

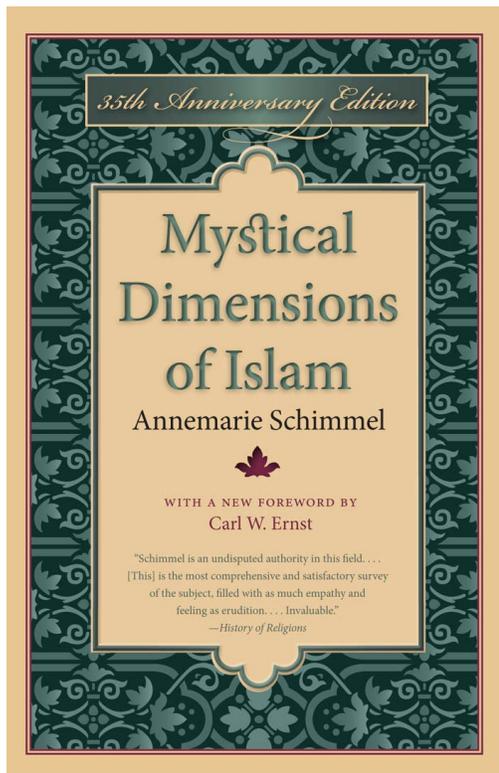
Islamic Studies Rights Catalog

We are pleased to present our titles in Islamic studies. The University of North Carolina Press is one of the leading English-language scholarly publishers in this area.

Our series, Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks was established twenty-five years ago and has produced numerous award-winning books that have become important in the field. The series, edited by Carl W. Ernst and Bruce B. Lawrence, features books that explore Islamic societies and Muslim peoples by emphasizing systems of exchange that have promoted the creation and development of Islamic identities—cultural, religious, or geopolitical. The series spans all periods and regions of Islamic civilization, drawing on new interpretive frameworks and theoretical strategies in a variety of disciplines.

The Press also publishes extensively in US history and as part of that list we have numerous books about the Nation of Islam and about other aspects of Islamic and American history.

For more information about our religion list and the Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks series please visit www.uncpress.org. If you are interested in a title, contact John McLeod at subrights@uncpress.org for a review file. We work with agents in various territories and can connect you with them.



Mystical Dimensions of Islam

35th Anniversary Edition

by Annemarie Schimmel, foreword by Carl W. Ernst

Publication date: August 8, 2011

544 Pages, 6.14 × 9.21, 6 illus., appends., notes, bibl., index

Rights information

- Croatian, Sandorf
- French, Editions du Cerf
- Russian, Islam Culture and Research Foundation
- Spanish, Editorial Trotta
- Turkish, Alfa Publishing
- Previously published in Indonesian, Italian, Lithuanian, and German

The most comprehensive study of Sufism in the English language

Mystical Dimensions of Islam still stands as the most valuable introduction to Sufism, the main form of Islamic mysticism. This edition brings to a new generation of readers Annemarie Schimmel's historical treatment of the transnational phenomenon of Sufism, from its beginnings through the nineteenth century.

Schimmel's sensitivity and deep understanding of Sufism—its origins, development, and historical context—as well as her erudite examination of Sufism as reflected in Islamic poetry, draw readers into the mood, the vision, and the way of the Sufi. In the foreword, distinguished Islam scholar Carl W. Ernst comments on the continuing vitality of Schimmel's book and the advances in the study of Sufism that have occurred since the work first appeared.

Annemarie Schimmel (1922–2003) was a renowned German scholar of Islam and author of eighty books, including *And Muhammad Is His Messenger: The Veneration of the Prophet in Islamic Piety* and *A Two-Colored Brocade: The Imagery of Persian Poetry*.

Praise & reviews

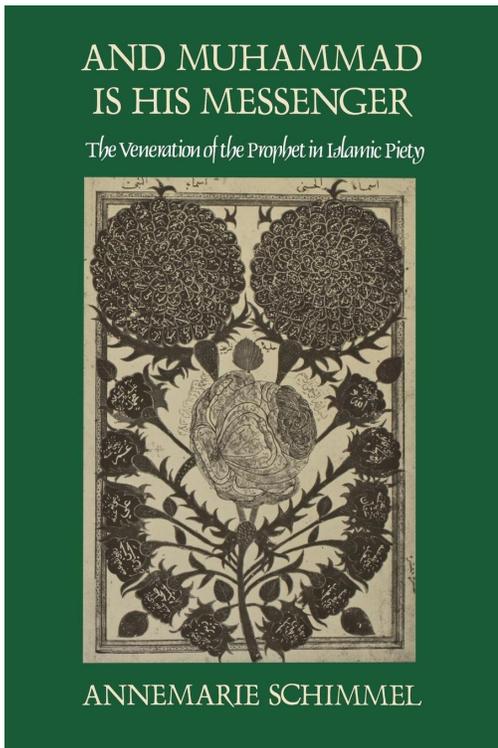
“Schimmel is an undisputed authority in this field. ... [This] is the most comprehensive and satisfactory survey of the subject, filled with as much empathy and feeling as erudition. ... Invaluable.”—*History of Religions*

“A truly beautiful book. ... Radiates an elegance of style. ... Replete not only with the poetic insight of the author but with her unquestioned scholarly mastery over materials from the vast culture-sphere of Islam.”
—*International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*

“Comprehensive, detailed, and combines sophistication in religious studies with high-level competence in the original sources. ... Provides far more detail, depth of analysis, breadth of geographical coverage, and sustained clear explication and interpretation of individual topics than can be found in any other survey [of Sufism] in English.”
—*Journal of Near Eastern Studies*

“Beautifully written. ... The best and most comprehensive study on Islamic mysticism in the English language.”
—*Religious Studies Review*

“A superb achievement. ... The author has read all the mystics in the original, and all the important works by European scholars. Yet this solid scholarship (evidenced also by the very full bibliography) is completely hidden by a charming and eminently readable style, and by a sureness and lightness of touch which retain the interest of the reader and carry him effortless along.”—*Journal of Semitic Studies*



And Muhammad Is His Messenger *The Veneration of the Prophet in Islamic Piety* by Annemarie Schimmel

Publication date: November 30, 1985

389 Pages, 6 × 9, 17 halftones

Series: Studies in Religion

Rights information

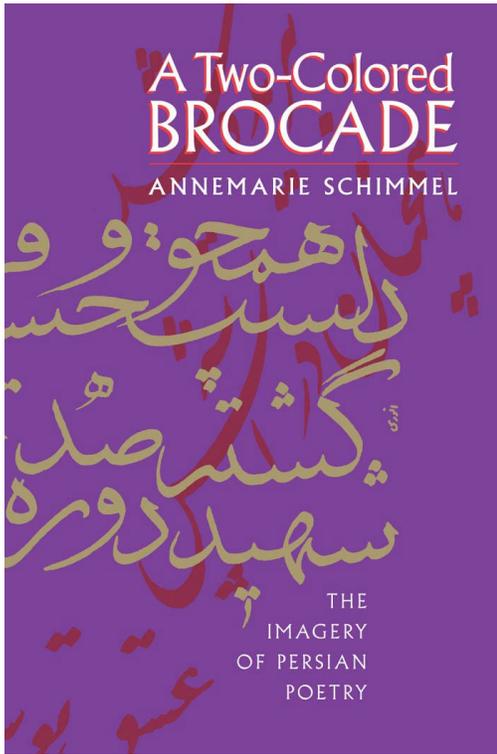
- UNC Press controls English language rights only
- Turkish, Albaraka Kulture Sanat ye Yayincilik (translated from the English edition)
- English co-publication in ASEAN, Islamic Book Trust

The important role of the Prophet Muhammad in the everyday lives of Muslims is usually overlooked by Western scholars and has consequently never been understood by the Western world. Using original sources in the various Islamic languages, Annemarie Schimmel explains the central place of Muhammad in Muslim life, mystical thought, and poetry. She sees the veneration of Muhammad as having many parallels in other major religions.

In order to understand Muslim piety it is necessary to take into account the long history of the veneration of Muhammad. Schimmel discusses aspects of his life, birth, marriage, miracles, and heavenly journey, all of which became subjects for religious devotions. By using poetic texts and artistic expressions and by examining daily Muslim religious practices, Schimmel shows us the gentler side of Islamic religious culture, providing a much-needed understanding of religion as it is experienced and practiced in the Islamic world.

This is the first book in English to deal with all aspects of the veneration of the Prophet Muhammad. It is an expanded version of Schimmel's *Und Muhammad Ist Sein Prophet*, originally published in German in 1981.

Annemarie Schimmel (1922-2003) was a renowned German scholar of Islam and author of eighty books, including *Mystical Dimensions of Islam* and *A Two-Colored Brocade: The Imagery of Persian Poetry*.



A Two-Colored Brocade *The Imagery of Persian Poetry* by Annemarie Schimmel

Publication date: December 1, 2004
558 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Sanctum Books
- Turkish, Alfa Publishing
- Previously published in Italian

Annemarie Schimmel, one of the world's foremost authorities on Persian literature, provides a comprehensive introduction to the complicated and highly sophisticated system of rhetoric and imagery used by the poets of Iran, Ottoman Turkey, and Muslim India. She shows that these images have been used and refined over the centuries and reflect the changing conditions in the Muslim world.

According to Schimmel, Persian poetry does not aim to be spontaneous in spirit or highly personal in form. Instead, it is rooted in conventions and rules of prosody, rhymes, and verbal instrumentation. Ideally, every verse should be like a precious stone—perfectly formed and multifaceted—and

convey the dynamic relationship between everyday reality and the transcendental.

Persian poetry, Schimmel explains, is more similar to medieval European verse than Western poetry as it has been written since the Romantic period. The characteristic verse form is the *ghazal*—a set of rhyming couplets—which serves as a vehicle for shrouding in conventional tropes the poet's real intentions.

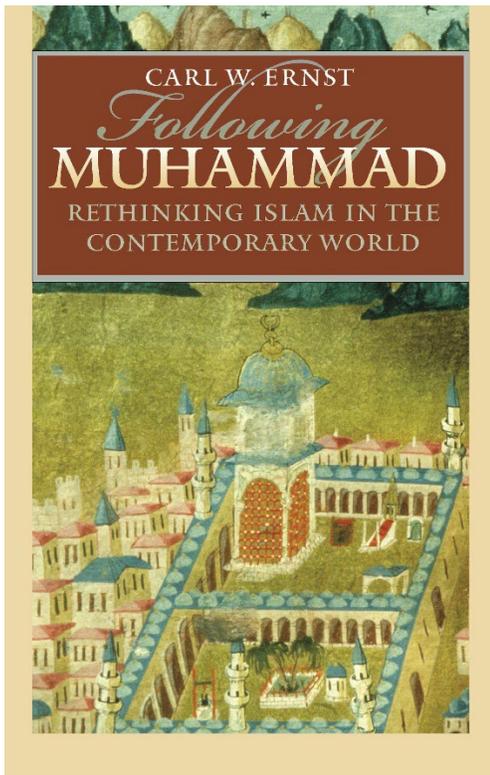
Because Persian poetry is neither narrative nor dramatic in its overall form, its strength lies in an “architectonic” design; each precisely expressed image is carefully fitted into a pattern of linked figures of speech. Schimmel shows that at its heart Persian poetry transforms the world into a web of symbols embedded in Islamic culture.

Annemarie Schimmel (1922–2003) was a renowned German scholar of Islam and author of eighty books, including *And Muhammad Is His Messenger: The Veneration of the Prophet in Islamic Piety* and *Mystical Dimensions of Islam*.

Praise & reviews

“An original work significantly contributing to a deeper understanding of the metaphorical style and the multiplex allusions of Persian poetry. Students of Persian as well as Turkish, Urdu, and even Arabic literatures will find this reference source as indispensable as any other basic work for the study of their respective fields.”

