

Online Lecture Series

## ReOrienting the Global Study of Religion

### History, Theory, and Society

**Fitzroy Morrissey**

*University of Oxford*

The nature of Ibn Khaldun's relationship to Sufism, the mystical dimension of Islam, is a complex and much-debated issue. The great North African historian and philosopher of history has variously been described as a critic of the Sufis, an admirer of Sufism, or even a Sufi himself. Through a close look at Ibn Khaldun's discussion of Sufism in the *Muqaddimah* and other relevant sources, this talk aims to shed further light on the issue.

Placing Ibn Khaldun's treatment of Sufism in the context of his wider intellectual project, we shall consider how his views on Sufism tie into his famous philosophy of history and other essential aspects of his thought. In this way, the talk aims to elucidate not only Ibn Khaldun's relationship to mysticism, but also his thought more generally.



### ***Ibn Khaldun on Sufism***

Mysticism through the Lens of  
History, Philosophy,  
and Law

OCT  
28

1:30pm EDT (UTC -4)

Hosted on Zoom. Register [here](https://www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies/registration-oct-28-2020):

<https://www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies/registration-oct-28-2020>



**McGill**

Armando Salvatore  
Barbara and Patrick Keenan Chair  
in Interfaith Studies  
School of Religious Studies

Robert Wisnovsky  
James McGill Professor  
of Islamic Philosophy  
Institute of Islamic Studies