plantinga's Evolutionary Argument against Naturalism", Personal Website, Fall 2003.
- "Rationality and Religious Belief: A New Understanding of the Theory of *Fetrah* in *Shi'at* Theology", *Naghd-va-Nazar*; The Persian Journal for Theological Studies, September 1997.
- "The Concept of Religious Revivalism in Islam: A Comparative Study of *Al-Ghazali* and *Mohammad Iqbal Lahuri*", *Kiayn*, The Persian Journal for Theological and Philosophical Studies, November, 1996.
- "A Critical Study of the Master-Disciple relationship in Islamic Mysticism", *Kiayn*, The Persian Journal for Theological and Philosophical Studies, December, 1992.

Translations (into Persian)

Books

- On Love: A Collection of Philosophical Articles on Love, Selected articles by Martha Nussbaum, Robert Solomon, Robert Nozick, Annette Baier, Elizabeth Rapaport, Laurence Thomas; Tehran, Nashr Ney, (Nashr-e Nay, Tehran, 1st edition, June 2011, 2nd edition November 2011, 6nd edition November 2016.)
- Reason and Religious Belief: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion. Michael Peterson, William Hasker, Bruce Reichenbach, David Basinger, Oxford University Press, 1998. (Iranian Publisher: Tehrh-e no, First Published in 1998, Reprinted 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 8th edition 2014.)
- An Introduction to Epistemology. Charles Landesman, Blackwell Publishing, 1997. (Forthcoming. Iranian Publisher: Terhe-e no)

Articles

- Alvin Plantinga, "Pluralism: A Defense of Religious Exclusivism", from *The Rationality of Belief and Plurality of Faith: Essay in Honor of William P. Alston*, Thomas D. Senor (Editor), Cornell University Press, 1955.
- Anthony Flew, Basil Mitchel, R.M. Hare, "Theology and Falsification", from *New Essays in Philosophical Theology*, Anthony Flew and Alasdair MacIntyre (editors), Macmillan, 1973.
- Robert C. Solomon, "The Virtue of (Erotic) Love", from *Ethical Theory: Character and Virtue*, -*Midwest Studies in Philosophy*, 13, pp.12-31.
- Robert Nozick, "Love's Bond", from The Examined Life, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1989
- Elizabeth Rapaport, "On the Future of Love: Rousseau and the Radical Feminists", *Philosophical Forum* 5:1-2 (Fall-Winter), 1973.

PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL MEETINS

- "Understanding the Qur'an within the Limits of Justice: The Issue of Gay and Lesbian Rights in Islamic World", presented at the Conference on "Freedom of Religion or Belief and Sexuality" organized by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of religion and belief and Muslims for Progressive Values, Geneva, Switzerland, June 8th to 10th.
- "Philosophical Approach to the Problematic of Islam and Homosexuality", Presented at University of Dayton, hosted by Philosophy Department, April 21st, 2016.
- "Consciousness and Mysticism", presented at Iranian Community at University of Texas at Dallas, April 9th, 2016.
- "God, Tragic Dilemmas, and the Problem of Gratuitous Evil", Presented at Society for Philosophy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, Feb. 2016.
- "God, Tragic Dilemmas, and the Problem of Gratuitous Evil," Presented at Moravian College, Faculty Luncheon, Oct. 2015.
- "Mysticism, Consciousness, and Modern Psychology", presented for Iranian PhD students at Princeton University, July 2015.
- "God, Mind, and Literature", Presented for Iranian Ph.D. Students at Princeton University, April 5, 2014.

