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Department of Religious Studies
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Positions

- 2010-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
Faculty Associate, Middle East Institute, Georgia State University
- 2011-Present Fellow, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

Education

- 2010 Ph.D. Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University
- 2004 M.A. Department of Religious Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2001 B.A., Political Sci., B.A. Ethnic Studies, Cum Laude, University of Colorado at Boulder
- Dissertation Remembering Community: Historical Narrative in the Formation of Sunni Islam
Committee: Devin Stewart (Chair), Richard Martin, Gordon Newby

Publications

Edited Volumes

With Richard Martin, eds.: *Islamism: Competing Perspectives on Political Islam*.
Stanford University Press, 2009.

Articles

“Charisma and Community in the Aesthetics of Political Islam” in *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (Spring, 2014)

“Seeing and Reading Al-Islam: The Visual Rhetoric of the Islamic Party of North America’s Newspaper, 1971-78” in *Liquid Blackness*, vol 4, 2014

“Orthodoxy and Community in Sunni Islam: *al-Jamā‘a* as Political Theology”, *Review of Middle Eastern Studies* (forthcoming 2015)

“The Spirituality of Prophetic Traditions” in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Islamic Spirituality* edited by Vincent J. Cornell and Bruce B. Lawrence (forthcoming, 2015) [article length 8000 words]

“Discourse, Identity, and Community: Problems and Prospects in the Study of Islam in America” in *The Muslim World*, Vol. 101:3, pp. 511-538, September, 2011.

“The Persistence of Heresy: Paul of Tarsus, Ibn Saba, and Historical Narrative in Sunni Identity Formation” in *Numen*, special edition on Cultural Memory and the Study of Islam, guest edited by Andrew Rippin, Spring, 2011.

With Richard Martin: “Networks of Authority: Orthodoxy and Change in Islamic Societies” in *Rethinking Islamic Studies: From Post-Orientalist to Cosmopolitanism Perspectives*. Edited by Richard Martin and Carl Ernst, University of South Carolina Press, 2010.

“Latino Muslims in the United States: An Introduction” in the *Journal of the High Plains Society for Applied Anthropologists*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Fall, 2003, p 125.

Shorter Writings

Encyclopedia

Articles

"Zawahiri, Ayman (1951-); "Ayatollah"; "Marja' Taqlid"; "Commanding the Good" in *Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, ed. Gerhard Böwering, (Princeton University Press, 2012).

"Qutb, Sayyid"; “Faraj, Abd al-Salam” and "Muslim Brotherhood" in *Encyclopedia of Global Religion and Society*, ed. Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof, Sage, 2011)

"Atlanta" in *Encyclopedia of Muslim American History*, ed. Edward Curtis. (Facts on File, 2010)

Reviews

Kurzman, Charles. *The Missing Martyrs: Why There Are So Few Muslim Terrorists* in *Sociology of Religion*, 2012.

Rajaei, Farhang. *Islamism and Modernism: The Changing Discourse in Iran* in the *Journal of Contemporary Islam*, Vol. 3, no. 3

Osanloo, Arzoo. *The Politics of Women's Rights in Iran*. In the *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*

Public

Commentary

Numerous articles on Islam and public and international affairs available online at the *Guardian: Comment is Free*, *Huffington Post*, and *Common Ground News*, *Religion Dispatches*. Broadcast appearances on CNN, Aljazeera, and Fox.

Awards, Grants, and Research Experience

- 2013-14 Luce Foundation and The British Council for “Religion, Conflict, and Digital Media in the wider Muslim world,” 25K in conjunction with the Carter Center (with Shawn Powers, GSU Communications).
- 2014 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Enduring Questions Program, for new course development: “What is Religious Tolerance? Ethical Perspectives from Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Secular Traditions.” (with Andrew Altman, GSU Philosophy)
- 2013 Georgia Humanities Council Programming Grant for “After Malcolm: Islam and the Black Freedom Struggle”
- 2012-13 US Institute of Peace Programming Grant for “Disarming a Vigilante Militia: A Conversation with S. African Amassador Ebrahim Rasool”
- 2013-Present Co-Director of the “Civic Approaches to Conflict Resolution” initiative.
- 2012-Present Co-Director of the “After Malcolm Digital Archive” project.
- 2011 Cleon C. Arrington Research Initiation Grant, Georgia State University
- 2009-2010 Dissertation Completion Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
- 2007-2009 Research Assistant for Richard Martin, Emory University. Book Projects: *Islam and Secularism*; *The Analytic uses of the term "Islamism"*; *Contemporary Islam: Between Theory and Practice*.
- 2007 Recipient, FIGR: Fund for International Graduate Research, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Emory University.
- 2006 Participant in Summer Workshop on Teaching about Terror, Georgia State University
- 2006 Student Fellow: The Institute for Comparative and International Studies, Emory University.
- 2006 Research Coordinator: Pew Research Institute and the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. Report: *Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream*
- 2005 Research Fellow: Salam Institute for Peace and Justice. Research Project: *The Inter/Intra-faith Dynamics of Muslims in Atlanta* Award
- 2004-06 Research Assistant for the *Future of Shariah Project* directed by Abdullahi An-Naim, Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion, Emory University.

