



Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice

Vol. 6 No. 1: Advancing Islamic Chaplaincy in North America

Call for Book Reviewers

The *Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice* invites colleagues to submit book reviews for publication that combine intellectual rigor with community engagement. This journal aims to provide a platform for scholars, students, and researchers to exchange their latest findings and to foster dialogue among them and community leaders regarding the Islamic faith and its practice in America. Successful papers will reflect theoretical and methodological sophistication and engagement with existing scholarship, while also being accessible to non-specialists. The sixth edition of the *Journal of Islamic Faith and Practice* will discuss and analyze the theme of **Advancing Islamic Chaplaincy in North America**.

We are looking for graduate students, academics, and professionals with experience in the field who can submit book reviews for publication. Book reviews should review and critique books from the perspective of Muslim chaplains, Islamic chaplaincy, and how relevant and/or effective the books are in relation to the theme of chaplaincy. In particular, we are looking for the following books to be reviewed:

1. *Caregiving to Muslims: A guide for chaplains, counselors, healthcare and social workers* by Muhammad Hatim (2017)
2. *Islamic Spiritual Care: Theory and Practices* by Nazila Isgandarova (2019)
3. *Chaplain's Guide to Death in Islam: Philosophical, Jurisprudential, Moral, and Legal Considerations* by Safi Haider (2020)
4. *Islam in Prison: Finding Faith, Freedom and Fraternity* by Matthew Wilkinson, Lamia Irfan, Muzammil Quraishi, and Mallory Schneuwly Purdie (2023)
5. *An American Muslim Guide to the Art and Life of Preaching* by Sohaib Sultan and revised by Martin Nguyen (2023)
6. *The Imam and the Atheist* by Mohamed A. Azeez (2023)
7. *American Imam: From Pop Stardom to Prison Abolition* by Taymullah Abdur-Rahman (2024)

We are also open to considering reviews of any other books which are related to, or can be brought into conversation with, the topic of Islamic chaplaincy and Muslim chaplains.

We are also looking for an individual to write a review or reflection piece on the PBS documentary *Three Chaplains* (2023).

Please see later in this document for brief descriptions of these books. Reviewers will be provided with general writing guidelines and more information, including timelines. Completed reviews should be submitted by September 30, 2024. For examples of previously published reviews, see: <https://journals.iupui.edu/index.php/JIFP/issue/archive>.

If interested, please email journal@islamicseminary.us by June 1, 2024. Please indicate one or more books which you would like to review. As we are looking for those with experience in the field who can engage with the topics critically, please send us a few brief sentences describing your education and experience with chaplaincy. Books will be assigned on a first come first served basis and at the discretion of the editor.



Caregiving to Muslims: A guide for chaplains, counselors, healthcare and social workers by Muhammad Hatim (2017)¹

The main purpose of this book is to assist caregivers in providing culturally competent services to Muslim patients and clients. It may be particularly useful in the education and training of healthcare workers, counselors, mental health professionals, social workers, seminarians, and chaplains. It contains basic information on the religion of Al-Islam, correlates Islamic theology with established psychological theories, and recommends an approach to making spiritual assessments. Additionally, the book provides a Muslim perspective on the spiritual roots of conflict, terrorism, gender issues, homosexuality, and substance abuse.

Islamic Spiritual Care: Theory and Practices by Nazila Isgandarova (2019)

The purpose of this book is to help Muslim spiritual caregivers and other healthcare professionals enhance the compassionate care they provide their clients in a variety of institutional settings. This book creates a space for expanding their vision on the theoretical and practical aspects of a rich Islamic tradition towards appropriate and respectful Islamic spiritual and religious care. Muslim spiritual and religious care gives assess and determine spiritual and religious needs and develop and implement suitable and appropriate spiritual care. By doing so, they empower their Muslims clients and enable them to transcend themselves and connect with the broader context of their lives.

Chaplain's Guide to Death in Islam: Philosophical, Jurisprudential, Moral, and Legal Considerations by Safi Haider (2020)

This book is about the final rites and processes of Muslims and their families. It takes on the philosophical and psychological perspectives of death and dying for the families of the deceased. Every chaplain needs a chaplain. We all need counseling at some time in our lives, and this is particularly true for pastoral counseling. This book also deals with the jurisprudential and moral considerations for the end of life processes for Muslims.