- "Literature and Realist Account of Mystical Experience", Presented at Moravian College, in Fourth Faculty Luncheon, September 5, 2013.
- "Islamic Mysticism and Modern Art: An Introduction to A Theology of Hope", UCL-London's Global University, August 2012
- "Mysticism and Environmental Ethics", Iranian Cultural Society of America (Shabahang),
 Co-Sponsored by University of Pennsylvania's Middle East Center, Rosemont College, 1
 March, 2013
- "Islam and Government: Iran's Experience", Noor Cultural Center, York University, Montreal, Canada: http://www.noorculturalcentre.ca/?p=7591
- "The Virtue of Forgiveness in Personal and Political life", presented at the Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA, January 2012.
- "Reform of Political Ethos in Islam", presented at the American Academy of Religion Conference (AAR), November 2011.
- Presiding a Wildcard Session, *Discussion with Abdul Karim Soroush on Revelation, Reform, and Secularism*. At American Academy of Religion Conference (AAR), November 2011.
- "Islam, Secularism, and a Moral Argument for Mutual-Respect Conception of Toleration", at the conference of Secularism, Islam, and Democracy: Constitutional Tensions and Accommodations, Boston College, October 2011.
- "Islam and the Question of Toleration Based on Mutual Respect: The Challenge of Recognizing Baha'i Faith", at the Conference on Intellectual Othering and the Baha'I Question in Iran, University of Toronto, Canada July 2011.
- A Panelist on "A Panel Discussion on Democracy and the Rights of Ethnic Minorities in Iran: Federalism or Centralism?" George Washington University, April 9, 2011. (A report of this panel is published on RoozOnLine by Roya Maliki: http://www.roozonline.com/persian/news/newsitem/archive/2011/april/16/article/abd1a2cdea.html)
- "Toleration as the Right to Be/Do Wrong: Analysis and Justification", presented at Faculty Luncheon, Moravian College, Feb. 17, 2011.
- "The Tragic Sense of Life: A Comparative Study on Rumi and Khayyam's Conceptions of Nothingness and Tragedy", presented at Iranian Cultural Society of America, Rosemont College, PA, Feb. 4, 2011.
- "Autocratic Traditions and Civil Liberties", presented at Conference on "Toward a Culture of Civil Liberties, Human Rights and Democracy in Iran", The University of Maryland, Oct. 28-31, 2010.
- "Islam and Secularism", presented at Conference on "Toward a Culture of Civil Liberties, Human Rights and Democracy in Iran", The University of Maryland, Oct. 28-31, 2010.
- "Iranian Shi'ism and the Contemporary Debate on the Human Rights of Sexual Minorities", presented at The Eighth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies, Los Angeles 27-30 May 2010.
- And as the discussant for the panel on "Engagements with Reason: Shi'ism and Iran's Intellectual Culture", in The Eighth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies, Los Angeles 27-30 May 2010.
- "Islam and the Respect Conception of Tolerance as a prerequisite of Global Secularism", presented at the conference on The Future of Secularism and the Public Role of Religion in Iran, Lake Forest College, 27-28 March 2010.
- "The moral foundation of Humanitarian Intervention", in Conference on Transition to Democracy in Iran, University of Maryland, College Park (10/31/09 and 11/01/09).
- "Ethical Appraisal of the Doctrine of the Guardianship of Islamic Jurist", Presented at the conference on Iran after the 10th Presidential Election, University of California, Los Angles (UCLA), July 1st, 2009: (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha4dd6Cv-_8)
- "Two Arguments for Totalitarianism: The Case of Iran", in the Conference "Berkeley in Solidarity with Iran", UC Berkeley (10/22/09).
- "Ayatollah Knomeini's Theory of Government: Genesis and Evolution", Iranian Studies Department, Stanford University, October 2008.
- "Secularism in Post-revolutionary Iran: The Challenges of Religion and Politics in Iran's Post-revolutionary Governmental System", Conference on "Prospects on Democracy in Iran", Stanford University, November 2007.

- "Moderate Muslims in Iran and the Challenge of Human rights", The 5th international conference of Asian scholars, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 2007.
- "New Strategies to Re-understand Sexuality and Homosexuality in the Context of Modern Islamic Thought", Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, November, 2005 (also available at my personal website).
- "Modern Islamic Theology and Human Rights", The Middle Eastern Institute, Columbia University, June 1999.
- "Islam and Modernity: Philosophical Challenges", International Conference for Religious Dialogue, Cyprus, May 1999.

WEBINARS FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION (for Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan):

- An Introduction to the Problem of Evil (12 sessions) Jan- May 2016 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjFVvfPyvwI
- An Introduction to Philosophy of Law (8 sessions) Sept- Oct 2014:
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOc6HZoxBwk
- Religion and Morality (2 sessions), May 2014.
- "On Global Poverty as a Violation of Human rights", Live on 01/07/2013. Link to the Page: http://tavaana.org/fa/content/global-poverty-and-human-rights.
- "On Islam and the Problematic of Homosexuality", Live on 01/08/2012. Link to the Page: http://tavaana.org/fa/content/islam-and-issue-homosexuality

