

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Sally P. Ragep

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Website: <https://islamsci.mcgill.ca/Sally/>

EDUCATION

Ph.D., McGill University (2015), Institute of Islamic Studies/History & Classical Studies

Dissertation: “*Mahmūd ibn Muhammad ibn ‘Umar al-Jaghmīnī’s al-Mulakhkhas fī al-hay’ā al-basīta: An Edition, Translation, and Study.*” McGill University, 2015

M.Ed., Boston University (1980), Educational Media & Technology

B.S., Emerson College (1975), Speech; also attended the University of Michigan (1971-73)

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Executive Board Member, Islamic Scientific Manuscript Initiative (ISMI) Project, 2004-
<https://ismi.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/>

Senior Researcher, McGill University, 2006-2020

[member of the RASI (Rational Science in Islam) database project <http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/RASI/> and its Islamic Scientific Manuscript Initiative (ISMI) component]

Postdoctoral Researcher, SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (“Science Teaching in Pre-Modern and Modern Islamic Societies: Pedagogical Approaches in Religious, Institutional, and Geographical Contexts”), 2015 – 2019. Principal organizer of a workshop entitled “Science Teaching in Pre-modern Contexts,” to be held at McGill University, Montreal, 24-26 May 2018
McGill Centre for Islam & Science, Full Member, 2013-2020

Visiting Scholar, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Dec. 2006-June 2007

Associate Member, University of Oklahoma, History of Science Dept. & Religious Studies, 2004-2006

Research Assistant, project on editing (using 9 Persian manuscripts) Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī’s *Risālah-i Mu‘īniyya* and the *Ḥall-i Mu‘īniyya*, two Persian astronomical treatises; funded by the National Science Foundation and a University of Oklahoma Research Council Award, 1999-2002

ONGOING PROJECTS / CURRENT RESEARCH

Islamic Scientific Manuscript Initiative (ISMI): <https://ismi.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/> is ongoing; its mission is to make accessible online information on all Islamic manuscripts in the exact sciences. ISMI has recently moved from McGill University in Canada to Medeniyet University in Istanbul; collaboration with colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin continues. We hope to expand the project in the coming months and years and encourage scholars interested in contributing to the project to contact us: sally.ragep@mcgill.ca

“Mahmud al-Jaghmini.” A short book in the Makers of the Muslim World series, eds. Khaled El-Rouayheb and Sabine Schmidtke. Oneworld Publications (UK). Forthcoming Dec. 2025

Jamil Ragep and I have been asked to submit a proposal for a Very Short Introduction on Science in the Islamic World (Oxford Univ. Press).

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming

- “Shīrāzī’s Attitude Toward Philosophy: Some Preliminary Observations” (with F. Jamil Ragep), to appear in a volume edited by Mustakim Arıcı, Asiye Aykıt, and Hasan Umut.
- “Sizes, Distances, and Order: Celestial Reckoning in Late Medieval Islam,” forthcoming in *Studia Copernicana* 46 (Brepols).

Online

- English translation (with assistance of F. Wallis [McGill, retired]) of Ernest Renan’s “[L’Islamisme et la science](#),” a lecture presented at La Sorbonne, 29 March 1883. Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License, Copyright 2011 by Sally P. Ragep. (Translated into Turkish as “İSLAM VE BİLİM” by Zehra Bilgin 2021 : https://www.academia.edu/50968316/%C4%B0SLAM_VE_B%C4%B0L%C4%B0M_ERNEST_RENAN.)

Books

- Jaghmīnī’s Mulakhkhas: An Islamic Introduction to Ptolemaic Astronomy*. Sources in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences. New York: Springer-Verlag, 2016.
- Tradition, Transmission, Transformation* (co-edited with F. J. Ragep and with the assistance of S. J. Livesey). Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1996. Available in open access: <https://brill.com/edcollbook-oa/title/1690>