—Heshmat Moayyad, University of Chicago



Following Muhammad

Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World

by Carl W. Ernst

Publication date: August 30, 2004

272 Pages, 5.25 × 8.25, 8 illus., notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Arabic, Al Hokama
- English co-publication in the UK, Edinburgh University Press
- Indonesian, Al-Mizan
- Previously published in Korean, German, Turkish, Persian, and Russian

A non-Muslim's first resource for understanding Islam

Avoiding the traps of sensational political exposes and specialized scholarly Orientalism, Carl Ernst introduces readers to the profound spiritual resources of Islam while clarifying diversity and debate within the tradition. Framing his argument in terms of religious studies, Ernst describes how Protestant definitions of religion and anti-Muslim prejudice have affected views of Islam in Europe and America. He also covers the contemporary importance of Islam in both its traditional settings and its new locations and

provides a context for understanding extremist movements like fundamentalism. He concludes with an overview of critical debates on important contemporary issues such as gender and veiling, state politics, and science and religion.

Carl W. Ernst is W. R. Kenan Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he maintains the website www.unc.edu/~cernst/islam.htm, which provides up-to-date links to resources for learning about Islam. Ernst is author of *Sufi Martyrs of Love: Chishti Sufism in South Asia and Beyond*, among other books.

Praise & reviews

2004 Bashrahil Prize for Outstanding Cultural Achievement in the Humanities

2004 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title

“[A] thoughtful and finely balanced primer on contemporary Islam.”—*New York Review of Books*

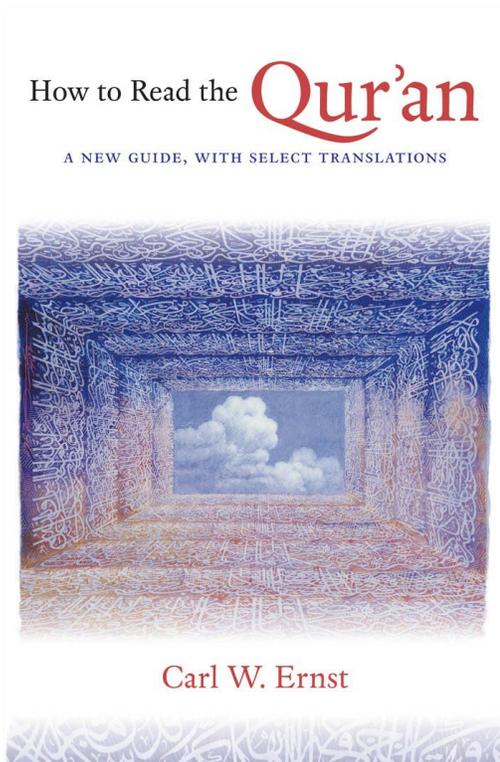
“Well-written and lucid. ... The book’s narrative flow is generally masterful. Ernst successfully moves from present to past and back again in a manner that is both logical and clear to follow. ... An elegant and masterful presentation of a religious tradition in an accessible manner, as well as a heartfelt plea for non-Muslims to understand it.”

—*American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*

“In seeking to restore a sense of proportion and balance to the image of Islam for his Western readers, Ernst gives proper weight to the layers of mystical humanism, philosophical speculation and hermeneutical flexibility that are no less a part of the Islamic tradition than the legacies of conquest and militancy. He also points out that intolerance and bigotry are far from being the exclusive prerogative of the Western media industries.”—*Times Literary Supplement*

“A helpful resource for university religion departments. It is not a straight ‘Islam 101’ resource, and because of that, it is very refreshing. ... A very helpful tool as an introduction to a course on Islam and contemporary religion.”

—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*



How to Read the Qur'an

A New Guide, with Select Translations

by Carl W. Ernst

Publication date: August 1, 2013

288 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 8 halftones, 2 graphs, appends., notes, bibl., index

Rights information

- English co-publication in the UK, Edinburgh University Press

A definitive approach to understanding Islam's foundational text

For anyone, non-Muslim or Muslim, who wants to know how to approach, read, and understand the text of the Qur'an, *How to Read the Qur'an* offers a compact introduction and reader's guide. Using a chronological reading of the text according to the conclusions of modern scholarship, Carl W. Ernst offers a nontheological approach that treats the Qur'an as a historical text that unfolded over time, in dialogue with its audience, during the career of the Prophet Muhammad.

Carl W. Ernst is William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and author of *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary*

World, among other books.

Praise & reviews

"This splendid introduction allows students to begin to understand and appreciate the role of the Qur'an for Muslims. Professor Ernst's unique approach provides a thorough overview of the scholarship—historical and contemporary, Muslim and non-Muslim—on the Qur'an."—Amir Hussain, editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

"Ernst's book is an illuminating and well-written companion to the Qur'an. ... Demonstrates that the Qur'an can actually be read, rather than just quoted, dissected, summarized, ridiculed, glorified or studied for its obvious importance in later Islam."—*Times Literary Supplement*

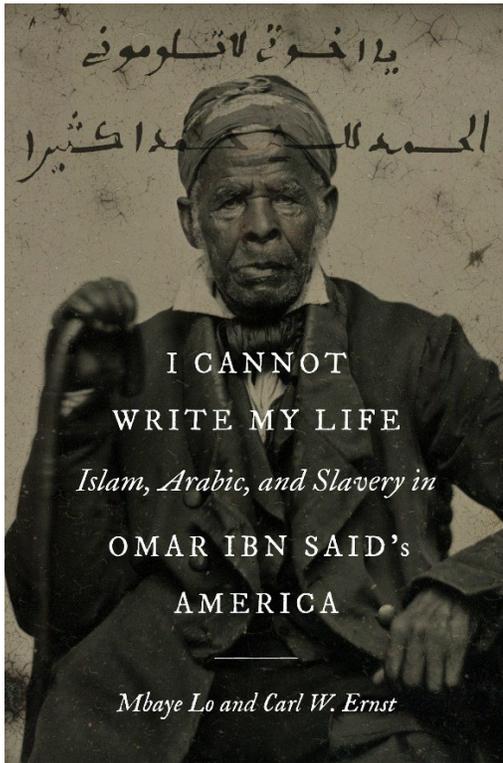
"This elegant book is a very useful guide to the study of the Qur'an. It represents a significant advance in making the Qur'an, as well as the scholarship on it, accessible to a broad readership."
—Muhammad Qasim Zaman, author of *The Ulama in Contemporary Islam*

"This will serve both as a fine teaching tool at the college or seminary level and as a useful resource for engaged nonspecialists, who will find it challenging but rewarding."—*Library Journal*

"Ernst offers this elegant guide on how to read and understand the text sacred to Muslims."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Muslim, non-Muslim, religious, and irreligious readers will all find in the Qur'an, as Ernst presents it here, something of interest. This is a groundbreaking and essential book, surely to be of interest and use in mosque study groups and intellectually minded book clubs as well as classrooms. An appendix on "Suggested Interpretive Exercises" will serve all such audiences well."—*Rain Taxi Review of Books*

"The Qur'an is widely misunderstood, partly because it's very difficult to read ... Ernst explains why and offers a way through."—*Endeavors*



I Cannot Write My Life

Islam, Arabic, and Slavery in Omar ibn Said's America
by Mbaye Lo and Carl W. Ernst

Publication date: August 29, 2023

232 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 1 drawing, 8 halftones, 3 tables, appends., notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

The extraordinary life and thought of Omar ibn Said, in his own words

Omar ibn Said (1770–1863) was a Muslim scholar from West Africa who spent more than fifty years enslaved in the North Carolina household of James Owen, brother of Governor John Owen. In 1831 Omar composed a brief autobiography, the only known narrative written in Arabic by an enslaved person in North America, and he became famous for his Arabic writings. His enslavers also provided him with an Arabic Bible and claimed Omar as a convert to Christianity, prompting wonder and speculation among amateur scholars of Islam, white slave owners, and missionaries. But these self-proclaimed experts were unable or unwilling

to understand Omar's writings, and his voice was suppressed for two centuries.

Mbaye Lo and Carl W. Ernst here weave fresh and accurate translations of Omar's eighteen surviving writings, for the first time identifying his quotations from Islamic theological texts, correcting many distortions, and providing the fullest possible account of his life and significance. Placing Omar at the center of a broader network of the era's literary and religious thought, Lo and Ernst restore Omar's voice, his sophisticated engagement with Islamic and Christian theologies, his Arabic skills, and his extraordinary efforts to express himself and exert agency despite his enslavement.

Mbaye Lo is associate professor of the practice of Asian and Middle Eastern studies and international comparative studies at Duke University. **Carl W. Ernst** is William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Praise & reviews

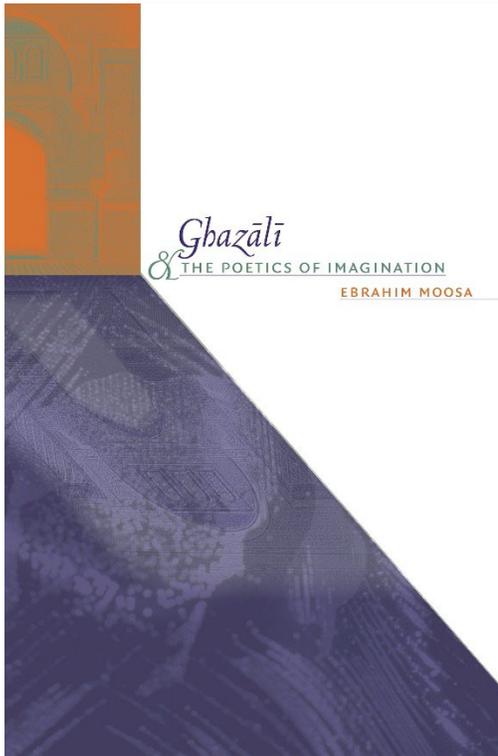
2024 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion: Textual Studies, American Academy of Religion

2024 Muslim World Book Award, Kube Publishing and the Markfield Institute of Higher Education (short-listed)

“Lo and Ernst have excelled in providing a critical reading, shrewd analysis of narratives, and rectifying the epistemic violence towards the subaltern. ... [A] colossal work.”—*Sociology of Islam*

“A crucial source for studying Islam in both West Africa and the United States, as well as for history, American studies, and Africana studies.”—*Reading Religion*

“*I Cannot Write My Life* is the most detailed and disciplined study of one of the most important figures of antebellum American and Muslim history. It is a must read for students of Islam in America and should be of interest to anyone engaged in Black transatlantic studies.”—Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, author of *A History of Islam in America*



Ghazali and the Poetics of Imagination

by Ebrahim Moosa

Publication date: June 30, 2005

368 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 1 map, 1 timeline, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Turkish, Hece Yayinlari
- Indonesian, Cantrik Pustaka

A model for cosmopolitan intellectual renewal among Muslims

Abu Hamid al-Ghazālī, a Muslim jurist-theologian and polymath who lived from the mid-eleventh to the early twelfth century in present-day Iran, is a figure equivalent in stature to Maimonides in Judaism and Thomas Aquinas in Christianity. He is best known for his work in philosophy, ethics, law, and mysticism. In an engaged re-reading of the ideas of this preeminent Muslim thinker, Ebrahim Moosa argues that Ghazālī's work has lasting relevance today as a model for a critical encounter with the Muslim intellectual tradition in a modern and postmodern context.

Moosa employs the theme of the threshold, or *dihliz*, the space from which Ghazālī himself engaged the different currents of thought in his day, and proposes that contemporary Muslims who wish to place their own traditions in conversation with modern traditions consider the same vantage point. Moosa argues that by incorporating elements of Islamic theology, neoplatonic mysticism, and Aristotelian philosophy, Ghazālī's work epitomizes the idea that the answers to life's complex realities do not reside in a single culture or intellectual tradition. Ghazālī's emphasis on poiesis—creativity, imagination, and freedom of thought—provides a sorely needed model for a cosmopolitan intellectual renewal among Muslims, Moosa argues. Such a creative and critical inheritance, he concludes, ought to be heeded by those who seek to cultivate Muslim intellectual traditions in today's tumultuous world.

Ebrahim Moosa is Mirza Family Professor in Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies at the University of Notre Dame.

