

## Notes on Contributors

**Mehdi Aminrazavi** is a professor of philosophy and religion at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, and a co-director of its Leidecker Center for Asian Studies. A native of Iran, he has been published in both Persian and English, and translated from Persian and Arabic into English. He has received a number of awards in the United States and abroad, and is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the American Philosophical Association, and the Middle Eastern Society of America. Amongst other works, he is a co-editor, with S. H. Nasr, of the five-volume set *An Anthology of Philosophy in Persia* (2008–2015).

**Osman Bakar** is the Chair Professor and Director of Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS) at the University of Brunei Darussalam. As an Emeritus Professor of the philosophy of science at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, he was the Deputy CEO of the Kuala Lumpur-based think-tank, the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS), from 2008 to 2012; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research) at the University of Malaya, from 1995 to 2000; and Professor at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), International Islamic University Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, from 2005 to 2008. He was also a Senior Fellow at the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington, DC; the holder of the Malaysia Chair of Islam in Southeast Asia at Georgetown University (2000–2005); and a Visiting Research Fellow at Doshisha University in Kyoto. He has published eighteen books and more than three hundred articles on Islamic thought and civilization, particularly Islamic philosophy and science, contemporary Islam, and inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue. He was the founder of the Center for Civilizational Dialogue at the University of Malaya (1995). He has served as an advisor, consultant and member of various international academic and professional organizations and institutions, including UNESCO, the Qatar Foundation, and the West-Islamic World Initiative for Dialogue established by the World Economic Forum. He is the recipient of several international awards. His best known works are *Classification of Knowledge in Islam* (1992), *Islam and Civilizational Dialogue* (1997), and *Tawhid and Science* (2008). The last two books have been published in a number of languages, including Persian, Turkish, Indonesian, and Albanian. Several of his other writings have also been translated into Spanish, Chinese, Urdu, Arabic, and Bosnian.

**Daniel Bučan** is a retired ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, researcher, writer, translator, and lecturer at the departments of philosophy at the University of Zagreb and the University of Split. He published several books on Arab philosophy (*Al-Gazali i Ibn Rušd: Mišljenje u svjetlosti vjere i razuma* [*Al-Ghazali and Ibn Rushd: Thinking in the Light of Faith and Reason*], 1991; *Kako je filozofija govorila arapski* [*How Philosophy Spoke Arabic*], 2009; *Uvod u arapsku filozofiju* [*Introduction to Arab Philosophy*], 2013) and on Islam (*Vrijeme islama* [*Time of Islam*], 1991). He also translated into Croatian the majority of capital philosophical works by Averroës (*Tahāfut at-tahāfut*; *Faṣl maqāl*), Avicenna (*Ilāhiyyāt*; *Kitāb an-naḥs*; *Kitāb al-iṣārāt wa-t-tanbīhāt*), Al-Ġazālī (*Tahāfut al-falāsifa*; *Kitāb al-'iṣq*), Al-Fārābī (*Kitāb al-ḥurūf*; *Al-madīna al-fāḍila*), Maïmonides (*Dalāla al-hā'irīn*), and Avempace (*Tadbīr al-mutawaḥḥid*; *Risāla al-widā'*; *Ittiṣāl al-'aql bi-l-insān*).

**Massimo Campanini** is an associate professor of Islamic studies at the University of Trento and also teaches at the University Vita-Salute San Raffaele of Milan. He is a translator from Arabic, French and English, and editor for the publishers Rizzoli of Milano, Il Mulino of Bologna and Cortina of Milano. He has published more than thirty books on the main topics of his research (Qur'anic studies, Islamic philosophy, and contemporary history of the Arab countries), e.g. *Introduction to Islamic Philosophy* (Italian 2004; English 2008), *The Qur'an: The Basics* (Italian 2004; English 2007), *The Qur'an: Modern Muslim Interpretations* (Italian 2008; English 2011), and *Philosophical Perspectives on Modern Qur'anic Exegesis: Key Paradigms and Concepts* (2016).

**Alexander N. Chumakov** is the Chair of the Department of Philosophy at the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation; First Vice-president of the Russian Philosophical Society (since 1991); and member of the Russian Ecological Academy. For 35 years, he has been studying the philosophy of globalization and global problems, scientific and technological progress, social philosophy and ecology. He participated in and was one of the organisers of All-Russian Philosophical Congresses, as well as the last six World Philosophy Congresses (since 1988). He serves as an editor-in-chief of the *Vestnik: The Journal of Russian and Asian Studies* and the journal *Vek globalizatsii [Age of Globalization]*. He is also a leading research fellow at the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, editor of many scholarly volumes and textbooks, author of more than 550 papers and seven monographs and textbooks published in Russian, English, Chinese, German, French, Polish, Turkish and Czech.

