



Shaykh Yahya Rohdus

Lecturer and Researcher in Islamic Studies

Location: Detroit, Michigan

Religious Journey and Early Education

Yahya Rohdus embraced Islam at the age of nineteen in Santa Clara, California, and immediately commenced his study of Islamic sciences. His initial instruction came from Shaykh Hamza Yusuf and visiting Mauritanian scholars of distinction, including Shaykh Khatri Wuld Bayba and Shaykh Abd Allah Wuld Ahmadna. Recognizing the importance of comprehensive traditional training, he subsequently traveled to Mauritania to pursue full-time Islamic studies, where he benefited from the instruction of one of the most prominent scholars of Mauritania, Murabit al-Hajj.

Advanced Studies and Specialized Training

Following an interim period of study in Damascus, Syria, Rohdus devoted the better part of seven years to intensive study in Tarim, located in the Hadramawt Valley of Yemen. During this formative period, he studied at the esteemed institution Dar al-Mustafa under the tutelage of renowned Islamic scholars Habib Umar bin Hafiz and Habib Ali al-Jifri. This extended period of traditional Islamic education provided him with a comprehensive foundation in Islamic jurisprudence, Quranic sciences, hadith studies, and Islamic law, establishing him as a scholar deeply rooted in classical Islamic tradition.

Academic Credentials

Yahya Rohdus holds multiple advanced degrees from prestigious institutions of higher learning. He holds a B.A. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.A. in Islamic Studies from the Graduate Theological Union, and a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies from the University of Cambridge, England. These academic qualifications, combined with his extensive traditional Islamic training, position him uniquely at the intersection of contemporary scholarship and classical Islamic learning.

Professional Leadership and Administration

He serves as the Founding Director of al-Maqasid, an organization dedicated to advancing Islamic education, scholarship, and community development. In this capacity, he provides strategic leadership and oversight of initiatives designed to promote Islamic learning and foster meaningful engagement



with Islamic intellectual and spiritual traditions. His leadership reflects a commitment to making Islamic knowledge accessible to diverse audiences while maintaining scholarly rigor and traditional authenticity.

Teaching Experience and Mentorship

Yahya Rohdus has been engaged in teaching Islamic sciences and theology for over a decade, drawing upon his extensive training under renowned scholars. His pedagogical approach integrates traditional Islamic methodology with contemporary academic practices, focusing on the comprehensive development of students' understanding of sacred law, Islamic principles, and theological concepts. He has trained numerous seekers of knowledge and continues to mentor students in both foundational and advanced Islamic sciences, with particular emphasis on developing young scholars and community leaders capable of serving their communities with wisdom and integrity.

Areas of Expertise

His specialized knowledge encompasses Islamic jurisprudence, Qur'anic sciences, hadith studies, Islamic law and legal methodology, Islamic theology, traditional Islamic education, and contemporary Islamic thought. He is particularly skilled in facilitating cross-cultural understanding, interfaith dialogue, and bridging traditional Islamic scholarship with modern academic discourse, making complex theological and legal concepts accessible to contemporary audiences.

Current Focus and Mission

His present work prioritizes serving communities and advancing Islamic education through al-Maqasid and collaborative partnerships. He is dedicated to training seekers of Islamic knowledge, providing mentorship and guidance in matters of faith, character development, and Islamic practice. His mission centers on bridging the gap between traditional Islamic scholarship and contemporary community needs, ensuring that Islamic knowledge remains accessible, intellectually rigorous, and transformative for all segments of society.

