

SARAH S. ELTANTAWI

Curriculum Vitae

Evergreen State College

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APPOINTMENTS

Evergreen State College, 2018 –

Associate Professor of Comparative Religion and Islamic Studies

Evergreen State College, 2014 - 2018

Assistant Professor of Comparative Religion and Islamic Studies

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 2013-2014

Postdoctoral Fellow, Europe in the Middle East - The Middle East in
Europe, Forum Transregionale Studien

University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2013

Sultan Postdoctoral Fellow in Arab Studies

Department of Middle Eastern Studies

Brandeis University, Spring 2013

Scholar in Residence in Gender, Culture, Religion and the Law

Hadassah-Brandeis Institute

Visiting Positions:

The American University in Cairo, Summer, 2019

Visiting Faculty for Islamic Studies Boot Camp Summer School, “Post
Modern Islamic Law.”

The University of Edinburgh, Starting May 6, 2019

Visiting Faculty for Online Course, “The Sharia and Islamic Law: An
Introduction”

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D., Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University, 2012

Jennifer W. Oppenheimer Fellow

American University in Cairo

Arabic Language Institute, 2009

Harvard University

M.A. Department of International Studies (Middle East) 2001

University of California, Berkeley

B.A. Department of Rhetoric and Department of English (Honors in
Both Departments), 1998

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Shar'iah on Trial: Northern Nigeria's Islamic Revolution.

(University of California Press, April, 2017)

Reviewed in: *Reading Religion* (A Blog of the American Academy of Religion), *Islamic Law and Society*, *Journal of Islamic Social Science*, *New Books in Islamic Studies*, *Law and Society Journal*, *Journal of African Religion* (forthcoming), *Journal of Law and Religion* (forthcoming).

In Process:

An Islam for the End of the World: Reflections of a Feminist Muslim Scholar During the Trump Era. (Book of essays in process)

The Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, 1928-2013: A Gendered History.

Peer Reviewed Articles:

“Mysterious Legislation: ‘Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb’s Role in the Legalization of the Stoning Punishment in the Islamic Tradition.” *Islamic Interpretive Tradition and Gender Justice.* McGill University Press, 2019. (forthcoming)

“Order, Not Instability: Post-Modernity from the Northern Nigerian Perspective.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, March 2016, Vol. 84, No. 1, pp. 60–73

“Tūsī did not opt out: The legalization of the Stoning Punishment in Shi’ī Jurisprudence.” William Granara, Alireza Korang and Roy Mottahedeh ed. *Commemorative Volume for Ahmad Mahdavi Damghani on his Ninetieth Birthday.* Berlin, Germany: Walter DeGruyter, 2015

“Women Gender and Islam in Africa and Beyond.” *Journal of Law and Religion* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2013

“Review Essay: Saba Mahmood’s *Religious Difference in a Secular Age.*” *Journal of Law and Religion.* 31. no. 3 (2016) 401-405.

Under Review:

“Egypt’s Zayneb al-Ghazālī as Double Martyr” *International Journal for Persian Literature.* (2019)

Book Chapters:

“Notes on the Popularly-Backed Coup in Egypt, 2013.” University of Alberta Symposium Proceedings (in process, 2017)

“‘Post-Colonial’ Islamic Law and the Question of Ijbār (Child Marriage) in Contemporary Northern Nigeria” *Women’s Rights and Religious Law:*

Domestic and International Perspectives. Routledge: Oxford and New York, 2016

“The Difficulty of Accounting for Women Who Critique Shar’iah in Northern Nigeria.” *Sharia Dynamics: Islamic Law and Sociopolitical Processes*. (ed. Timothy Daniels) Palgrave MacMillan, Anthropology of Religion Series, 2017.

Other Writing (Selected)

Review essay, “On Egypt’s Revolution”, a review of *False Dawn* (Steven A. Cook), *A Revolution Undone* (H.A. Hellyer), and *Making Revolution in Egypt* (Aly Sonay). In process, 2019.

“Hacking and ‘Common Sense’ – A Response to Rumees Ahmed’s *Shari’ah Compliant*.” *The Imminent Frame* Blog. April 10, 2018

“The Trump Administration’s *Terra Incognita* for American Muslims.” *University of Notre Dame Contending Modernities* Blog. January 13, 2017.

“Joseph Schacht in Northern Nigeria: Islamic Legal Scholarship in the Service of the British Crown.” Paper in preparation, presented at Harvard Divinity School, February 16, 2017.