Praise & reviews

2005 New Statesman Book of the Year, New Statesman

2006 Award for Best First Book in the History of Religions, American Academy of Religion

2005 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title

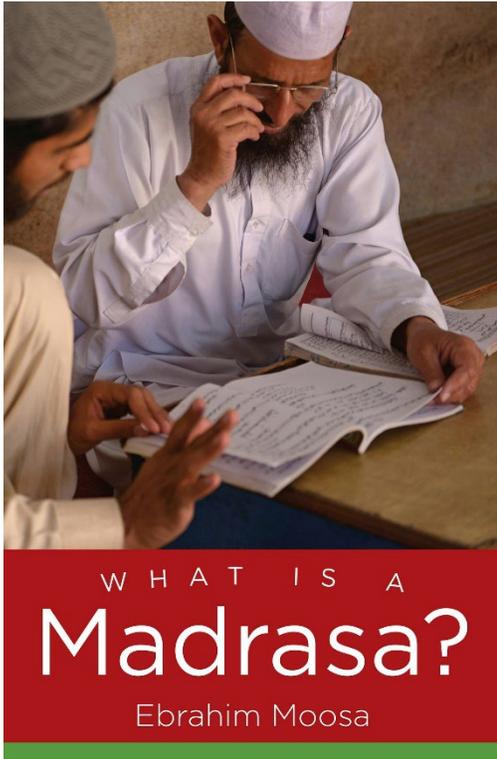
“Makes us encounter fresh ways of thinking of and listening to Ghazali's texts.”—*JRAS*

“Moosa demonstrates the contemporary relevance of one of the greatest thinkers in Islam. ... Spellbinding.”
—*New Statesman*

“Moosa's study breathes of an intellectual spirit that is rare in modern Muslim thinking. Creativity, imagination, philosophical sophistication, intellectual perspicacity and ideational fecundity are all found aplenty here.”
—*Muslim World Book Review*

“[Moosa's] nuanced understanding of Ghazali's world allows us to enter the *dihliz* (‘a passage way’) into the intellectual/spiritual edifice that Ghazali built. ... Interesting, informative, and a great read.”—*Theological Studies*

“Illuminating. ... One of the most original and provocative studies of al-Ghazali yet to have been produced by a Muslim.”—*The Muslim News*



What Is a Madrasa?

by Ebrahim Moosa

Publication date: August 1, 2019

304 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 16 halftones, notes, bibl., index, 24 sidebars

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Bengali, Chaitanya Prokashon
- Turkish, IZU / Sabahattin Zaim University
- English co-publication in South Asia, Dev Publishers
- English co-publication in the UK, Edinburgh University Press

What a madrasa is—and what it is not

Taking us inside the world of the madrasa—the most common type of school for religious instruction in the Islamic world—Ebrahim Moosa provides an indispensable resource for anyone seeking to understand orthodox Islam in global affairs. Focusing on postsecondary-level religious institutions in the Indo-Pakistan heartlands, Moosa explains how a madrasa can simultaneously be a place of learning revered by many and an institution feared by many others, especially in a post-9/11 world.

Drawing on his own years as a madrasa student in India, Moosa describes in fascinating detail the daily routine for teachers and students today. He shows how classical theological, legal, and Qur’anic texts are taught, and he illuminates the history of ideas and politics behind the madrasa system. Addressing the contemporary political scene in a clear-eyed manner, Moosa introduces us to madrasa leaders who hold diverse and conflicting perspectives on the place of religion in society. Some admit that they face intractable problems and challenges, including militancy; others, Moosa says, hide their heads in the sand and fail to address the crucial issues of the day. Offering practical suggestions to both madrasa leaders and U.S. policymakers for reform and understanding, Moosa demonstrates how madrasas today still embody the highest aspirations and deeply felt needs of traditional Muslims.

Ebrahim Moosa is Mirza Family Professor in Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies at the University of Notre Dame.

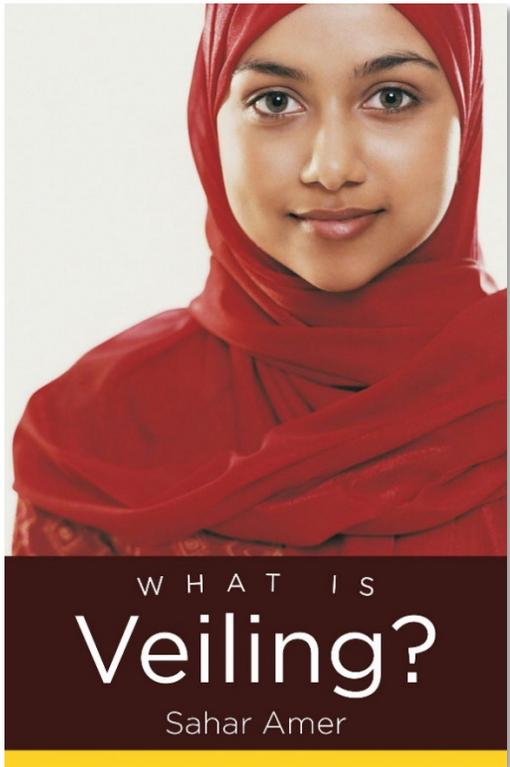
Praise & reviews

“A useful introduction to madrasas in India and Pakistan and contributes a South Asian perspective to the rich scholarship on Islamic education.”—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

“Riveting. ... A nuanced and richly textured account of the place and importance of Madrasas in Islam both historically and in the contemporary moment.”—*New Books in Islamic Studies*

“A captivating journey. ... Brilliantly elucidates the madrasa curriculum.”
—*Journal of the Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamicate World*

“This splendid book is a wonderful primer on the world and culture of the madrasa. Given the importance of madrasas to American political interests in the Muslim world, I cannot imagine a more timely book. Ebrahim Moosa, with his firsthand knowledge of the madrasa culture in the Indian subcontinent, writes as very few people can about being an insider in a way that is highly accessible to general readers and students who don’t know about madrasas or Islam. Extraordinary.”—Amir Hussain, author of *Oil and Water: Two Faiths, One God*



What Is Veiling?

by Sahar Amer

Publication date: February 1, 2017

256 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 24 halftones, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English Audio, Audible
- South Asia co-publication, Dev Publishers
- English co-publication in the UK, Edinburgh University Press
- Previously published in Arabic

A complete and concise introduction to one of Islam's least understood practices

Ranging from simple head scarf to full-body burqa, the veil is worn by vast numbers of Muslim women around the world. *What Is Veiling?* explains one of the most visible, controversial, and least understood emblems of Islam. Sahar Amer's evenhanded approach is anchored in sharp cultural insight and rich historical context. Addressing the significance of veiling in the religious, cultural, political, and social lives of Muslims, past and present, she examines the complex roles the

practice has played in history, religion, conservative and progressive perspectives, politics and regionalism, society and economics, feminism, fashion, and art.

By highlighting the multiple meanings of veiling, the book decisively shows that the realities of the practice cannot be homogenized or oversimplified and extend well beyond the religious and political accounts that are overwhelmingly proclaimed both inside and outside Muslim-majority societies. Neither defending nor criticizing the practice, *What Is Veiling?* clarifies the voices of Muslim women who struggle to be heard and who, veiled or not, demand the right to live spiritual, personal, and public lives in dignity.

Sahar Amer is professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at the University of Sydney.

Praise & reviews

“Veiling is a difficult but timely and important topic. Sahar Amer explains that Muslims didn't invent the veil, not all Muslims veil the same way, and ideas about Muslim veiling have served and continue to serve political and polemical purposes. A vivid resource for general readers as well as students in courses on Islam and women's studies.”

—Kecia Ali, author of *Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam*

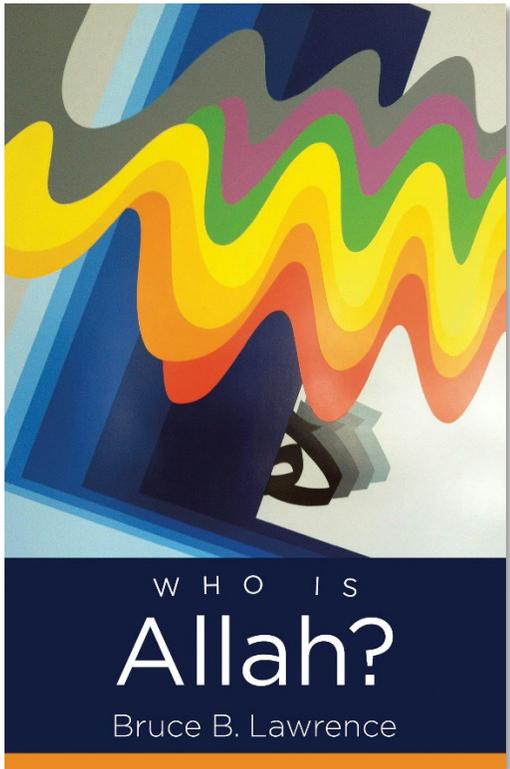
“[Amer] offers perhaps the definitive glossary on veiling. ... Amer's deliberate and caring scholarly treatment is pitch perfect. This book about 'hijabistas,' 'muhajababes,' and veiled Muslim hip-hop artists, among others, is not just about veiling; it is the story of Islam, especially modern Islam, told through the prism of the veil.”

— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“Nuanced, thoughtful ... Amer weaves a complex picture of the historical, religious, political, and sociological dimensions of Muslim women's head coverings.”—*CHOICE*

“A sweeping historical and sociopolitical overview and perhaps the most comprehensive one on veiling.”

—*Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*



Who Is Allah? by Bruce B. Lawrence

Publication date: August 1, 2019
240 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 13 halftones, notes, bibl., index, 56 sidebars
Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in the UK, Edinburgh University Press
- English co-publication in South Asia, Dev Publishers

A unique introduction to Allah

This vivid introduction to the heart of Islam offers a unique approach to understanding Allah, the central focus of Muslim religious expression. Drawing on history, culture, theology, politics, and the media, Bruce B. Lawrence identifies key religious practices by which Allah is revered and remembered, illuminating how the very name of Allah is interwoven into the everyday experience of millions of Muslims.

For Muslims, as for adherents of other religions, intentions as well as practices are paramount in one's religious life. Lawrence elucidates how public utterances, together with private pursuits, reflect the emotive, sensory, and intellectual aspirations of the devout. Ranging from the

practice of the tongue (speaking) to practices in cyberspace (online religious activities), Lawrence explores how Allah is invoked, defined, remembered, and also debated. While the practice of the heart demonstrates how Allah is remembered in Sufism, the mystical branch of Islam, the practice of the mind examines how theologians and philosophers have defined Allah in numerous contexts, often with conflicting aims. The practice of the ear marks the contemporary period, in which Lawrence locates and then assesses competing calls for jihad, or religious struggle, within the cacophony of an immensely diverse umma, the worldwide Muslim community.

Bruce B. Lawrence, a leading scholar of Islam, is the author or editor of many books, including *The Qur'an: A Biography* and *Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama Bin Laden*. He is Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Professor of the Humanities and Professor of Islamic Studies Emeritus at Duke University.

Praise & reviews

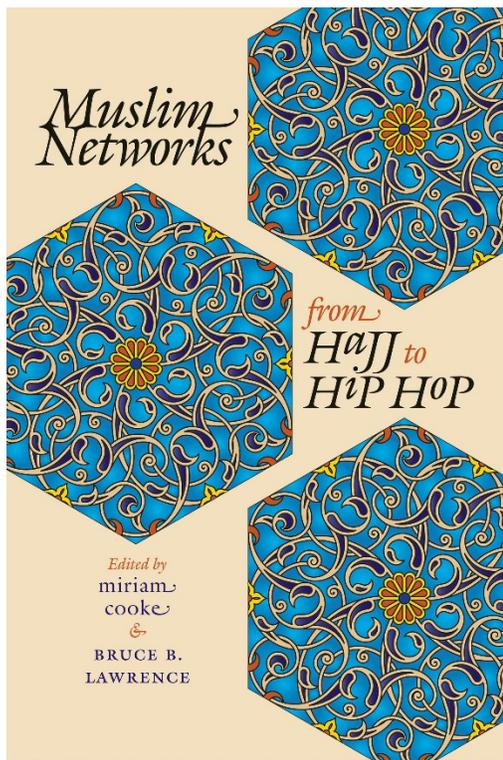
2016 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title

“A very engaging book.”—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

“The value of the book ... is clear and enduring. ... Succeeds beautifully in communicating the simultaneously elusive yet rock-solid liturgical, confessional, and devotional reality of Allah.”