Islam in Prison: Finding Faith, Freedom and Fraternity by Matthew Wilkinson, Lamia Irfan, Muzammil Quraishi, and Mallory Schneuwly Purdie (2023)

Are you a prison officer who feels nervous about dealing with Muslims on the wings? Are you a prison chaplain who wants to know how your chaplaincy affects the lives of prisoners? Are you a policymaker who needs a robust base of evidence for Islam in prison? Are you an academic or a journalist seeking ground-breaking social science in a contentious field? Based on original evidence from 279 Muslim prisoners and 79 prison officers, we explore how Muslims come to be incarcerated, how the practice of Islam affects prison life and rehabilitation, the types of Islam and the effects of Islamic conversion in prison and the professional practice of officers and chaplains. We also investigate the common belief that incarceration fosters Islamist extremism and suggest improvements to faith provision and rehabilitative opportunities for Muslim prisoners.

An American Muslim Guide to the Art and Life of Preaching by Sohaib Sultan and revised by Martin Nguyen (2023)

An American Muslim Guide to the Art and Life of Preaching explores the art and craft of creating effective Islamic sermons and delivering them with care, passion, and integrity. The life of the preacher is also addressed, and a model of spiritual formation is provided for those serving Muslim communities of faith in positions of religious leadership.

¹ All book descriptions are taken from Amazon.com.



Sultan's vision and approach to preaching is holistic. This book is as much about the knowledge and care placed behind a sermon as it is about the tone, tenor, and shape of that sermon. It is as much about the character of the person delivering these words as it is about the nature and shape of the words themselves. It is as much about tending to the people of faith that fill the worship space as it is about the aesthetics and arrangement of that same space. This means that this book on preaching is not meant for preachers alone. It was written for us all, whether we are called to address and care for a congregation, or we are one of the many called to be part of one.

While the book is clearly written for Muslim preachers and Islamic preaching, many of the insights in the book could easily apply to preaching in Christian or other settings. Reflecting on a theology of the spoken word in the Islamic tradition, Martin Nguyen remarks that the sermon in and of itself is not automatically worthy of praise. Rather, its value for the life of faith is measured by its message, its mode of delivery, and the model of living that accompanies it. An appendix to the book includes a collection of du'ā's, or supplicatory prayers, that were composed and delivered by women from the Princeton Muslim Life Community.

The Imam and the Atheist by Mohamed A. Azeez (2023)

Inspired by true events, this book is a conversation between two men: a man whose nephew has lost his faith, and an imam who sits at the heart of his community to set a moral and ethical compass. The imam is challenged by questions surrounding faith, and tries to aid the uncle in how best to provide guidance to his struggling nephew. What follows is an open and honest dialogue, which examines the most philosophical arguments to make a case for the existence of God.

Note: This book is included in this list due to its relevance to spiritual caregiving. The conversations and topics included in this book may be very similar to ones which chaplains may deal with when caring for Muslims in the community, including questions about the existence of God, morality, reason, destiny, and salvation. A review of this book would look at the content, as well as the pastoral skills employed in the conversation between the imam and the uncle.

American Imam: From Pop Stardom to Prison Abolition by Taymullah Abdur-Rahman (2024)

Imam Taymullah Abdur-Rahman's incredible life story weaves the contemporary Black American experience with the Black Muslim American experience and emphasizes the role of interreligious dialogue in the fight for abolition and justice.

By the time he was twelve, Taymullah Abdur-Rahman (born Tyrone Sutton) was a rising pop star, recruited as part of the R&B group Perfect Gentlemen, with a top-ten hit, national teen magazine covers, and an appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. However, after his music career peaked, Abdur-Rahman found himself back home, with little to show for his success. He quickly became a teen father struggling to survive in Roxbury, MA. Seeing Islam as a way out of his hard-scrabble environment, he happily converted. Soon he was working in a maximum-security prison as a Muslim chaplain, where he became zealously focused on saving souls instead of understanding the outside forces that bring men to prison.

Later, in his work as the first paid Muslim chaplain at Harvard, Abdur-Rahman began to seek counsel outside of Islam, engaging with Jewish and Christian mentors who opened his eyes to the gifts of interreligious dialogue and helped lead him to what he was truly seeking: enlightenment. With this new framework, he returned to working with prisoners and clearly saw the cyclical effects of systemic



racism that keep Black and brown people locked up and without support in America today. A sweeping narrative, *American Imam* voices the contemporary concerns of Black Muslim Americans in the shadow of El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, in the aftermath of 9/11, and in light of the fights for social justice and prison abolition. Abdur-Rahman's story sounds an indelible rallying cry for understanding across race, religion, and cultural divides.

***Three Chaplains* (2023 PBS documentary)²**

Muslim chaplains in the U.S. military support and defend the religious rights of all service members. But their leadership sparks accusations of disloyalty and even disapproval from within their own communities. Resisting calls to blend in, the chaplains fight to maintain a balanced devotion to Islam, the Constitution and the military.

Full documentary can be found here: <https://www.pbs.org/video/three-chaplains-86xphp/>

And here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KRtqtv7YQ4>

² Documentary description taken from <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/three-chaplains/>