“Countering Shame: Review of Ayad Akhtar’s Pulitzer-prize winning play, *Disgraced*.” *Newsweek Middle East* (February 3, 2016)

“Solidarity through Veiling?” *Religion Dispatches* (USC Annenberg School of Communication) (December 31, 2015)

“Fatema Mernissi: A Woman for all Seasons.” *Newsweek Middle East*. (December 9, 2015)

“Is Democracy The Question” *The Imminent Frame* Web Blog of the Social Science Research Council. (July 16, 2014)

“Egypt’s Ongoing Cultural Struggle.” *Brandeis-Hadassah Institute* Blog <http://blogs.brandeis.edu/freshideasfromhbi/egypts-ongoing-cultural-struggle/> (2013)

“Finding ‘Yes’ by Saying ‘No’: A Tribute to Amina Wadud.” Kecia Ali et al (eds), *A Jihad for Justice: Honoring the Work and Life of Amina Wadud*. 48hrbooks (2012)

“Meditation on the Clearing and the Weeds.” Saleemah Abdul-Ghafour (ed.) *Living Islam Out Loud: Muslim Women Speak Out*. Beacon Press. (2005)

Encyclopedia Entries

“Sub-Saharan Africa, Islam and Politics.” Emad Shahin et al (eds.) *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Politics*. Oxford University Press 2012.

“Nigeria, including Sokoto Caliphate.” Gerhard Bowering et al (eds.) *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*. Princeton University Press, 2011.

“Muslim Public Affairs Council” and “Palestinians in the United States.” Jocelyne Cesari (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Islam in America*. Greenwood Press, 2007.

Book Reviews

Reviewed *Ordinary Lives and Grand Schemes: An Anthropology of Everyday Religion*.
(ed. Samuli Schielke and Liza Debevec) for *The American Ethnologist*
(June, 2013)

Reviewed *Gender and Islam in Africa: Rights, Sexuality and Law*. (ed. Margot Badran)
for *Journal of Modern African Studies* (March, 2013)

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Evergreen State College Faculty Foundation Grant, Summer, 2019

Evergreen State College Faculty Foundation Grant, Summer, 2017

Jennifer W. Oppenheimer Fellow, Harvard University, 2011-2012

Visiting Doctoral Fellow, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 2011-2012

Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2011

Pre-Doctoral Fellow in the Center for Public Leadership, Harvard University, John F.
Kennedy School of Government, 2005-2012

John L. Leob Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School, 2009-2010

Committee on African Studies Award for Research in Nigeria, Harvard University
Committee on African Studies, 2009-2012

Foreign Language Area Scholarship for Arabic Language Study, Harvard University
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2008-2009

Leadership Award of Excellence in Civil Rights Advocacy, City of Cleveland, Ohio.
USA, 2003

United States Delegate for U.S. - World Islamic Dialogue, Brookings Institution,
Washington D.C. and Doha, Qatar, 2003

University Fellowship, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 1999-
2001

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Invited Lectures (Keynote)

“What Explains the Rapid Fall of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt?” Keynote
Lecture at the *World Affairs Council* in Olympia, WA. April 18, 2019

“A Gendered Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, 1928-2013”
Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati, March 27, 2019

Author Meets Critic: *Shari’ah on Trial: Northern Nigeria’s Islamic Revolution*:
Lusaka, Zambia, Religions in Africa Conference, August 4, 2018.

“The World that Created Boko Haram: Gender and the Islamic Revolution in Northern
Nigeria.” Invited Lecture, Swarthmore College, April 26, 2018.

“Examining the Shari’ah ‘Revolution’ in Northern Nigeria: The Infamous Stoning Case
of Amina Lawal.” Invited Lecture, Al-Waleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim –
Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, April 17, 2018.

Book discussion: *Shari’ah in Northern Nigeria*, Invited Lecture at Northwestern

University, Center for African Studies, March 10, 2018.

“Notes on the Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.” Invited Lecture at Northwestern University Middle East Center, March 8, 2018.

“Notes on the Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.” Invited Lecture at the University of Washington, January 22, 2018.

“Shar’iah on Trial: Northern Nigeria’s Islamic Revolution.” Invited Lecture at Harvard University, November 9, 2017

“Shar’iah on Trial: Northern Nigeria’s Islamic Revolution.” Invited Lecture at Harvard University, November 9, 2017

Key Note Lecture on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Desmond Tutu Center for Human Rights, Liberty Hope University, Liverpool, U.K.

“Shar’iah on Trial: Northern Nigeria’s Islamic Revolution.” Invited Lecture at the University of Cambridge, November 9, 2017

“Minority Governance in Egypt and Nigeria”. Center for Muslim Societies and Cultures, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada, November 16, 2017

“Amina Lawal, African Islam, and Stoning.” Fairhaven College World Affairs Lecture, 2017. Western Washington University, April 24, 2017.

“African Women, Stoning, and Islamic Law.” University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, MI, September, 2016.