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- "The Virtue of Gratitude in Islamic Mysticism", Iranian Islamic Center at Houston, Texas, November 23, 2013.
- "Life and Major Themes in *Hafez*'s Poetry", Presented at Noor va Danesh Center, NJ, October 19, 2013.
- "The Role of Silence in Sufi Spiritual Journey", Noor Center, San Diego, California, 13 July, 2013.
- "The Mirror World: On The World of Mystical Visions in Sufism", Ibn Sina Cultural Center, Irvine, California, July 14, 2013.
- "Faith and Hope", Islamic Center, Maryland, 10 August 2012.
- "On Rumi's *Mathnavi*", delivered at The Institute of Nour va Danesh, NJ, March 7th 2010.
- "Silence as a spiritual path to the Divine Truth in the context of Islamic mysticism", presented at Islamic Institute of New York, March 6th 2010.
- "Ethics and Politics: How Ethical Politics is Possible", Memorial Ceremony in honor of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, Islamic Center of Houston, Houston- Texas, January 2010.
- "Martyrdom of Imam Hussein as an Ethical Demise", Presented at Moharram Religious Ceremonies, Washington DC, Dec. 18, 2010. (An extensive report of this talk is published on *Roozonline*, no. 1342, Dec. 21, 2010: http://www.roozonline.com/persian/news/news/tem/grchive/2010/december/21/article/
 - $\underline{\text{http://www.roozonline.com/persian/news/newsitem/archive/2010/december/21/article/-606e582783.html)}$
- "Creation of an Authentic Self in Islamic Mysticism", presented at Imam Reza Foundation (NY), Nov. 21, 2010.
- "Rumi's Conception of Love", presented at the Conference on "Love and its Cosmological Status", organized by New Universal Union (A Non-Profit Organization), Nov. 14, 2010, Irvine, California.
- "On Rumi's *Mathnavi*", delivered at The Institute of Nour va Danesh, NJ, March 7th 2010.
- "Silence as a spiritual path to the Divine Truth in the context of Islamic mysticism", presented at Islamic Institute of New York, March 6th 2010.
- "Ethics and Politics: How Ethical Politics is Possible", Memorial Ceremony in honor of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, Islamic Center of Houston, Houston-Texas, January 2010.
- "Outlaw States and moral responsibility of international community", The Campaign to Fight Crimes Against Humanity in Iran, New York, September 26, 2009.
- "Toleration in Islam", in the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California- Oakland, October 23, 2009.

- thoughts: An Introduction to Islamic Mysticism.
- 2008 (Fall) Ibn-e Sina Center, Irvine, CA, Interpretation of Rumi's Mathnavi.
- 2005 (August- September), *Tohid* Foundation, San Jose, CA, *Islam and Feminism*.
- 2005 (January- April), UCLA, On Mathnavi; Rumi's mastepiece on mysticism.
- 2004 (Spring), *Tohid* Foundation, San Jose, CA, *Ethics*.
- 2003 (Fall) 2004(Winter), Ibn Sina Center, Irvine, CA, Mystical Worldview.
- 2002 (Fall) 2003 (Spring), IMAN Center, Los Angels, CA, Islamic Philosophical Theology in Modern age.

TV and RADIO PROGRAMS

- **BBC Persian** (Pargar Program): "A Debate on the Problem of Evil", Part I: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ws9hcZk6tO0&list=PLmdEvtplre60WPMMz9qNoDM81vp0VOaMQ
- **BBC Persian** (Pargar Program): "A Debate on the Problem of Evil", Part II: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vrp_4XkiD8&feature=youtu.be
- **BBC Persian** (Safheh 2 Program): "Are Human Rights Universal?" (from 37 to 52 mins): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwirOGbs374
- **BBC Persian**: "A Debate on the Future of Religious Intellectualism (Modernism in Islam)" Part I and Part II, Pargar Program, Produced and Broadcasted by BBC Persian, London, England.

Part I, Broadcasted on 10/02/2012: Link to the Podcast:

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice/pargar/pargar_20121002-1100a-mp3

Part II, Broadcasted on 10/07/2012: Link to the Podcast:

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice/pargar/pargar_20121009-1100a.mp3

- BBC Persian: "A Debate on Islam and Euthanasia", Participants: Arash Naraghi and Professor Mohsen Kadivar (Duke University), Pargar Program, Produced and Broadcasted by BBC Persian on 12/03/2012. Link to the Podcast: http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice/pargar/pargar_20121203-2000a.mp3
- **VOA** TV Program on "Heresy and the Situation of Evangelican Church in Iran", Voice of America (VOA), Feb. 24, 2011: (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Tf-EUUKoao)
- BBC Radio Program on "Political Protest and Suppression in Iran: Increasing Violence or Committing to Non-Violence", BBC:
 (http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2011/03/110304_pejvak_demos_violence.shtml)
 and (http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2011/03/110303_pejvak_audio.shtml)
- **BBC** TV Program on "The Philosophy of Non-Violence", BBC Persian: (http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/tv/2010/07/100709_pargar_ptv_10.shtml).
- **BBC** TV Program on "Islam and the Erotica", BBC Persian: (http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/tv/2010/08/100807_ptv_pargar_14.shtml).
- VOA, On International Day Against Homophobia, Interview with Voice of America (VOA) May 15, 2010.
- VOA, "Ethics and Politics in Post-revolutionary Iran", interview with Voice of America (VOA), October 17, 2009.
- Andisheh TV, The Future of Political Islam, interview with Andisheh TV (Broadcasting to Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, June 5, 2010.
- **PPN**(Persian News Network) 2005 (October- November), Rumi's life and Ideas

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Departments of Religion and Philosophy, Moravian College, PA Since Fall 2009 to present- Asociate Professor

Department of Philosophy, California State University, San Bernardino 2007- 2009

Department of Philosophy, University of California, Santa Barbara 2006- 2007 Course Instructor

Kiyan; The Persian Journal of Theological and Philosophical Studies, Tehran, Iran 1992-2001, Member of Editorial Board.