—*Journal of the Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamicate World*

“The anticipation evoked by the title ‘Who Is Allah?’ is divinely gratified by this innovative and engaging approach to hinting at the unknowable. In his masterfully concise book, Bruce B. Lawrence navigates vast epochs of history and traverses a multitude of cultures, weaving threads of traditions and disciplines into a guide for a brief yet intimate encounter with the infinity of the Divine. This labor of love is an eloquent and erudite inquiry that is compassionate yet candid and keenly probing. The mystery of this fast and vast quest for Allah is that it manages to say so much with superb clarity and wit.”—Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, author of *What Is an American Muslim?*



Muslim Networks from Hajj to Hip Hop

Edited by miriam cooke and Bruce B. Lawrence

Publication date: March 7, 2005

344 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 10 illus., 1 fig., notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Previously published in Arabic

Islamic connections across time and space

Crucial to understanding Islam is a recognition of the role of Muslim networks. The earliest networks were Mediterranean trade routes that quickly expanded into transregional paths for pilgrimage, scholarship, and conversion, each network complementing and reinforcing the others. This volume selects major moments and key players from the seventh century to the twenty-first that have defined Muslim networks as the building blocks for Islamic identity and social cohesion.

Although neglected in scholarship, Muslim networks have been invoked in the media to portray post-9/11 terrorist groups. Here, thirteen essays provide a long view of Muslim networks, correcting both scholarly

omission and political sloganeering. New faces and forces appear, raising questions never before asked. What does the fourteenth-century North African traveler Ibn Battuta have in common with the American hip hopper Mos Def? What values and practices link Muslim women meeting in Cairo, Amsterdam, and Atlanta? How has technology raised expectations about new transnational pathways that will reshape the perception of faith, politics, and gender in Islamic civilization?

This book invokes the past not only to understand the present but also to reimagine the future through the prism of Muslim networks, at once the shadow and the lifeline for the *umma*, or global Muslim community.

miriam cooke, professor of Arabic literature at Duke University, is author of *Women Claim Islam: Creating Islamic Feminism through Literature* and the novel *Hayati, My Life*. **Bruce B. Lawrence** is Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Humanities Professor and professor of Islamic studies at Duke University. He is author of *New Faiths, Old Fears: Muslims and Other Asian Immigrants in American Religious Life*.

Praise & reviews

2005 Editors' Pick, International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World Review

"A fascinating read and will inform as much as it generates discussion, both within and outside the classroom."

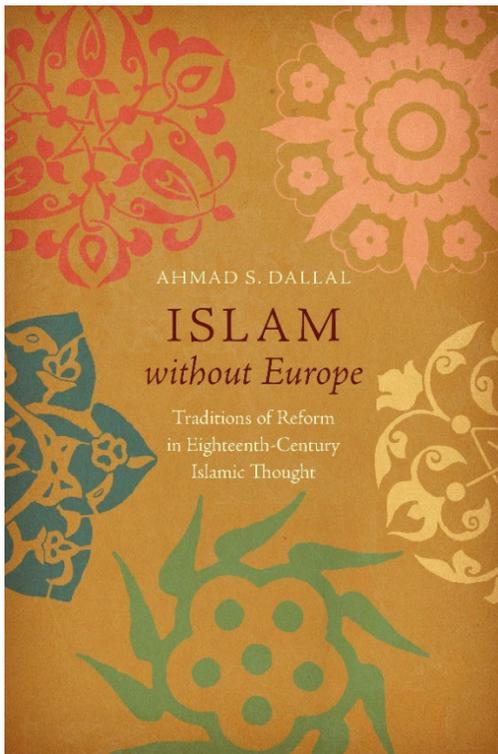
—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

"The articles in this book make the most important point that not only in premodern times was the Islamic world profoundly interconnected but that connections of this kind have persisted and have remained of the utmost significance into the contemporary era. It is a point that should inform all modern policy considerations."

—Francis Robinson, Royal Holloway, University of London

"miriam cooke and Bruce Lawrence have succeeded in organizing and leading a scholarly assessment of the social context of formation and dynamics of Muslim networks in a historical perspective full of contemporary relevance. This is indispensable material for understanding the cultural and religious dynamics of our interdependent world."

—Manuel Castells, University of Southern California



Islam without Europe *Traditions of Reform in Eighteenth-Century Islamic Thought*

by Ahmad S. Dallal

Publication date: June 4, 2018

440 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, notes, index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Albanian, Logos-A
- Arabic, Nohoudh
- Turkish, Kure Yayinlari

Widespread Islamic reform movements, interrupted

Replete with a cast of giants in Islamic thought and philosophy, Ahmad S. Dallal's pathbreaking intellectual history of the eighteenth-century Muslim world challenges stale views of this period as one of decline, stagnation, and the engendering of a widespread fundamentalism. Far from being moribund, Dallal argues, the eighteenth century—prior to systematic European encounters—was one of the most fertile eras in Islamic thought.

Across vast Islamic territories, Dallal charts in rich detail not only how intellectuals rethought and reorganized religious knowledge but also the reception and impact of their ideas. From the banks of the Ganges to the shores of the Atlantic, commoners and elites alike embraced the appeals of Muslim thinkers who, while preserving classical styles of learning, advocated for general participation by Muslims in the definition of Islam. Dallal also uncovers the regional origins of most reform projects, showing how ideologies were forged in particular sociopolitical contexts. Reformists' ventures were in large part successful—up until the beginnings of European colonization of the Muslim world. By the nineteenth century, the encounter with Europe changed Islamic discursive culture in significant ways into one that was largely articulated in reaction to the radical challenges of colonialism.

Ahmad S. Dallal is dean of Georgetown University Qatar and author of *Islam, Science, and the Challenge of History*.

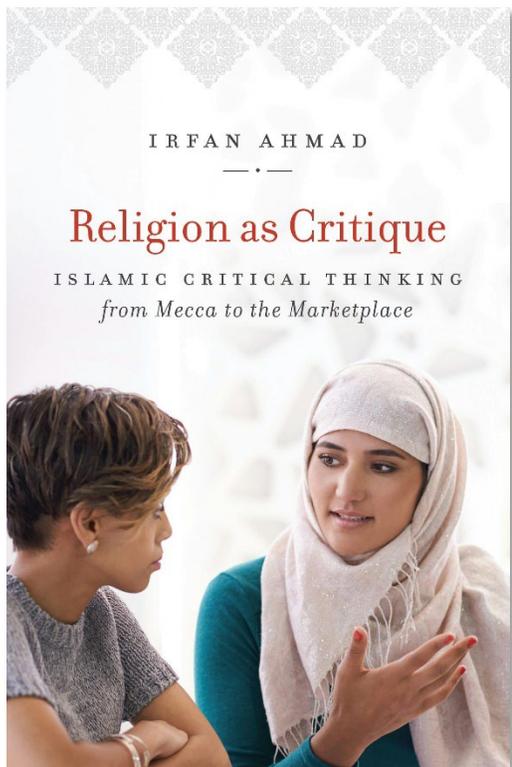
Praise & reviews

“Dallal’s reading of influential eighteenth-century reformers is learned, accessible, and evocative, and it provides a remarkably illuminating vantage from which to understand the significance of a complex epoch. A superb study.”
—Muhammad Qasim Zaman, author of *Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age*

“A bold and carefully crafted argument showcasing the intellectual originality of significant eighteenth-century Muslim figures in the realm of religious knowledge in multiple regions of the world. Dallal sheds light on a long-standing debate on the role of Islamic reform before the political and cultural encounter with Europe in Muslim lands. A refreshing contribution to the intellectual history and historiography of Islam at the dawn of Western modernity in Muslim domains.”
—Ebrahim Moosa, author of *What Is a Madrasa?*

“Groundbreaking. ... Offers convincing evidence that the eighteenth century contained interesting, original intellectual contributions.”—*Nazariyat*

“A thoughtful and stimulating book, based on wide reading in the works of a number of important eighteenth-century thinkers.”—*Journal of the American Oriental Society*



Religion as Critique

Islamic Critical Thinking from Mecca to the Marketplace

by Irfan Ahmad

Publication date: December 4, 2017

300 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 5 halftones, 1 table, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Arabic, Doha Institute
- English co-publication in South Asia, Oxford University Press India

Consequential critical thinking from within religious traditions

Irfan Ahmad makes the far-reaching argument that potent systems and modes for self-critique as well as critique of others are inherent in Islam—indeed, critique is integral to its fundamental tenets and practices. Challenging common views of Islam as hostile to critical thinking, Ahmad delineates thriving traditions of critique in Islamic culture, focusing in large part on South Asian traditions. Ahmad interrogates Greek and Enlightenment notions of reason and critique, and he notes how they are invoked in relation to “others,” including Muslims. Drafting an alternative

genealogy of critique in Islam, Ahmad reads religious teachings and texts, drawing on sources in Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, and English, and demonstrates how they serve as expressions of critique. Throughout, he depicts Islam as an agent, not an object, of critique.

On a broader level, Ahmad expands the idea of critique itself. Drawing on his fieldwork among marketplace hawkers in Delhi and Aligarh, he construes critique anthropologically as a sociocultural activity in the everyday lives of ordinary Muslims, beyond the world of intellectuals. *Religion as Critique* allows space for new theoretical considerations of modernity and change, taking on such salient issues as nationhood, women’s equality, the state, culture, democracy, and secularism.

Irfan Ahmad, an anthropologist and senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Studies in Göttingen, Germany, is the author of *Islamism and Democracy in India*.

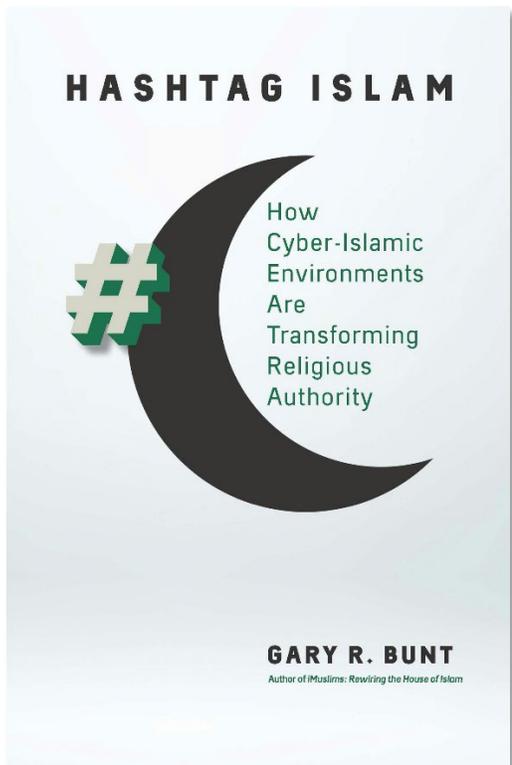
Praise & reviews

“The book is written in a passionate and engaging style and can easily persuade the reader to finish it at a sitting as its vocabulary is rich and varied and its rhetoric well-crafted, illustrated with poetry, proverbs and personal anecdotes. ... This book is at once a challenging and exciting work.”—*Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*

“Ahmad writes as both a philosopher and an anthropologist. ... What Ahmad does in assessing Abdul Ghaffar Khan is nothing short of revisionism at its most extreme, and daring, pinnacle. ... Irfan Ahmad deserves the acclaim that ... Khan has been denied, but may now regain, in part thanks to this lucid, imaginative analysis of his life, his movement, and his legacy.”—*Critical Research on Religion*

“Offers an interesting opposition to the West-and-the-rest narratives of an European Enlightenment radiating outwards from Greece and Germany into the backward corners of a darker world.”—*Al Jazeera*

“Expands the idea of critique itself. [Ahmad] offers new theoretical considerations of modernity and change, taking on such salient issues as nationhood, women’s equality, the state, culture, democracy and secularism.”—*Islamic Horizons*



Hashtag Islam

How Cyber-Islamic Environments Are Transforming Religious Authority

by Gary R. Bunt

Publication date: October 8, 2018

232 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 13 halftones, notes, index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Turkish, ADAB Yayinlari
- English co-publication in South Asia, Pentagon Press

Religious authority in a rapidly changing cyber-Islamic world

Gary R. Bunt is a twenty-year pioneer in the study of cyber-Islamic environments (CIEs). In his new book, Bunt explores the diverse and surprising ways digital technology is shaping how Muslims across vast territories relate to religious authorities in fulfilling spiritual, mystical, and legalistic agendas. From social networks to websites, essential elements of religious practices and authority now have representation online. Muslims, embracing the immediacy and general accessibility of the internet, are increasingly turning to cyberspace for advice and answers to important

religious questions. Online environments often challenge traditional models of authority, however. One result is the rise of digitally literate religious scholars and authorities whose influence and impact go beyond traditional boundaries of imams, mullahs, and shaikhs.

