

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### **Issa Diab**

Born: 03 May, 1953

Nationality: Lebanese

Social Status: Married

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### **Studies :**

#### **2019- Habilitation à diriger des recherches**

- **Université Aix Marseille** – France
- **Thesis :** *The Bible that is in the Qur'an, Literary analysis and sources*
- In this research, the author combines all the Qur'anic texts that contain stories and sayings that have traces in the Hebrew Bible, the intertestamental Jewish writings, and the New Testament. He, afterwards, proceeds to a literary analysis of this Jewish and Christian material in order to identify the sources and their literary formats: oral narratives, Targum, Aramaic writings or otherwise.

#### **2013 – Doctorat en Théologie et Sciences Religieuses- Option Science Religieuse (Biblical Philology)**

- **Université de Strasbourg** – France
- **Thesis:** *“The Septuagint and the Targum of Isaiah 15-17, Patterns of Bible Interpretation and Translation in the Intertestamental Period.”*
- The dissertation consists of reading Isaiah chapters 15-17 in the Masoretic text (Hebrew), the Septuagint (Koine Greek) and the Targum (Aramaic), making a literary analysis and an exegesis of the text in the three languages, and examining the translation method and interpretation technique applied at that time, finally comparing the applied translation method with modern Bible translation methods. This research project gave me a wide and deep view about ancient translation studies in general, about Intertestamental Judaism, and about the importance of the Septuagint and the Targum for understanding both Testaments, and the way they should be translated to other languages.

#### **2004 – Doctorat en Cultures et Sociétés dans le Monde Arabe et Musulman**

- **Université Michel de Montaigne – Bordeaux 3**, France
- **Distinction:** High Distinction with Commendation of the Jury
- **Thesis:** *“Islam as the Inheritance of the Semitic Civilizations: Study of the Abrahamic Phenomenon.”*
- The dissertation consists of studying the Abrahamic religious phenomenon in Islam- being the most ancient “Islam” according to the Cora’ān- and searching for its sources in the Intertestamental Judaism and, less, in the early Christian traditions. Thus, Islam would have absorbed the ancient Semitic culture, while Eastern Christianity was absorbed by the West to be reshaped mainly with

Scholasticism and then resented to the Levant. This research enabled me understanding the three Abrahamic traditions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam, their common historical ground, and their different development directions; so I could become active and beneficial in the Dialogue of Civilizations and more sensitive towards translating the Bible into other-faith audiences.

### **2003 – Diplôme Universitaire (DU) - Études Islamo-Chrétiennes**

- **Université Saint Joseph** (Jesuit University), Beirut, Lebanon
- Research seminars (180 hours spread on 3 years) on Islamic-Christian Relations in the popular literature during the Medieval Period. These seminars deepened my knowledge about the conflicting and troubled relations between Christian Muslim and Jews in history.

### **1999 – Doctorat en Histoire des Religions du Proche-Orient Ancien- Semitic Studies**

- **Université du Saint Esprit – Kaslik** (USEK), Lebanon
- **Distinction:** Very Good
- **Thesis:** “*Searching the Origin of Monotheism in Ancient Near-Eastern Civilizations*”
- The dissertation consists of studying the Religion of Israel in the Old Testament, searching for the most rudimentary monotheistic form in the ancient religion of Israel, and finally searching for its origin in the Ancient religions of Egypt, Mesopotamia, Canaan, Aram, Ugarit and Ebla. This research enabled me to make a thorough study of the Old Testament in its ancient Semitic context and to analyze and understand a number of enigmatic and ancient speech forms that exist in the Old Testament.

### **1991 – Th.D – Theological Doctorate**

- **Trinity Theological Seminary – USA** ( Accredited by University of Liverpool-UK)
- **Distinction:** SUMMA CUM LAUDE
- **Thesis:** “*Theological Issues and Spiritual Lessons in the Apology of St Jude.*”
- The dissertation is a partial fulfilment of the degree. It consists mainly to show that the Jude’s Epistle was an Apology that was used by the early church to defend the Christian Faith against Gnosticism and other heretic groups. Special emphasis was given to the quotation from the Book of Enoch and the controversy concerning the Christian Canon in the history of Christianity. Although this is a research degree (off campus), it introduced me to the various critical methodologies in Biblical Studies: form, text, redaction, historical, and canonical criticism.