**Nader El-Bizri** is the Director of the Civilization Sequence Program at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He also serves as the Director of the Anis Makdisi Program in Literature at the AUB, and as the MA Coordinator in Islamic Studies at the AUB Centre for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies. Prior to joining the AUB, he was a principal lecturer at the University of Lincoln, and lectured for twelve years at the universities of Cambridge, Nottingham, London, and Harvard, in addition to holding senior research affiliations at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London, and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in Paris (CNRS). He (co)authored and/or (co)edited numerous papers and books, including *The Phenomenological Quest between Avicenna and Heidegger* (2000; <sup>2</sup>2014).

**Nevad Kahteran** is a professor of Eastern and comparative philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, and a Bosnian pioneer in these fields. He has authored, edited and translated a number of papers and books, including: *Situating the Bosnian Paradigm: The Bosnian Experience of Multicultural Relations* (2008); *Komparativna filozofija [Comparative Philosophy]* (2009); *Platforma za islamsko-konfucijansko-daoistički dijalog na Balkanu / A Platform for Islamic-Confucian-Daoist Dialogue in the Balkans* (ed., 2010); and *Nove granice kineske filozofije / New Frontiers of Chinese Philosophy* (ed. with Bo Mou, 2010).

**Bo Mou** is a professor of philosophy at the Department of Philosophy, San José State University. He is a founding director (2007–2013) of the Center for Comparative Philosophy at the San José State University, as well as the editor-in-chief of the *Comparative Philosophy* journal. Besides numerous papers, he has edited and co-edited several books on Chinese and comparative philosophy, and authored *Substantive Perspectivism: An Essay on Philosophical Concern with Truth* (2009) and *Chinese Philosophy A-Z* (2009; <sup>2</sup>2010).

**Željko Paša** teaches at the Faculty of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Zagreb. Since 2013, he has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre de documentation et de recherches arabes chrétiennes (CEDRAC), St. Joseph University in Beirut, and at the Pontificium Institutum Orientale in Rome. He has also worked on the *Anthology of Christological Texts in Arabic Christian Writers: Nestorians; Jacobites; Copts; Melkites* project. He is a member of GRAC (Gruppo di Ricerca Arabo-

Cristiana), NASCAS (The North American Society for Christian Arabic Studies), and IQSA (International Qur'anic Studies Association).

**Ali Paya** is a senior visiting research fellow at the University of Westminster in London and an associate professor of philosophy at the National Research Institute for Science Policy in Tehran. He was an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Tehran (1995–2000) and a visiting professor at the Sharif University of Technology in Tehran (2006–2008). He has (co)authored and/or (co)edited many books and papers in English and Persian. *The Misty Land of Ideas and the Light of Dialogue* (2013), a book he edited, is especially important regarding the issues of Islamic and comparative philosophy.

**Sara Sviri** is a visiting professor to the Department of Arabic and the Department of Comparative Religions at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Formerly, while residing in England, she taught at the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University College London and at the University of Oxford. Her fields of study are Islamic mysticism, mystical philosophy, Judaeo-Arabic mystical writings, comparative and phenomenological aspects of Islam, the formative period of Islamic mysticism, and related topics. Amongst her numerous publications, the following should be singled out: *The Taste of Hidden Things: Images on the Sufi Path* (1997) and an extensive Sufi anthology published both in Hebrew (2008) and Arabic (2016).

**Čedomil Veljačić [Bhikkhu Nānājīvako]** (Zagreb, 1915 – Ukiah, CA, 1997) was a pioneer in Buddhist and Indological studies, as well as in comparative and perennial philosophy in the region of Southeast Europe. He was the first *bhikkhu* from Yugoslavia and the author of many papers and books in Croatian, English, and German. Amongst his most important writings, the following should be singled out: *Filozofija istočnih naroda I–II [Philosophies of the East I–II]* (1983); *Razmeđa azijskih filozofija I–II [Crossroads of Asian Philosophies I–II]* (1978); *Ethos spoznaje u evropskoj i u indijskoj filozofiji [The Ethos of Knowledge in European and Indian Philosophy]* (1982); *Studies in Comparative Philosophy*, Vol. I (1983); *A Buddhist Philosophy of Religion* (1992); and *Philosophia perennis* (2003). For more detailed information, see *Sudesika: Festschrift Bhikkhu Nānājīvako / Čedomil Veljačić* (ed. by Siniša Đokić; Izdanja Antibarbarus, Zagreb 1997).

**Snježana Veljačić-Akpinar** is President Emerita of the Dharma Realm Buddhist University in Ukiah, CA, and Director of its Institute for World Religions. She is a scholar of Middle Eastern studies and comparative religion. As a Buddhist studying primarily Islamic religion and philosophy, she has authored, amongst others, *Buddhist Meditations on Islamic Contemplative Paths* (2015), a collection of academic lectures and papers that show the connections between Buddhism and Islam. Originally from Croatia, after having studied in Belgrade and Istanbul, she built her academic career in the United States. Before retiring, she spent half her time at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, a Chinese Buddhist monastery in Northern California, teaching Buddhists about the West, while the remainder of her time she spent at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, offering courses in Islam and comparative religion, teaching Westerners about the East.