Articles and Book Chapters

- “Al-Jaghmīnī’s Short Tract on the Volumes of the Planetary and Stellar Bodies: *Editio princeps* and Translation.” *Nazariyat* 9/2 (2023): 113-145. https://www.nazariyat.org/content/5-sayilar/19-cilt-9-sayi-2/4-sally-p-ragep/4_sally_p_ragep_en.pdf
- “Jaghmīnī’s *Qānūnča*: A Popular Abridgement of Avicenna’s *Canon*.” In *Transforming Medical Education. Historical Case Studies of Teaching, Learning, and Belonging in Medicine in Honour of Jacalyn Duffin*, eds. Delia Gavrus and Susan Lamb, 54-85. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022.
- “Eclipse.” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd ed. Leiden: Brill, 2021.
- “al-Jaghmīnī.” *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd ed. Leiden: Brill, 2020. <https://referenceworks.brill.com/display/entries/EI30/COM-32689.xml?rskey=XZ4NDA&result=1>
- “Astronomical and Other Mathematical Sciences.” In ‘Atufi’s Inventory of Bayezid II’s Library” (with Jamil Ragep, Sajjad Nikfahm-Khubravan, Fateme Savadi, Hasan Umut). In *Treasures of Knowledge: An Inventory of the Ottoman Palace Library (1502/3 – 1503/4)*, edited by Gülru Necipoğlu, Cemal Kafadar, and Cornell H. Fleischer, pp. 823-55. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2019. [{publisher website}](#)
- “Jaghmīnī.” In *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers*, eds. Thomas Hockey et al., 2 vols., p. 584. New York: Springer, 2007. [{online version}](#) 2nd ed., 2014, pp. 1105-6.
- “Ibn Sīnā.” In *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers*, 570-71. New York: Springer, 2007. [{online version}](#) 2nd ed., 2014, pp. 1081-83.
- “Making Manuscripts Confess.” In *Surprise: 107 Variations on the Unexpected*, eds. Anke te Heesen, Christine von Oertzen, Fernando Vidal, Mechthild Fend, 323-25. Berlin: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, 2019
- “Fifteenth-Century Astronomy in the Islamic World.” In *Before Copernicus: The Cultures and Contexts of Scientific Learning in the Fifteenth Century*, eds. Rivka Feldhay and F. Jamil Ragep, pp. 143-60. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2017.
- “The Teaching of Theoretical Astronomy in Pre-modern Islam: Looking Beyond Individual Initiatives.” In *Schüler und Meister*, eds. Andreas Speer and Thomas Jeschke (*Miscellanea Mediaevalia* 39), pp. 557-68. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016.

- “The Islamic Scientific Manuscript Initiative (ISMI): Towards a Sociology of the Exact Sciences in Islam” (with F. J. Ragep). In *A Shared Legacy: Islamic Science East and West. Homage to Professor J. M. Millàs Vallicrosa*, eds. E. Calvo et al. Barcelona, 2008.
- “al-Jaghmīnī.” In *New Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, ed. N. Koertge, vol. 4, 20-22. Detroit: Charles Scribner’s Sons/Thomson Gale, 2008.
- “The Astronomical and Cosmological Works of Ibn Sīnā: Some Preliminary Remarks” (with F. J. Ragep). In *Sciences, techniques et instruments dans le monde iranien (Xe–XIXe siècle)*, eds. N. Pourjavady and Ž. Vesel, 3-15. Tehran, 2004.
- “Select Films on the Arab World.” In *The Arab World and Arab-Americans: Understanding a Neglected Minority*, eds. Sameer Y. Abraham and Nabeel Abraham, pp. 91-95. Detroit: Wayne State University, Center for Urban Studies, 1981.

Book Review

- “Review of Teaching and Learning the Sciences in Islamic Societies (800-1700) by Sonja Brentjes” *Isis* 110 (December 2019): 798-800.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

- “What’s in a School? Marāgha and its Historiographical Implications” (with F. J. Ragep). Conference “Maragha and its Scholars: the Intellectual Culture of Medieval Marāgha, ca 1250-1550,” Istanbul, 6-8 Dec. 2013
- “The Other Transmission, or How Did Muslims Manage to Transfer Astronomical Knowledge over Fifty Generations?” (with F. J. Ragep). Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop, Notre Dame Univ., 12-16 June 2013
- “Jaghmīnī’s *Mulakhkhas*: Its Importance for the History of Science and Islamic Civilization,” invited plenary lecture, Conference “Koneurgench Turkmen State and Central Asia in the First Half of the XIII Century,” 1-3 Dec. 2010, Dashoguz, Turkmenistan <https://reporter.mcgill.ca/in-search-of-jaghmin/>

PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATIONS

- “Sizes, Distances, and Order: Celestial Reckoning in Late Medieval Islam,” paper presented at the Copernicus and Astronomy: Continuity, Reform, and Dissemination Conference at the World Copernican Congress, Toruń, Poland, September 2023.
- “Shīrāzī’s Attitude Toward Philosophy: Some Preliminary Observations” (with F. Jamil Ragep), paper presented at the International Qutb al-Dīn al-Shīrāzī Symposium, organized by Sivas Cumhuriyet University, Faculty of Divinity and Istanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi, Faculty of Literature, Turkey 13-14 October 2021 (virtual)
- “ISMI Projesinin Yeni Evi” [A New Home for the ISMI Project], Hands On Workshop, Istanbul Medeniyet University, December 28, 2019
- “Islamic Scientific Manuscripts: Premodern Interweaving and Modern Unraveling,” paper presented at the 12th Annual Schoenberg Symposium on “Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age: Hooking Up,” Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, the University of Pennsylvania November 21-23, 2019
- “Editing Islamic Scientific Manuscripts: Challenges and Specificities,” paper presented with F. Jamil Ragep at the workshop “Islamic Paleography & Codicology,” McGill University, Montreal, 10-14 Sept. 2018
- “Science Teaching in the Pre-Modern World: An Empirical Approach,” paper presented at the workshop “Science Teaching in Pre-Modern Societies,” McGill University, Montreal, 24-26 May 2018
- “Two Scientific Textbook in Islam that (Nevertheless) Persisted,” paper presented at “The 2018 Morris W. Offit Symposium on Muslims, Christians, and Jews around the Mediterranean,” Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 9 March 2018

- “Jaghmīnī’s *Mulakhkhaṣ* and its Extensive Commentary Tradition,” paper presented at the “International Symposium on Science Teaching in Transition During the 18th-19th Century Islamic World, Istanbul, Turkey, 14-15 Dec. 2017. Co-sponsored by Medeniyet University and the McGill Centre for Islam and Science.
- “An Historical Overview of Science Education in the Islamic World,” paper presented at the workshop “Science Education in the Islamic World,” Hamid bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar, 9-10 Dec. 2017
- “Jaghmīnī’s *Mulakhkhaṣ* and its Extensive Commentary Tradition: Past Teaching of Theoretical Astronomy within Islamic Societies,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society in the panel entitled “Islamic Science in Theory, Teaching, and Practice,” Toronto, ON, 9-12 Nov. 2017
- “The Teaching of Islamic Science in Premodern Islam,” colloquium talk, Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, 31 Oct. 2017
- “Science Textbooks from the Later Period of the Khwārizm Shāhs,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in the panel entitled “Construction of Scientific Knowledge,” Boston, MA, 17-20 Nov. 2016
- “Situating Jaghmīnī’s *Qanuncha*: A Prequel for Exploring Its Influence in South Asia,” paper presented at the workshop on “Scientific and Rationalist Traditions in Muslim India,” University of California, Berkeley, 22 Oct. 2016
- “From Squiggles to Events: Making Manuscripts Confess their Secrets” (with F.J. Ragep), invited “work in progress” talk, McGill Digital Humanities, 13 April 2016
- “Jaghmīnī’s *Mulakhkhaṣ*: An Islamic Introduction to Ptolemaic Astronomy,” invited paper at a workshop held at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU, New York, 15 March 2016
- “The Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative: Status of the Project,” presentation at the workshop: “Working with ISMI,” Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin, 29 Feb. 2016
- “An Historical Overview of Critical Issues in Science Teaching in Islam,” paper presentation at the workshop “Science Teaching in Contemporary Islamic Societies,” McGill University, 24 Oct. 2015
- “Jaghmīnī’s *Mulakhkhaṣ* & Islamic Scientific Pedagogy,” invited lecture, University of California Berkeley, 19 March 2015
- “The Teaching of Theoretical Astronomy in Ottoman Lands,” paper presentation at the “International Conference of Ottoman Scholarship from Sahn-ı Seman to Darülfünun: Scholars, Institutions and Intellectual Products I: From the Conquest of Istanbul to the Establishment of the Süleymaniye Medreses,” Istanbul University, Faculty of Theology, 19-21 Dec. 2014
- “The Teaching of Theoretical Astronomy in Premodern Islam,” paper presentation at “Disciples and Masters: 39th Kölner Mediavistentagung,” an international colloquium at the Thomas-Institute, University of Cologne, Germany, 9-12 Sept. 2014
- “The Open Mind Database of the Islamic Scientific Manuscript Initiative (ISMI),” invited presentation, McGill Digital Humanities, 13 Dec. 2012 (with Dirk Wintergruen, Robert Casties [Max Planck Institute for the History of Science] and Jamil Ragep [McGill])
- “The 19th-century Dialogue between Ernest Renan and Jamal al-Din al-Afghani,” guest lecture, ISLA 355 (Modern History of the Middle East), McGill University, Winter 2012
- “The RaSI Database: A Tool for Historical and Sociological Research,” invited paper presentation at The Eighth Islamic Manuscript Conference (TIMA), 8-11 July 2012, Cambridge, UK
- “Biography of Quṭb al-Dīn al-Shīrāzī” (with Amir Gamini and F. Jamil Ragep), Quṭb al-Dīn al-Shīrāzī Workshop, McGill University, 11-12 June 2012
- “Jaghmīnī’s *Mulakhkhaṣ* and Tusi’s *Tadkhira*: Pedagogical Considerations,” paper presentation at The Scientific and Philosophical Heritage of Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī, Tehran, Iran, 23-24 Feb. 2011
- “Rational Sciences in Islam,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the History of Science Society in the panel “Global Histories of Science: Exploring New Resources on the Web,” Montreal, 4-7 Nov. 2010