Bunt shows how online rhetoric and social media are being used to articulate religious faith by many different kinds of Muslim organizations and individuals, from Muslim comedians and women's rights advocates to jihad-oriented groups, such as the "Islamic State" and al-Qaeda, which now clearly rely on strategic digital media policies to augment and justify their authority and draw recruits. This book makes clear that understanding CIEs is crucial for the holistic interpretation of authority in contemporary Islam.

Gary R. Bunt is professor of Islamic studies at University of Wales, Trinity Saint David. His most recent book is *iMuslims*.

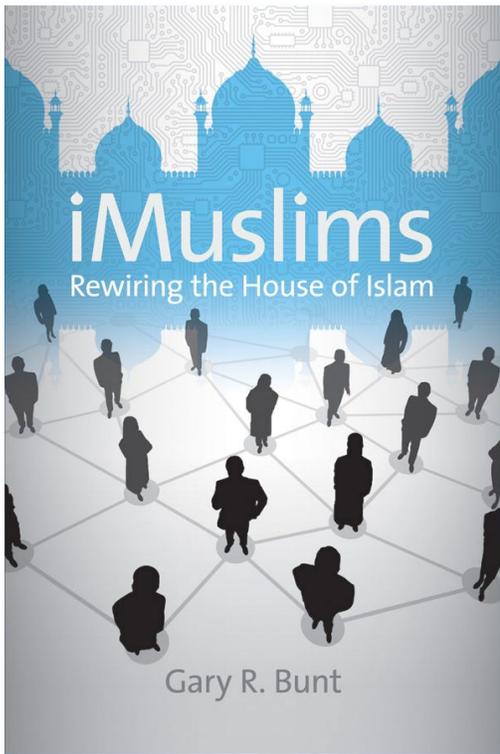
Praise & reviews

"*Hashtag Islam*—the newest work by one of the pioneers in reporting on Islam in cyberspace—reflects an incredible range of views and counterviews and provides a valuable corrective to the tendency to focus on the negative and political uses of the internet and social media by jihadists without due consideration of the more everyday uses by all kinds of Muslims."—Daniel Varisco, Qatar University

"This slim volume by one of the major scholars writing on Muslims and digital religion packs a substantial punch. ... An important addition."—*Middle East Journal*

"Readers of *Hashtag Islam* will be struck by just how active, vibrant, and popular online Islam appears to be. ... An indispensable resource."—*Sociology of Religion*

"*Hashtag Islam* provides an extensive and elaborate guided tour of recent CIEs' developments. ... A real tour de force."—*Studies in Religion*



iMuslims

Rewiring the House of Islam

by Gary R. Bunt

Publication date: April 30, 2009

374 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 26 illus., 1 table, notes, index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Previously published in Arabic

The Internet, community, and global Islam

Exploring the increasing impact of the Internet on Muslims around the world, this book sheds new light on the nature of contemporary Islamic discourse, identity, and community.

The Internet has profoundly shaped how both Muslims and non-Muslims perceive Islam and how Islamic societies and networks are evolving and shifting in the twenty-first century, says Gary Bunt. While Islamic society has deep historical patterns of global exchange, the Internet has transformed how many Muslims practice the duties and rituals of Islam. A place of religious instruction may exist solely in the virtual world, for

example, or a community may gather only online. Drawing on more than a decade of online research, Bunt shows how social-networking sites, blogs, and other “cyber-Islamic environments” have exposed Muslims to new influences outside the traditional spheres of Islamic knowledge and authority. Furthermore, the Internet has dramatically influenced forms of Islamic activism and radicalization, including jihad-oriented campaigns by networks such as al-Qaeda.

By surveying the broad spectrum of approaches used to present dimensions of Islamic social, spiritual, and political life on the Internet, *iMuslims* encourages diverse understandings of online Islam and of Islam generally.

Gary R. Bunt is professor of Islamic studies at the University of Wales. He is author of *Virtually Islamic* and *Islam in the Digital Age*.

Praise & reviews

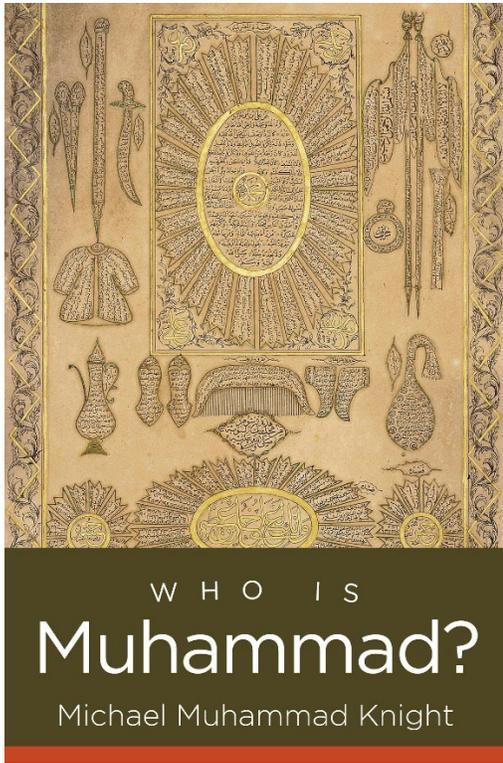
“Bunt’s perceptive study concludes that the Islamic ‘brotherhood’ is evolving into parallel brotherhoods. The net is a marketplace ... in which there are many traders. And none has the monopoly on God’s message to humankind.”

—*Times Literary Supplement*

“For young super-surfers, as well as for practitioners in a growing field, [*iMuslims*] will be a valuable addition to the literature.”—*Journal of Islamic Studies*

“With its thematic approach and array of examples, *iMuslims: Rewiring the House of Islam* offers an unmatched portrait of the myriad manifestations of digital Islam. ... With its broad scope and accessible style, it is well suited for use in both undergraduate and graduate courses on Islam. The book will also appeal to a wide audience interested in media studies, the anthropology of religion, and the dynamism of the 21st century Muslim world.”—*Middle East Journal*

“Takes the reader on a gradual, sequential, and smooth ride of the complicated world of online Islam with all of its nuances and intricacies. ... An interesting, easy-to-digest book that is a must-read for basic an advanced courses in religious studies, digital media, and international communication. It can also be a useful guide for those interested in learning more about the fascinating world of online Islam.”—*The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*



Who Is Muhammad? by Michael Muhammad Knight

Publication date: November 7, 2023
198 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, notes, bibl., index
Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

A fresh, concise introduction to one of the most significant figures in global religious history

Combining insights from the best published historical and religious studies scholarship, original research, and rich first-person perspective, this highly readable book offers a comprehensive yet concise introduction to the founder and central figure of the Islamic tradition: the prophet Muhammad. Narrating Muhammad's life story, teachings, and daily practices, and assessing how his legacy is received, interpreted, and applied around the world, Michael Muhammad Knight reveals how the prophet has become simultaneously one of the most beloved historical figures in the world and also one of the most contested, challenged, and disparaged.

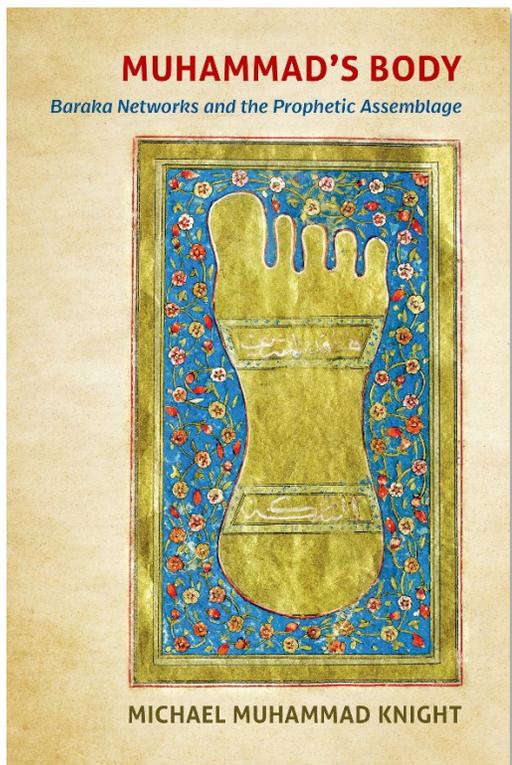
Knight argues that there was never a singular Muslim vision of Muhammad but rather always multiple perspectives. While Muslims defend Muhammad's legacy against Islamophobic polemics, they also challenge each other regarding the proper authorities through which Muhammad's life and message become comprehensible and applicable in our world. Thinking across time and place, Knight argues that Muhammad is always contextual and contemporary.

Michael Muhammad Knight is assistant professor of religion and cultural studies at the University of Central Florida and the author of seventeen books, including *Muhammad's Body: Baraka Networks and the Prophetic Assemblage*.

Praise & reviews

“Combining excellent scholarship with a creative, narrative-driven style, Michael Knight presents a skillfully balanced understanding of Muhammad as a stable historical figure and as a changing persona and symbol. Knight writes as an insider to the study and practice of Islam but also maintains an outside perspective to the approaches and methods of both. The book will be valuable for scholars of religion and for general readers interested in a major historical figure like Muhammad.”—Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst, University of Vermont

“If someone asks you for a concise, lively, and smart introduction to the Prophet Muhammad, this is the book you must recommend. Michael Knight has achieved something extraordinary by digesting and analyzing not only the religious and secular literature about the Prophet himself but also how Muslims have interpreted, experienced, and loved their Messenger.”—Edward E. Curtis IV, Plater Chair of the Liberal Arts, Indiana University, Indianapolis



Muhammad's Body

Baraka Networks and the Prophetic Assemblage

by Michael Muhammad Knight

Publication date: September 28, 2020
 214 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, notes, bibl., index
 Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Arabic, Dar Maysaloon

Texts that shape a prophetic body into a conduit of authority

Muhammad's Body introduces questions of embodiment and materiality to the study of the Prophet Muhammad. Analyzing classical Muslim literary representations of Muhammad's body as they emerge in Sunni hadith and *sira* from the eighth through the eleventh centuries CE, Michael Muhammad Knight argues that early Muslims' theories and imaginings about Muhammad's body contributed in significant ways to the construction of prophetic masculinity and authority.

Knight approaches hadith and *sira* as important religiocultural and literary phenomena in their own right. In rich detail, he lays out the variety of

ways that early believers imagined Muhammad's relationship to beneficent energy—baraka—and to its boundaries, effects, and limits. Drawing on insights from contemporary theory about the body, Knight shows how changing representations of the Prophet's body helped to legitimize certain types of people or individuals as religious authorities, while marginalizing or delegitimizing others. For some Sunni Muslims, Knight concludes, claims of religious authority today remain connected to ideas about Muhammad's body.

Michael Muhammad Knight is assistant professor of religion and cultural studies at the University of Central Florida and the author of several books, including *Muhammad: Forty Introductions*.