### **1990 – Th.M – Theological Master**

- **Trinity Theological Seminary – USA** (Accredited by University of Liverpool – UK)

- **Distinction:** (SUMMA CUM LAUDE)

#### **1989 – B.D – Bachelor of Divinity**

- **Mediterranean Bible College** – Beirut, Lebanon (Accredited by Warner Pacific College – USA)
- **Distinction:** MAGMA CUM LAUDE

#### **1986 – Higher Diploma in Music – Accordion & Composition**

- **The National Conservatory of Music** – Beirut, Lebanon (Not awarded)

#### **1981 – Diploma in Theology**

- **École Biblique de Genève** – Geneva, Switzerland

#### **1977 – BA (Technical TS) in Accounting and Auditing (Public Accountant)**

- **Ministry of Education,** Beirut, Lebanon.

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### **Training sessions, Seminars, Readings**

#### **2012- Certificate of Training Achievement to become a Translation Consultant from the United Bible Societies**

This is a 3 years training session in the fields of Bible Translation, Translation Methods, Linguistics, Turkic Languages, under the supervision of Professor Lourens De Vries, UBS, Head of Bible Translation Department at the Free University of Amsterdam.

#### **2008- Attended Nida School for Biblical Scholarship and Translation Studies**

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### **Languages**

**Modern Languages:** Arabic, French, English and German (weak)

**Ancient Languages:** Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Greek, Syriac and Aramaic

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### **Professional Activity :**

**2008 and still- Global Translation Advisor** at the United Bible Societies

**1990 and still- Teaching:**

- **Lecturer at Saint Joseph University, Faculty of Religious Science, Institute of Muslim-Christian studies (IEIC).** Courses Topics: Fundamentalism in Islam and Christianity; History of Judaism; Prophetism and Inspiration in Islam and Christianity; Interreligious Dialogue; Abrahamic Heritage in Judaism, Central Issues in Christianity and Islam; Peace and War in Christianity and Islam; Human Rights in the Monotheistic Religions Perspective; Environment in the Monotheistic Religions Perspective; and many other interfaith courses.
- **Instructor at the Near East School of Theology (NEST).** Courses Topics: Old Testament Courses and Biblical Hebrew.

- **Instructor at Haigazian University.** Instructor in Religion at the Faculty of Science and Humanities. Courses Topics: Old Testament Survey, Christian-Islamic Dialogue.
- **Taught at** Holy Spirit University, Antonine University, Middle East University, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, and Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary; Maqassed University, Faculty of Islamic Studies. Courses Topics: History and civilization of the Arabs, Ancient Near Easter Civilizations, History of Islam, and other courses.

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## Publications :

### Books:

- *Thus Spoke Christ* (Arabic, 2017)
- *Environment in the Monotheistic Religious Perspective* (Arabic, 2016)
- *The Old Testament and its World* (Arabic, 2015)
- *The Septuagint and the Targum of Isaiah Models of Bible Translation* (French 2015)
- *History of Judaism* (Arabic, 2012)
- *Religious Fundamentalism in Islam and Christianity* (Arabic, 2010)
- *An Introduction to the History of the Protestant Churches and their Theologies* (Arabic, 2007)
- Chapters and Articles in many other books (Including SPCK Study Guides)
- *Old Testament Introduction and Survey*, 4 Volumes- Torah, History, Prophets, Wisdom Literature (Arabic, under layout and printing)
- *Old Testament Theology* (Arabic, under layout and printing)

### Articles:

- Various Articles in *Biblia* (Lebanon), *International Congregational Journal* (UK and USA), *NEST Theological Review* (Lebanon), *The Bible Translator*, and others.

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## Strong Points

- Bible Translation for Muslim and Jewish audiences
- The Formation of the Hebrew Bible Text, its understanding and interpretation
- Biblical Hebrew
- Christian, Muslim and Jewish Studies (history and theology) and Dialogue
- Religious Fundamentalism: Judaism, Christianity and Islam

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## Affiliation

- Member of the Lebanon Biblical Federation, a part of the Catholic Biblical Federation in the World.
  - Member of a research committee in the University of Strasbourg on the Targum and Judaic Studies.
  - Founding member of Academic Alliance for Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and Northern Africa (AARMENA)
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