“African Women, Stoning, and Islamic Law.” Williams College, Williamstown, MA, November, 2016

“Western Feminist Theory and Islamic Traditions” Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, 2016

(invited) “Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood, University of Washington, Tacoma, 2016

“The Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood” Invited by Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle (3 March, 2015)

“Islam, Gender and Scholarly Priorities in Western Academia.” Invited by Media and Communications Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (6 December, 2014)

“Political Theology in Contemporary Egypt” The University of Toronto, Invited by the Department of Sociology and the Institute for Islamic Studies (27 March, 2013)

“Islamic Law and Gender in Post-Morsi Egypt” Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago (21 November, 2013)

“From Resistance to Mainstream Power: The Changing ‘Islam’ of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley (26 September, 2013)

“Stoning in the Islamic Tradition: Early Source Material and Contemporary Appropriations.” Harvard University Center for Public Leadership, Kennedy School of Government (12 December, 2006)

Scholarly Presentations

- “The ‘religious’ the ‘civic’ and the ‘secular’: A Workshop on Concepts and Methods.”, Göttingen, Germany, July 2019.
- “The Sunnaic Paradigm: A Historiography of Liberation in Northern Nigeria.”
Uses of the Past in Islamic Law Conference, University of Exeter, U.K., September 27, 2018.
- “The Political Theology of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt” World Congress of Middle Eastern Studies, Seville, Spain. July 16, 2018.
- American Academy of Religion, November 21-24 2017, Boston. (Three panels)
- “Joseph Schacht in Northern Nigeria: Islamic Legal Scholarship in the Service of the British Crown.” Presented at Harvard Divinity School, February 2017
- “Being Muslim/Muslim Being: Mobilities and Practices.” A Symposium in Honor of Shahab Ahmed (1966-2015). Sarah Lawrence College (8 April, 2016)
- “Is the Muslim Brotherhood Modern?” and “Reflections on accurately reflecting anti-sexism views of women in the developing world: the case of Nigeria.”
American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA 2015 (21 November, 2015)
- “The Muslim Brotherhood and the Arab Nahda (Enlightenment): A Reexamination.”
Middle East Studies Association, Denver, CO (23 November, 2015)
- “Nahda vs. Sunna as Theology vs. Politics: Tracing the Genealogy of the Muslim Brotherhood to Understand Contemporary Islamist Movements.”
Unfinished Project of the Arab Spring: Why ‘Middle East Exceptionalism’ is Still Wrong’ International Conference, Alberta, Canada. (12 September, 2015)
- “Receptions of Political Islam: from Shar’ia Re-Implementation in Nigeria in 1999 to the Ousting of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt in EUME, Forum Transregionale Studien, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (22 January, 2014)
- “On Normativity in the Field of Islamic Studies” Paper: “Order, Not Instability: Post-Coloniality from the Contemporary Nigerian Perspective.” American Academy of Religion. Baltimore: (26 November, 2013)
- “Gender, Public Space, and the Question of Democracy in Egypt.” American Academy of Religion. Baltimore: (25 November, 2013)
- “Secular/‘Objective’ Scholars and Islamic Movements: The Question of Positionality.”
Forum on Identity and the Question of Tradition. Forum Transregionale Studien, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (11 November, 2013)
- “The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and The Rhetoric of Authenticity”
Middle East Studies Association. New Orleans: (11 October, 2013)
- “Women in the Arab Uprisings: A Roundtable Discussion”
Middle East Studies Association. New Orleans: (11 October, 2013)

- “Revolution or Coup? Ousting Morsi in Egypt” UC Berkeley Center for International Studies, Democracy Program. International House, UC Berkeley (12 September, 2013)
- “Stoning and Post-Colonial Nigeria: Methodological Spaces” Gendered Rites/Gendered Rights Conference, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University (15 April, 2013)
- “Geschlechterdemokratie und Menschenrechte in Ägypten zwischen Revolution, Militär und Islamismus” (Gender Democracy and Human Rights in Egypt: Between Revolution, Military and Islamism.) Presentation at Werkstatt der Kulturen, Berlin, Germany (July, 2012)
- “Ijbār (child marriage) Polygamy and Divorce in the post-1999 sharī’ah order in Northern Nigeria.” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco: (20 November 2011)
- “Sharī’ah as Social Text in Contemporary Northern Nigeria.” Presented at “Transforming Social Orders in African Muslim Contexts: (Re)Constructions of Identities, Institutions, Movements and Markets.” Joint Conference of Bayreuth Graduate School of African Studies, Bayreuth, Germany; and Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Societies and Cultures, Berlin, Germany (June, 2011)
- “Political Sharī’ah in Nigeria: 19th Century Jihāds, and the Present.” Presented at the Society for Muslim Ethics Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA (January, 2011)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Evergreen State College (Interdisciplinary teaching model called ‘programs’ span from one to three quarters)