Praise & reviews

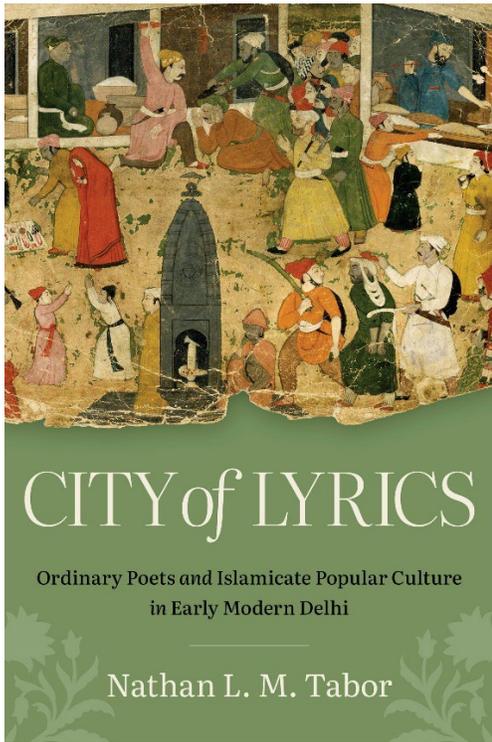
“This groundbreaking, theoretically sophisticated book eloquently demonstrates the potential of applying theory to the study of hadiths. It will be sought after for teaching in Islamic studies and religious studies as well as gender studies.”
 —Aisha Geissinger, Carleton University

“Michael Knight presents the reader with a picture of the Prophet Muhammad as a boundary-breaking body that manages flows of baraka, or blessing, through its corporeal connection to other bodies. Engaging issues that are in hot debate—the status of hadith reports and proper methods of interpretation, gender and sexuality, and power hierarchies in Islamic culture—this is a vigorous and powerful book.”—Scott Kugle, Emory University

“[Knight] takes the reader on a well-researched and impeccably sourced journey. ... *Muhammad's Body* give[s] readers a deeper understanding of the complexity of Islam in particular, and religious belief in general.”—*Qantara.de*

“A much-needed advance. ... This richly researched and theoretically robust work adds significantly to scholarly understandings of how Muhammad came to hold a diverse array of meanings for Muslims throughout the whole course of Islamic history.”—*Journal of Religious History*

“Thought-provoking and compelling. ... The book is unusually successful in speaking to audiences across conventional divides of academic level, scholarly discipline, and religious commitment. Knight writes unusually well, displaying a light touch and a gift for the memorable phrase.”—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*



City of Lyrics

Ordinary Poets and Islamicate Popular Culture in Early Modern Delhi

by Nathan L. M. Tabor

Publication date: October 7, 2025

354 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 4 halftones, 1 map, 2 tables, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Sanctum Books

Chronicling the origins of a global poetry phenomenon

For centuries, Urdu-speaking poets and their audiences have gathered for *mushā'irahs*, literary competitions for spoken-word verse. Today the *mushā'irah* is a global phenomenon, as audiences in the millions convene in person and online for hours of poetic performance. Tracing these modern gatherings back to their origins, Nathan L. M. Tabor introduces readers to the popular emergence of the *mushā'irah* in eighteenth-century Delhi. Scores of poets composed two-line lyric poems, called *ghazals*, that they muttered, sang, shouted, and spat out in contentious salon spaces across

India's largest metropolis. Delhi's *mushā'irahs* circulated lyrics, satires, and songs for both common and elite poets, who traded and assessed words as an urban commodity that defined hierarchy, taste, and notions of delight.

Via poets' verse exchanges and their histories of Delhi's literary scene, *City of Lyrics* reconstructs the social networks the *mushā'irahs* produced. By understanding the roots of this uniquely Islamic literary practice, readers will gain insight into global popular culture today, which increasingly takes shape according to the tastes and values of the Muslim world yet is enjoyed by wide audiences of Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Nathan L. M. Tabor is assistant professor of history at Western Michigan University.

Praise & Reviews

"There's a party going on between these book covers, teeming with distinguished, cheeky, and ribald poets. This age of Persian/Urdu poetic history has never been narrated with such clarity and liveliness."

—Pasha M. Khan, chair in Urdu language and culture at McGill University

"This lively book captures the emotional vigor of Urdu poetry and offers a very persuasive argument about the breadth of literary networks across the Persianate world."—Purnima Dhavan, University of Washington

"This magnificent tell-all of Delhi's tumultuous poetry scene presents the best picture yet of how literature shaped everyday life in late Mughal India, all while leaving readers crying with laughter."

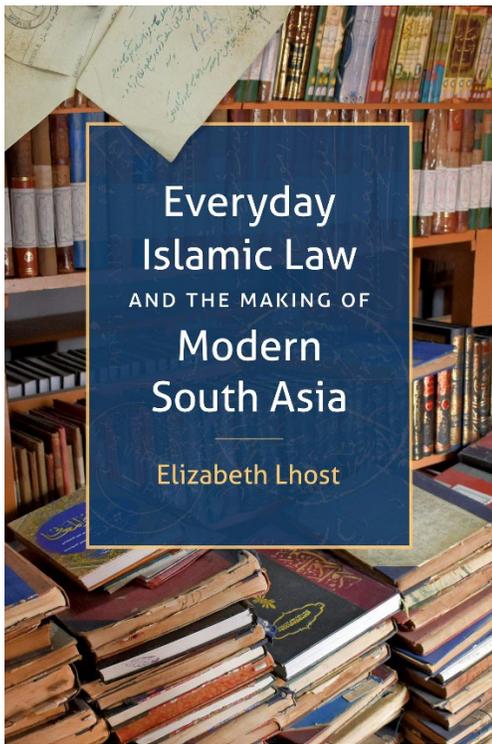
—Daniel Majchrowicz, Northwestern University

"*City of Lyrics* traces the history of Urdu *mushā'irahs* in eighteenth-century Delhi. It effectively demonstrates—through careful reading of surviving texts and keen attention to the role of performance—the emotive power of spoken (and heard) poetry during this period and the political and cultural authority it wielded and continues to wield in the region."

—Isabel Huacuja Alonso, author of *Radio for the Millions: Hindi-Urdu Broadcasting Across Borders*

"This book unlocks the secrets of Delhi, one of the world's most beautiful and enigmatic cities. Through the magical key of poetry gatherings (*mushā'irahs*), Nathan Tabor reveals the city's hidden splendors and illustrious treasures."

—Afsar Mohammad, author of *Remaking History: 1948 Police Action and the Muslims of Hyderabad*



Everyday Islamic Law and the Making of Modern South Asia

by Elizabeth Lhost

Publication date: July 12, 2022

376 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 12 halftones, 4 maps, 1 table

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Sanctum Books

Through letters, postcards, and telegrams, Islamic law found new forums

Beginning in the late eighteenth century, British rule transformed the relationship between law, society, and the state in South Asia. But qazis and muftis, alongside ordinary people without formal training in law, fought back as the colonial system in India sidelined Islamic legal experts. They petitioned the East India Company for employment, lobbied imperial legislators for recognition, and built robust institutions to serve their communities. By bringing legal debates into the public sphere, they resisted the colonial state's authority over personal law and rejected legal codification by embracing flexibility and possibility. With postcards, letters,

and telegrams, they made everyday Islamic law vibrant and resilient and challenged the hegemony of the Anglo-Indian legal system.

Following these developments from the beginning of the Raj through independence, Elizabeth Lhost rejects narratives of stagnation and decline to show how an unexpected coterie of scholars, practitioners, and ordinary individuals negotiated the contests and challenges of colonial legal change. The rich archive of unpublished fatwa files, qazi notebooks, and legal documents they left behind chronicles their efforts to make Islamic law relevant for everyday life, even beyond colonial courtrooms and the confines of family law. Lhost shows how ordinary Muslims shaped colonial legal life and how their diversity and difference have contributed to contemporary debates about religion, law, pluralism, and democracy in South Asia and beyond.

Elizabeth Lhost is lecturer in history and postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth College.

Praise & reviews

2023 Karwaan Book Award

“A remarkable piece of research. ... Lhost has enabled us to understand much better the relations between Muslim judges and the state in British India. She has also enabled us to understand how ordinary human beings, in particular women, might use the law to better their positions. This is a major work in the history of Muslim South Asia.”

—*Journal of Islamic Studies*

“This innovative and unusual study does yeoman work in capturing the habitual experiences of Muslim jurists, judges, and claimants as they navigated vying—and occasionally overlapping—legal systems.”—*Journal of Church and State*

“A thoroughly researched, well-written, and important examination of how qazis, muftis and ordinary individuals shaped everyday Islamic law in 19th century South Asia, and how their concerted efforts helped maintain a robust presence of Islamic law in various legal fields. ... [A] valuable resource to anyone hoping to learn more about the history of Islamic law under colonial rule.”—*Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law*

“A unique contribution that demonstrates the author's dexterity in Islamic and South Asian studies.”—*Reading Religion*

Realizing Islam

The Tijaniyya in North Africa and the Eighteenth-Century Muslim World

Zachary Valentine Wright



UNC THE UNIVERSITY of PRESS NORTH CAROLINA PRESS

Realizing Islam

The Tijaniyya in North Africa and the Eighteenth-Century Muslim World

by Zachary Valentine Wright

Publication date: October 19, 2020

326 pages, 6 × 9, 1 map

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

An intellectual network that nourished the leading Sufi order in Africa

The Tijaniyya is the largest Sufi order in West and North Africa. In this unprecedented analysis of the Tijaniyya's origins and development in the late eighteenth century, Zachary Valentine Wright situates the order within the broader intellectual history of Islam in the early modern period. Introducing the group's founder, Ahmad al-Tijani (1737–1815), Wright focuses on the wider network in which al-Tijani traveled, revealing it to be a veritable global Islamic revival whose scholars commanded large followings, shared key ideas, and produced literature read widely

throughout the Muslim world. They were linked through chains of knowledge transmission from which emerged vibrant discourses of renewal in the face of perceived social and political corruption.

Wright argues that this constellation of remarkable Muslim intellectuals, despite the uncertainty of the age, promoted personal verification in religious learning. With distinctive concern for the notions of human actualization and a universal human condition, the Tijaniyya emphasized the importance of the realization of Muslim identity. Since its beginnings in North Africa in the eighteenth century, the Tijaniyya has quietly expanded its influence beyond Africa, with significant populations in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and North America.

Zachary Valentine Wright is associate professor in residence at Northwestern University in Qatar.

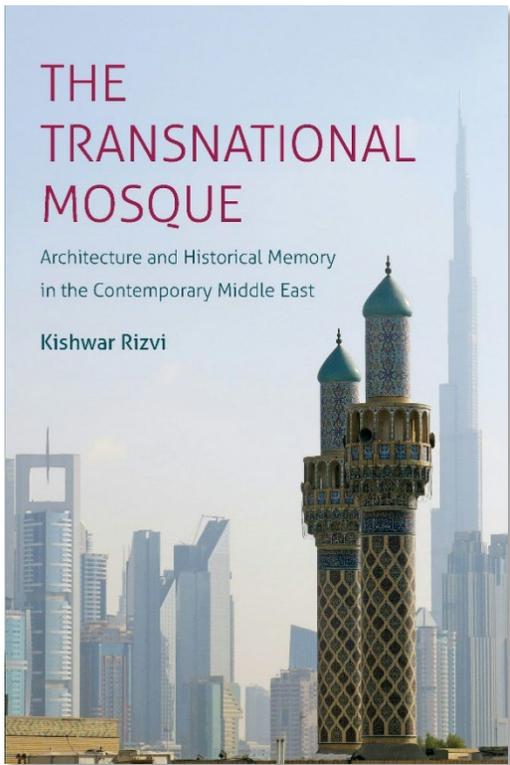
Praise & reviews

“Offering rich and original insights into the religious thought and self-perception of the Tijaniyya Sufi order, this is an outstanding contribution to the academic study of Sufism and eighteenth-century Islamic intellectual history. *Realizing Islam* will set a new standard in the field.”—Rüdiger Seesemann, University of Bayreuth

“One of today's most important and influential Sufi orders and Islamic movements, Tijaniyya Sufism has become a major articulation of global Islam, yet studies about its epistemological foundations are few. This is where *Realizing Islam* comes in: this timely work is highly recommended as an excellent reference on, and introduction to, the Tijaniyya.”—Ousmane Oumar Kane, Harvard Divinity School

“Wright has done an admirable job drawing on a wide array of sources, supporting his conclusions thoroughly with documentary evidence, and frequently acknowledging alternative interpretations and accounts where they exist. *Realizing Islam* will doubtlessly serve as a foundation and model for many future studies of African and Islamic intellectual history.”—*African Studies Review*

“*Realizing Islam* presents a comprehensive introduction to the origins and teachings of the Sufi brotherhood Tijāniyya. ... The book is highly recommended not only for scholars of Sufi and Islamic Studies or religious studies, but also for those interested in the ‘dawn of the modern age’ (180).”—*Reading Religion*



The Transnational Mosque
*Architecture and Historical Memory in the
Contemporary Middle East*
by Kishwar Rizvi

Publication date: February 1, 2020

296 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 25 color plates, 12 drawings, 78 halftones, 5 maps, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

Mosques and the construction of contemporary Muslim identity

Kishwar Rizvi, drawing on the multifaceted history of the Middle East, offers a richly illustrated analysis of the role of transnational mosques in the construction of contemporary Muslim identity. As Rizvi explains, transnational mosques are structures built through the support of both government sponsorship, whether in the home country or abroad, and diverse transnational networks. By concentrating on mosques—especially those built at the turn of the twenty-first century—as the epitome of Islamic architecture, Rizvi elucidates their significance as sites for both the

validation of religious praxis and the construction of national and religious ideologies.