- 2004-5 Participant in Emory's Graduate Teaching Assistant, Training, and Teaching Opportunity Program
- 2004 Benjamin Brown Award for International Study, Department of Academic and Research Affairs, University of Colorado at Boulder. Research Project: *The Political Opinions, Concerns, and Ambitions of Young Adults in Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait*
- 2003 Summer Student Research Grant, Pluralism Project, Committee for the Study of Religion, Harvard University. Research Project: *The Dynamics of the Colorado Muslim Community; Pluralism as Seen Through the Study of Five Organizations.*
- 2003 Gottfried and Martha Lang Student Paper Prize, High Plains Society for Applied Anthropologists. "Latino Muslims in the United States: An Introduction"
- 2001 Cum Laude Honors, University of Colorado at Boulder, Undergraduate Thesis: *Ontological Maintenance and Preference as Seen Through Afro-Cuban Culture*
- 2001 Graduate of the Ronal E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
- 2001 Undergraduate Student Research Opportunity Program Award. Research Project: *Afro-Cuban Religious Traditions as Seen Through Cabildos*

Invited Lectures (distinguished)

- 2014 "Religion, Media, and Conflict in Syria" debriefing for the Council of Foreign Relations, Religion and Foreign Policy working group
- 2013 "Ali Shariat's Prophetology and its Implications for the Interfaith Movement", Catholic Theological Union, In Good Faith Symposium on Abraham
- 2009 "Beauty, Devotion, Sincerity: The Basics of Islamic Faith and Practice" Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya (Center of Islamic Antiquities), Kuwait. Invitation from Her Highness Sheikha Hussah Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah.
- 2008 "Understanding Sectarianism in Iraq", Annual Chapman Visiting Lecture, Converse College, S.C.

Conference Presentations

- 2012 "State, Text, Hermeneut: Sunni Islamist Legislative Practices the juxtaposition between Iranian 'Usulism and Kahn's *Political Theology*"
- 2012 "The Fada'il of Mu'awiya in the Formation of the Hanbali Madhhab" at the *Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society*
- 2011 "al-Jama'a: A Reconsideration of Sunni Orthodoxy" at the *Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association.*

- 2010 "Free Food and Martyrdom: Media Representations of the Islamic Right in Iran's Post-Election Crisis" at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*.
- 2008 "How Many Rightly Guided Caliphs?: Power and Memory in the Formation of Sunni Identity" at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*
- 2007 "American Muslim Identity: Problems and Prospects" at the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*.
- 2007 "Was Paul a Shi'ite: The Development of Proto-Sunni Narratives of Self and Other in Early Islam" presented at the *Byzantium in Early Islamic Syria* Conference, sponsored by the American University of Beirut and the Universite de Balamand, Summer 2007, Beirut, Lebanon. Also presented at the *Fourth Annual Duke-UNC Graduate Islamic Studies Conference*, April 6-7, 2007.
- "Foucault through Fanon: Reflections on Popular Islamic Politics" at the *Rethinking Resistance Graduate Student Conference*, Emory University, March 30-31, 2007.
- 2006 Respondent for the Conference: *The War in Iraq and the Wider Context*, sponsored by the Institute for Comparative and International Studies, Emory University
- 2006 Respondent for the Conference: *Dying to Kill, Dying to Win: Contexts and Conditions of Suicide Bombing*, sponsored by the Institute for Comparative and International Studies, Emory University.
- 2006 "Discursive Themes in the American Muslim Community" Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion
- 2006 "Identity and Muslim Inter/Intra-Faith Dialogue: A Discourse Performance Centered Approach" at the Annual Meeting of the Salam Institute for Peace and Justice:
- 2003 "Latino and African American Muslim Communities" at The American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, North American Religions Section.
- "Muslims in Colorado Pre and Post 9/11: An Assessment of the Impact", [Religious Pluralism in North America: The Southern United States](#). Committee for the Study of Religion, Harvard University.
- 2003 "Latino and African American Communities: Empowerment and Identity in the Inner City," The American Academy of Religion Rocky Mountain Great Plains Regional Meeting.
- "Latino Muslims in the United States: An Introduction", High Plains Society for Applied Anthropologists Annual Conference.

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2010- REELS 3500: Introduction to Islam; PERS 2001: Encountering Global Islam Today; REELS 3750: Critical Thinking Through Writing (Method and Theory in the Study of Religion); REELS Islamic Fundamentalism in the Modern World; REELS Sufism: The Islamic Ascetic and Mystical Tradition; REELS 8210 Islamic Studies and the Linguistic Turn; REELS 8210 Religion and Empire in Late Antiquity
- Fall 2008 *Introduction to Islam*, Candler School of Theology and Agnes Scott College
- Spring 2008 *Islam and Modernity*, Emory University
Introduction to Islam, Georgia State University and Spelman College
- Fall 2007 *Introduction to Islam*, Candler School of Theology
- Summer 2006 Co-Instructor: *Muslim-Christian Encounters*, Emory University
- Fall 2005 TA, *Introduction to the New Testament*, Emory University
- Spring 2005 TA, *Writing about Religion after 9/11*, Emory University
- 2003-4 *Survey of African Religions*, Metropolitan State College of Denver
- Spring 2003 TA, *Introduction to Islam*, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2002-4 TA, *History of Black Protest*, University of Colorado at Boulder (spring sessions)
- Fall 2002 TA, *American Indian Religious Traditions*, University of Colorado at Boulder