- Islamic Modernity in Global Perspective, Spring 2020 (Scheduled)
- Almighty God(s): Religion and Power and the Near and Middle East, Fall and Winter, 2019-2020 (Scheduled)
- Languages of Unsayings: Sufism and American Poetry, Spring, 2019
- God(s): An Inquiry, Winter, 2029
- Africa Is Not a Country, Fall, 2018
- Islamic Modernity in Global Perspective, Spring, 2018
- God(s): An Inquiry: Winter, 2018
- The Meaning of Life Through Science and Spirituality, Fall, 2017
- Transnational Feminisms, Spring 2017
- Movements and Migrations: Sustainability and Change in Religion and Culture
Fall 2016, Winter 2017
- A New Middle East?, Fall, 2015; Winter, 2016, Spring, 2016
- New Visions: Art and Representation in the Arab Spring, Spring, 2014

Landscapes of Faith and Power in the Eastern Mediterranean, Fall, 2014

Harvard University (As A Teaching Fellow)

Religion and Existentialism, Department of Religion, Fall, 2011

Science and Sexuality in the Medieval Islamic World, Department of the History of Science, Spring, 2011

Has the Racial Order Been Transformed Since the Election of Barak Obama?,
Department of
Political Science, Fall, 2011

Religion and Social Change in Black America, Department of African and African-American Studies, Fall, 2009; Fall, 2010

Diversity, Diaspora and Dialogue, Department of Religion, Fall, 2009

Modern Arabic Narratives: Self, Society and Culture, Department of Comparative Literature, Fall, 2008

Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa, Department of Religion, Spring, 2008

Introduction to World Religion, Department of Religion, Spring, 2007, Fall, 2008

Issues in Feminism and Islam, Harvard Divinity School, Fall, 2007

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Elected to Steering Committee of Religion and Politics Section of the American
Academy of Religion (2016)

Article Reviewer for Africa Today

Article Reviewer for Journal of Law and Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

Middle East Studies Association

African Studies Association

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Student editor of Islam-related submissions, Harvard Theological Review 2009-2012

Co-founder Progressive Muslim Union of North America (PMUNA), New York, NY
2004-2005

National Communications Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Washington DC.
2001-2004

Travel-writer -- Syria, Let's Go Travel Guides, Cambridge, MA 2000

Child care coordinator for the children of inmates, San Quentin State Prison, San
Quentin, CA, 2006

MEDIA

Host of Radio Show, “Contemporary Islam Considered” on the Marginalia Review of Books, (a Channel of the Los Angeles Times Review of Books).

Columnist for Die Tageszeitung, [Germany’s fourth largest newspaper]

“Egyptian media: in the thrall of the State” Al-Araby al-Jadid (8 February, 2015)

“Why Egyptians Voted for Sisi” Reuters, (28 May, 2014)

“Lessons from the Egyptian Revolution Three Years On” (27 January, 2014)

“Egypt Protests Upset Assumptions About the Arab World.” Religion News Dispatches (30 January, 2011)

“The Problem with Dialogue of Civilizations.” Al-Hayat (December, 2004)

“The Empathy Deficit.” Humanistic Judaism Magazine (Fall, 2005)

“Why Muslim Men Should Not be Required to Register with the Government.” New York Times (January, 2003)

Select Television and Radio Appearances

Al-Jazeera English News , Regular Commentator On Inside Story and Inside Egypt

National Public Radio “Egypt and the Struggle for Democracy – An International Town Hall” KCRW America Abroad, Hosts: Madeleine Brand, Los Angeles; Ramy Radwan, Egyptian ONTV. (October, 2013)

Media Coverage

Appeared on: CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, News Hour with Jim Lehrer, BBC, Al-Jazeera, PBS, TV Shows include: Politically Incorrect, the O’Reilly Factor, Hannity and Colmes, Hardball with Chris Matthews, Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer.

Interviewed by:

New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, International Herald Tribune, Time Magazine.

TV Programs include: Politically Incorrect, the O’Reilly Factor, Hannity and Colmes, Hardball with Chris Matthews, Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer.

Select Invited Lectures (Policy Briefings, Community Education)

The German Christian Democratic Party Stiftung, Berlin, Germany. Invited to give a briefing to German Political parties on strategies to combat religious extremism. Invited by Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte (German Institute for Human Rights). With Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, United Nations Special Rapporteur on free dom of religion or belief (June, 2014)

Egypt Now” Panel organized by Mayadan al-Tahrir in Berlin, (with Dr. Ahmed Badawi) (22 February, 2014)

“Making Sense of Egypt” Arab Cultural Center of San Francisco.
(18 September, 2013)

LANGUAGES

Classical Arabic: High Advanced

Modern Standard Arabic: Fluent

Colloquial Egyptian Arabic: Fluent

Hausa: Research

German: Spoken comprehension and research

French: Research