Rizvi delineates the transnational religious, political, economic, and architectural networks supporting mosques in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as in countries within their spheres of influence, such as Pakistan, Syria, and Turkmenistan. She discerns how the buildings feature architectural designs that traverse geographic and temporal distances, gesturing to far-flung places and times for inspiration. Digging deeper, however, Rizvi reveals significant diversity among the mosques—whether in a Wahabi-Sunni kingdom, a Shi'i theocratic government, or a republic balancing secularism and moderate Islam—that repudiates representations of Islam as a monolith. Mosques reveal alliances and contests for influence among multinational corporations, nations, and communities of belief, Rizvi shows, and her work demonstrates how the built environment is a critical resource for understanding culture and politics in the contemporary Middle East and the Islamic world.

Kishwar Rizvi is an architect and professor of Islamic art and architectural history at Yale University. She is the author of *The Safavid Dynastic Shrine: Architecture, Religion and Power in Early Modern Iran* and *Modernism and the Middle East: Architecture and Politics in the Twentieth Century*.

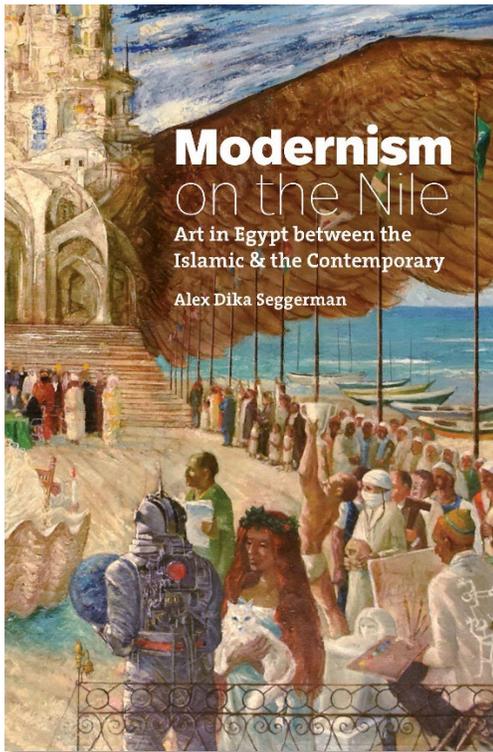
Praise & reviews

Gustav Ranis International Book Prize, Whitney & Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale
2016 Outstanding Academic Title, CHOICE
Charles Rufus Morey Book Award, College Art Association

“*The Transnational Mosque* represents an extremely timely return to the study of religious architecture as part of our contemporary cultural landscape. It provides a well-researched and articulate narration of architectural projects that exceed national borders, grounded in remarkably cogent summaries of local politics and histories.”

—*Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*

“An excellent study with no rivals. ... Useful for anyone interested in Islam in the contemporary world, art and architectural history, and questions of globalization.”—Jamal J. Elias, University of Pennsylvania



Modernism on the Nile

Art in Egypt between the Islamic and the Contemporary
by Alex Dika Seggerman

Publication date: September 30, 2019

296 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 24 color plates, 74 halftones, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in UK, Europe, and Middle East, American University of Cairo Press

Repositioning Egyptian modernism

Analyzing the modernist art movement that arose in Cairo and Alexandria from the late nineteenth century through the 1960s, Alex Dika Seggerman reveals how the visual arts were part of a multifaceted transnational modernism. While the work of diverse, major Egyptian artists during this era may have appeared to be secular, she argues, it reflected the subtle but essential inflection of Islam, as a faith, history, and lived experience, in the overarching development of Middle Eastern modernity.

Challenging typical views of modernism in art history as solely Euro-American, and expanding the conventional periodization of Islamic art history, Seggerman theorizes a “constellational modernism” for the emerging field of global modernism. Rather than seeing modernism in a generalized, hyperconnected network, she finds that art and artists circulated in distinct constellations that encompassed finite local and transnational relations. Such constellations, which could engage visual systems both along and beyond the Nile, from Los Angeles to Delhi, were materialized in visual culture that ranged from oil paintings and sculpture to photography and prints. Based on extensive research in Egypt, Europe, and the United States, this richly illustrated book poses a compelling argument for the importance of Muslim networks to global modernism.

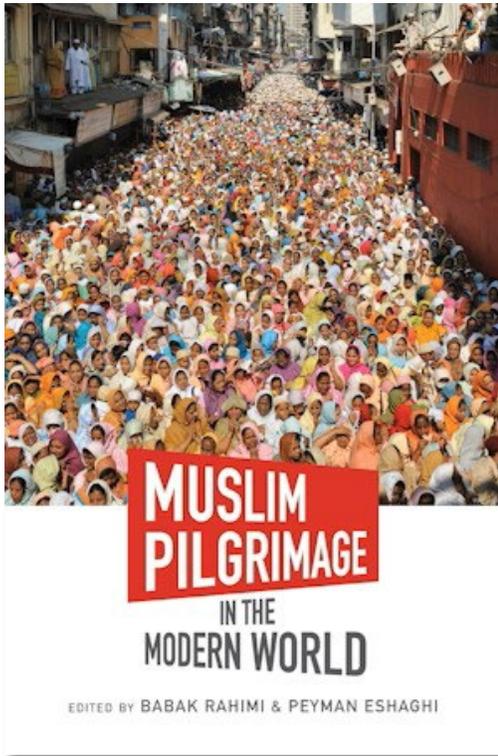
Alex Dika Seggerman is assistant professor of Islamic art history at Rutgers University–Newark.

Praise & reviews

“From the crucial final two decades of the nineteenth century, when Egyptian artists were responding to the ambience of colonialism, to the late 1960s, when they were part of the ferment around assertions of both artistic and national sovereignty, *Modernism on the Nile* takes the history of modern art outside long-outdated traditions of time and territory. Crossing postcolonial, global, and transnational lines, the book aims to shift these theoretical frameworks in order to tell a story of art that is solidly anchored in Egyptian histories even as it proposes a universal grappling with the experience of visualizing modernity.”—Talinn Grigor, author of *Contemporary Iranian Art: From the Street to the Studio*

“This is an exciting time to be working on global modern art, and Alex Seggerman’s insightful readings of seminal artists demonstrate that modern art in a major Arab region emerges from genealogies that are neither purely Arab nor exclusively Western but in a complex negotiation with these as well as with other historical and transnational formations.”
—Iftikhar Dadi, author of *Modernism and the Art of Muslim South Asia*

“Seggerman argues that there is a ‘constellational modernism’ for the emerging field of global modernism. Her illustrated book presents a compelling argument for the importance of Muslim networks to global modernism.”—*Islamic Horizons*



Muslim Pilgrimage in the Modern World

Edited by Babak Rahimi and Peyman Eshaghi

Publication date: June 10, 2019

292 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 8 halftones, 1 map, 5 graphs, 5 tables

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

Exploring a key Islamic ritual in diverse localities

Pilgrimage is one of the most significant ritual duties for Muslims, entailing the visitation and veneration of sites associated with the Prophet Muhammad or saintly figures. As demonstrated in this multidisciplinary volume, the lived religion of pilgrimage, defined by embodied devotional practices, is changing in an age characterized by commerce, technology, and new sociocultural and political frameworks. Traveling to and far beyond the Hajj, the most well-known Muslim pilgrimage, the volume's contributors reveal and analyze emerging contemporary Islamic pilgrimage practices around the world, in minority- and majority-Muslim countries as well as in urban and rural settings. What was once a tiny religious attraction in a remote village, for example, may begin to draw increasing

numbers of pilgrims to shrines and tombs as the result of new means of travel, thus triggering significant changes in the traditional rituals, and livelihoods, of the local people. Organized around three key themes—history and politics; embodiment, memory, and material religion; and communications—the book reveals how rituals, practices, and institutions are experienced in the context of an inexorable global capitalism.

The volume contributors are Sophia Rose Arjana, Rose Aslan, Robert R. Bianchi, Omar Kasmani, Azim Malikov, Lewis Mayo, Julian Millie, Reza Masoudi Nejad, Paulo G. Pinto, Babak Rahimi, Emilio Spadola, Edith Szanto, and Brannon Wheeler.

Babak Rahimi is director of the Program for the Study of Religion and associate professor of communication, culture, and religion at the University of California San Diego. **Peyman Eshaghi** is a doctoral student in anthropology and sociology of religion at the University of Chicago.

Praise & reviews

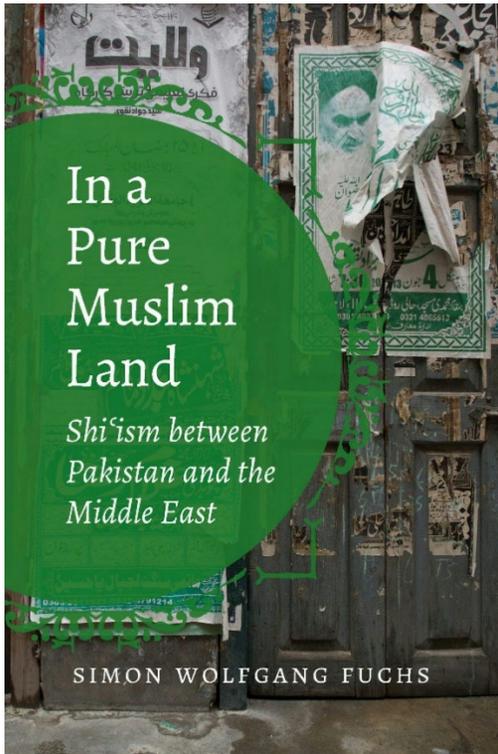
“Featuring an innovative focus on the notion of ‘embodiment,’ this multidisciplinary volume’s attention to non-Hajj pilgrimage and the aesthetic and material cultures of pilgrimage—as well as to race, gender, class, and nationality—meshes well with issues that pervade the contemporary practices of Muslim pilgrimage. With its coverage of Muslims outside of the wide swath of lands that are traditionally the focus of scholarship on Islam, this book provides a nice glimpse into today’s landscapes where pilgrimage is a daily, normal part of life for many citizens.”

—Eric Tagliacozzo, Cornell University

“This thematically organized volume on Muslim practices of religiously substantiated travel goes both far beyond mere descriptions—and far beyond the Hajj. A substantial contribution to a number of fields in the study of Islam.”

—Jan-Peter Hartung, University of Goettingen

“A serious and theoretically informed set of studies that should constitute the basic starting point of any study on Muslim pilgrimage. At the very least, one can envisage setting the editors’ introduction profitably to a class of students to introduce them to the topic.”—*Muslim World Book Review*



In a Pure Muslim Land

Shi'ism between Pakistan and the Middle East

by Simon Wolfgang Fuchs

Publication date: April 22, 2019

376 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 5 halftones, 2 maps, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Speaking Tiger Publishing

Local forms of Islam quietly subvert transnational Islamic discourse and politics

Centering Pakistan in a story of transnational Islam stretching from South Asia to the Middle East, Simon Wolfgang Fuchs offers the first in-depth ethnographic history of the intellectual production of Shi'is and their religious competitors in this “Land of the Pure.” The notion of Pakistan as the pinnacle of modern global Muslim aspiration forms a crucial component of this story. It has empowered Shi'is, who form about twenty percent of the country's population, to advance alternative conceptions of their religious hierarchy while claiming the support of towering grand ayatollahs in Iran and Iraq.