- “The Astronomical Commentary Tradition: Do Numbers Count?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in the panel entitled “The Rational Sciences in Islam” (RaSI) Database: Introduction and Preliminary Findings,” Boston, MA, 23 Nov. 2009
- “Fifteenth-Century Astronomy in the Islamic World,” paper presented at workshop “Before Copernicus: The Cultures and Contexts of Scientific Learning in the Fifteenth Century,” at McGill University, 13-15 Aug. 2009
- Participant in book-project workshops on the Fifteenth-Century Background to Copernicus, held at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, 13-15 Dec. 2006 and 6-8 Aug., 2007
- “The Importance of the Tradition of Jaghmīnī’s *al-Mulakhkhaṣ* for the History of Science and Islamic Civilization,” paper presented at the 22nd International Congress of History of Science, Beijing, China, 24-30 July 2005
- “The Role of Databases for the Exact Sciences in Islam,” paper presented at The 1st International Conference on History of the Exact Sciences Along the Silk Road, Xian, China, 31 July-3 Aug. 2005
- “al-Jaghmīnī’s *al-Mulakhkhaṣ*: Its Importance for the History of Science and Islamic Civilization,” public lecture presented in Isfahan, Iran, May 2004
- “Towards a Sociology of the Exact Sciences in Islam: The Role of Databases.” Paper presentation (with F. J. Ragep) at the workshop panel “La science dans les sociétés islamiques,” Rabat, Morocco, 14-16 April 2004
- “The Astronomy of Ibn Sīnā” (with F. J. Ragep), invited talk at The Second International Conference on “The History of Science in the Iranian World,” Tehran, Iran, 7-9 June 1998

Past Projects

- Principal Organizer Workshop: “Science Teaching in Pre-modern Contexts,” McGill University, Montreal, 24-26 May 2018 [16 participants]
- Fellow, Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, Fall 2017

Time willing Projects

- Research Project on the commentary chains and geographical distribution of Jaghmīnī’s *Mulakhkhaṣ*
- A survey, study and database of Islamic scientific cosmology (*hay’a*) (with F. J. Ragep)
- A critical edition and English translation of the Persian *hay’a* work *al-‘Umda* of ‘Abd al-Jabbār al-Kharaqī (fl. mid-12th-century Merv) (with Hanif Ghalandari, Tehran, Iran)

COURSES TAUGHT

McGill University

- “**Codicology and Textual Editing**” [ISLA 788; grad seminar] (co-taught with F.J. Ragep), Fall 2016

There are 2 components of this seminar: 1) exploring Islamic codicology, especially its relevance for the study of Islamic scientific manuscripts; and 2) providing students with guidance on how to edit Islamic scientific manuscripts.

- “**Science and Civilization in Islam**” [ISLA 345; upper division undergrad course] (co-taught with Ihsan Fazlıoğlu), Winter 2011

The course covers the history of scientific traditions and ideas in Islamic civilization, from the origins of Islam to the early modern period. Emphasis is on the derivation, development, and transmissions of Islamic science – which includes the disciplines of medicine and biology; optics and vision; mathematics; and astronomy — as well as on the assimilation and influence of science within Islamic societies.

“Science and Civilization in Islam” (co-taught with F.J. Ragep), Winter 2012, Fall 2014, and Winter 2016

Williams College

“Science and Civilization in Islam” [Arab 238; undergraduate] (co-taught with F.J. Ragep), Fall 2017
[\[syllabus\]](#)

University of Oklahoma

“Women in the Middle East” [Anthropology Dept.; 4 lectures for Linda S. Walbridge, visiting professor), Spring 2002

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Supervision of work and research related to the ISMI Database Project [9 graduate students; 5 undergraduates at McGill from 2007-2020]

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer review for the journal *SCIAMVS: Sources and Commentaries in the Exact Science*, 2018.

Chair/Organizer/Commentator of a panel entitled “New Perspectives on Science in Pre-Modern Islam” (Hasan Umut, Sajjad Nikfahm-Khubravan, and Fateme Savadi) at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS), Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, 27-29 May 2017

Member, Scientific Committee, International Tashkubrīzādah Symposium, Istanbul, 18-20 November 2016

Co-Organizer (with Asad Q. Ahmed and F. J. Ragep): Workshop, “Scientific and Rationalist Traditions in Muslim India,” 8 participants, 22 Oct. 2016, Univ. of California, Berkeley (part of SSHRC-funded project “Science Teaching in Pre-modern and Modern Islamic Societies”)

Co-Organizer (with Lorraine Daston and F. J. Ragep): Workshop, “Working with ISMI: Scholars Take Stock of a New Tool,” 11 participants, 29 Feb.-1 March 2016, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Berlin (part of SSHRC-funded project “Science Teaching in Pre-modern and Modern Islamic Societies”)

Co-Organizer (with Anila Asghar): Workshop, “Science Teaching in Contemporary Islamic Societies,” 14 participants, 22-24 Oct. 2015, McGill University, Montreal (part of SSHRC-funded project “Science Teaching in Pre-modern and Modern Islamic Societies”)

Invited moderator of a session entitled “Science and Islam” (Robert Morrison, George Saliba, and F. Jamil Ragep) at the Symposium “Science Before Science,” Bowdoin College (Maine), 27 Feb. 2015

Panel Chair, “Rethinking the Emergence of Islamic Science,” History of Science Annual Meeting, Montreal, 4-7 Nov. 2010 [5 panelists]

Invited Advisor, Experts Meeting on the “Establishment of a History of Arabic and Islamic Science Project”, co-sponsored by King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia and the Library of Congress, Washington, DC in cooperation with UNESCO, London, UK, 23-24 June 2008

Panel Member, “The ISMI and PIPDI Database Projects,” Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, India, Dec. 2007

Secretary, Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Societies (IUHPS); term 2005-2009. The Commission has over 154 members from 30 countries. I developed and maintained the website in addition to producing the Commission Newsletters.

Lecture, University of Alberta, “Women in the Middle East,” March 2006

Facilitator, University of Oklahoma (Center for Peace Studies, International Programs Center) at the conference on “Regional Cooperation for Water Management” [in the Middle East], Damascus, Syria, 13-14 Feb. 2004

Managing Editor (with Moustafa Mawaldi and F. J. Ragep), *Journal for the History of Arabic Science*, Aleppo, Syria, 2003-11

Translator and Editor, The Institute for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo, Aleppo, Syria (translating materials from Arabic into English, including the Institute's informational brochure [83 pages] and newsletters), 2003-11

Invited participant, seminar on the study of the history of Islamic science in the United States, Sangyo University, Kyoto, Japan, 26 Oct. 1999

Compiled information on instruments for a database of Harvard University's Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, 1988

Languages: English: native speaker; research languages: Arabic, French, German, Persian, and Turkish

Professional Affiliations:

Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS)

Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy (CHAMA)

Commission on History of Science & Technology in Islamic Societies (CHOSTIS)

History of Science Society (HSS)

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Additional Information:

- Designed brochures, conference programs, and posters for various workshops and conferences held at: McGill University, Institute of Islamic Studies; Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin; University of Oklahoma, History of Science Department; and Rockefeller Foundation Postdoctoral Program, University of Oklahoma
- Outreach Project: Photographs of Syria, Turkey and Iran (taken 2003-4)
- Certification in secondary schools, Massachusetts and New York. Taught English and Mathematics at Jobs for Youth-Boston, Inc. (accredited alternative HS for "at risk" Boston public high school students), 1988-89; high schools in Cambridge and Somerville, MA; NYC, NY, 1979-88
- Instructional design and photography in articles, books and lectures (related to history of science and the Middle East) for: Smithsonian Institute Publication, 1989; for F. J. Ragep (various projects funded by National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation), 1984-93; for L. J. Daston, 1984-87
- Multimedia presentations on the Middle East for teachers' workshop, Wayne State University, Center for Urban Studies, Detroit, Michigan, 1981
- Commissioned to write a script for UNICEF for Egyptian Television; aired in 1978
- Screened and compiled list of films at the Arab League, Cairo, Egypt, 1977-78
- Foster parent, Center for Children & Families, Inc., Norman, OK