Fuchs shows how popular Pakistani preachers and scholars have boldly tapped into the esoteric potential of Shi'ism, occupying a creative and at times disruptive role as brokers, translators, and self-confident pioneers of contemporary Islamic thought. They have indigenized the Iranian Revolution and formulated their own ideas for fulfilling the original promise of Pakistan. Challenging typical views of Pakistan as a mere Shi'i backwater, Fuchs argues that its complex religious landscape represents how a local, South Asian Islam may open up space for new intellectual contributions to global Islam. Yet religious ideology has also turned Pakistan into a deadly battlefield: sectarian groups since the 1980s have been bent on excluding Shi'is as harmful to their own vision of an exemplary Islamic state.

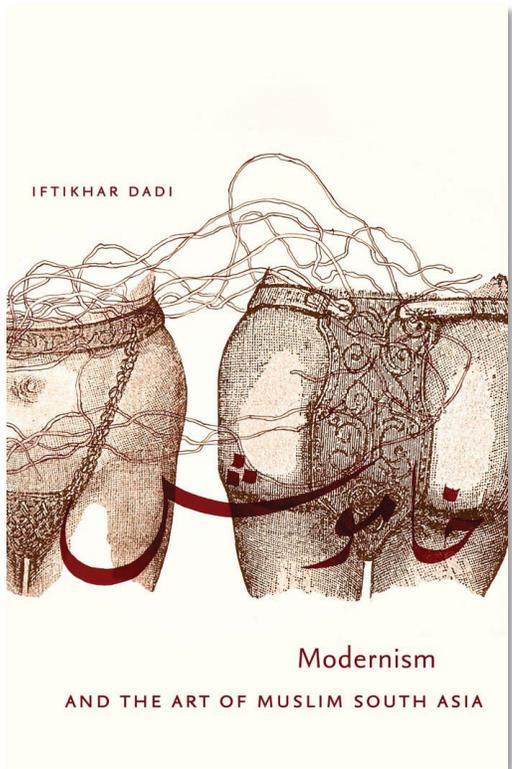
Simon Wolfgang Fuchs is a lecturer in Islamic and Middle East studies at the University of Freiburg, Germany.

Praise & reviews

“While escorting the readers through five well-researched and well-written chapters, the author examines a pertinent question—whether South Asia could be treated as a Shi'i periphery if compared to the Middle East. ... The multi-disciplinary approach, a painstaking consultation of original and secondary sources gathered from different countries, the author's lucid style of argumentation and the attractive cover enhance the academic value of the book across disciplines.”
—*The Telegraph*

“Simon Fuchs's *In a Pure Muslim Land* displays a wealthy and important contribution to our understanding of Shi'is in Pakistan, the indigenous 'ulama' and their transnational ties with other centres of Shi'ism in the Middle East.”
—*Journal of the Contemporary Study of Islam*

“The highlight of the book is the fascinating theological and religious spectrum of Shi'a thought and its diverse responsiveness to the evolving sociopolitical realities. ... Fuchs provides the essential background to the key ideas and debates. The untapped archival research is, in itself, a remarkable achievement. In sum, this study is a major contribution to our understanding of the complexity of South Asian Shi'a Islam.”—*Religious Studies Review*



Modernism and the Art of Muslim South Asia by Iftikhar Dadi

Publication date: February 1, 2019

360 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 28 color and 78 illus, notes, bibl., index, glossary
Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

A groundbreaking look at Muslim South Asian art in the context of modernism

This pioneering work traces the emergence of the modern and contemporary art of Muslim South Asia in relation to transnational modernism and in light of the region's intellectual, cultural, and political developments.

Art historian Iftikhar Dadi here explores the art and writings of major artists, men and women, ranging from the late colonial period to the era of independence and beyond. He looks at the stunningly diverse artistic production of key artists associated with Pakistan, including Abdur Rahman Chughtai, Zainul Abedin, Shakir Ali, Zubeida Agha, Sadequain, Rasheed Araeen, and Naiza Khan. Dadi shows how, beginning in the

1920s, these artists addressed the challenges of modernity by translating historical and contemporary intellectual conceptions into their work, reworking traditional approaches to the classical Islamic arts, and engaging the modernist approach towards subjective individuality in artistic expression. In the process, they dramatically reconfigured the visual arts of the region. By the 1930s, these artists had embarked on a sustained engagement with international modernism in a context of dizzying social and political change that included decolonization, the rise of mass media, and developments following the national independence of India and Pakistan in 1947.

Bringing new insights to such concepts as nationalism, modernism, cosmopolitanism, and tradition, Dadi underscores the powerful impact of transnationalism during this period and highlights the artists' growing embrace of modernist and contemporary artistic practice in order to address the challenges of the present era.

Iftikhar Dadi is assistant professor in the Department of History of Art at Cornell University.

Praise & reviews

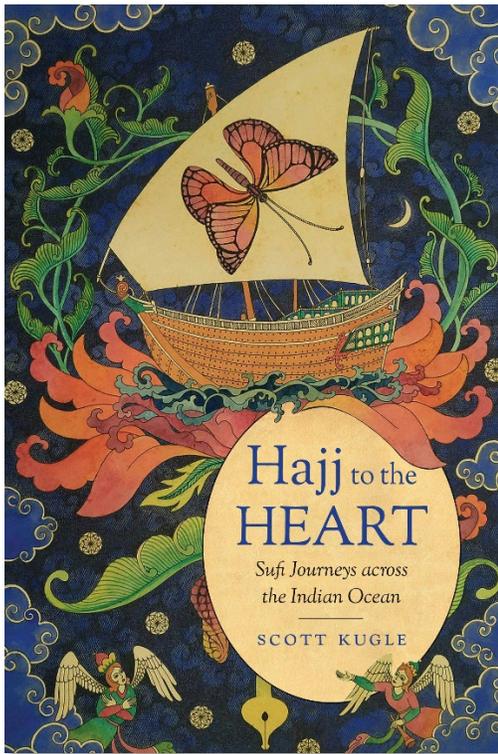
2010 American Institute of Pakistan Studies Junior Book Prize, American Institute of Pakistan Studies

“Dadi’s analysis is complex, impressively documented, and richly illustrated . . . [An] enlightening book that anyone interested in the many varieties of modern Muslim culture should read.”—*Journal of Asian Studies*

“An important contribution to a field of scholarship which is in need of urgent attention. . . . This sensitive, wide-reaching and well-informed account offers significant insights into the nature of modern or avant-garde praxis outside the West.”
—*Modern Art Asia*

“Dadi’s work challenges us to acknowledge the complexities of modernism as a global phenomenon. . . . As much as Dadi’s text provides us with a compelling history of modernism in Pakistan, the questions that he raises have reverberations far beyond the sites he examines.”—*Art Journal*

“The canvas of the book is impressive; Dadi looks at the works of seasoned artists such as Abdur Rahman Chughtai, Rasheed Araeen, Shakir Ali, Sadequain and Naiza Khan. . . . A book that demands serious attention.”—*The Hindu*



Hajj to the Heart *Sufi Journeys across the Indian Ocean* by Scott Kugle

Publication date: December 28, 2021

324 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 11 halftones, 2 maps, appends., notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Manohar Publishers

Sufi journeys in Islamic thought

Against the sweeping backdrop of South Asian history, this is a story of journeys taken by sixteenth-century reformist Muslim scholars and Sufi mystics from India to Arabia. At the center is the influential Sufi scholar Shaykh ‘Ali Muttaqi and his little-known network of disciples. Scott Kugle relates how ‘Ali Muttaqi, an expert in Arabic, scriptural hermeneutics, and hadith, left his native South Asia and traversed treacherous seas to make the Hajj to Mecca. Settling in Mecca, he continued to influence his homeland from overseas. Kugle draws on his original translations of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, never before available in English, to trace ‘Ali Muttaqi’s devotional writings, revealing how the Hajj transformed his

spiritual life and political loyalties.

The story expands across three generations of peripatetic Sufi masters in the Mutaqqi lineage as they travel for purposes of pilgrimage, scholarship, and sometimes simply for survival along Indian Ocean maritime routes linking global Muslim communities. Exploring the political intrigue, scholarly debates, and diverse social milieus that shaped the colorful personalities of his Sufi subjects, Kugle argues for the importance of Indian Sufi thought in the study of hadith and of ethics in Islam.

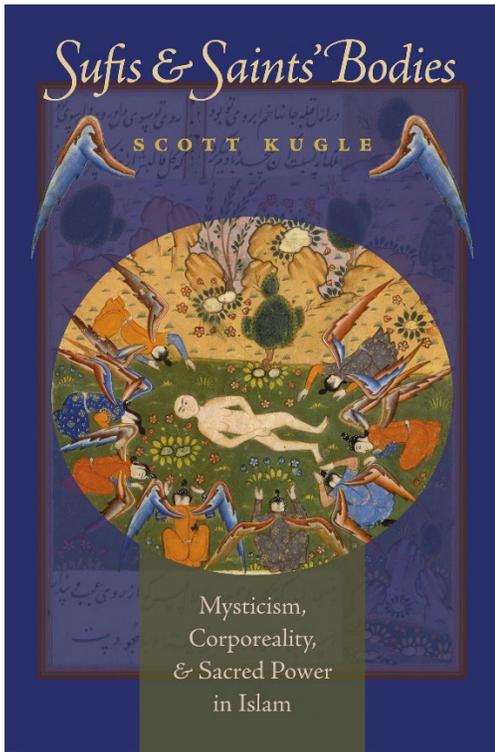
Scott Kugle is professor of South Asian and Islamic studies at Emory University. His most recent book is *When Sun Meets Moon: Gender, Eros, and Ecstasy in Urdu Poetry*.

Praise & reviews

“An informative, innovative, multilayered, and immensely entertaining book. The combination of Scott Kugle’s singular talents as a researcher and writer bring this incredibly complex and immersive history to vibrant life. I am simply in awe at what Kugle has managed to pull off here—and I expect an equally enthusiastic reception among a broad readership for this groundbreaking work of scholarship.”—Robert Rozehnal, Lehigh University

“A significant contribution to our understanding of the Islamic reform traditions in South Asia and beyond. Translating primary texts into polished poetic prose, Scott Kugle provides a compelling argument that will engage a wide audience of interdisciplinary readers.”—Ahmad S. Dallal, Georgetown University in Qatar

“*Hajj to the Heart* is a narrative treasure. Kugle sets a new academic foray into the historiography of Sufism in which concepts such as reformism, authentic spirituality, Sufi authority, and scriptural knowledge serve as the basis for understanding the early modern South Asian Islamic history and interconnection of scholarly networks between South Asia and Muslim heartland of Mecca.”—*Middle Ground Journal*



Sufis and Saints' Bodies

Mysticism, Corporeality, and Sacred Power in Islam

by Scott Kugle

Publication date: March 5, 2007

368 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 9 illus., 4 figs., 1 map, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

The power of the human body in Sufism

Islam is often described as abstract, ascetic, and uniquely disengaged from the human body. Scott Kugle refutes this assertion in the first full study of Islamic mysticism as it relates to the human body. Examining Sufi conceptions of the body in religious writings from the late fifteenth through the nineteenth century, Kugle demonstrates that literature from this era often treated saints' physical bodies as sites of sacred power.

Sufis and Saints' Bodies focuses on six important saints from Sufi communities in North Africa and South Asia. Kugle singles out a specific part of the body to which each saint is frequently associated in religious

literature. The saints' bodies, Kugle argues, are treated as symbolic resources for generating religious meaning, communal solidarity, and the experience of sacred power. In each chapter, Kugle also features a particular theoretical problem, drawing methodologically from religious studies, anthropology, studies of gender and sexuality, theology, feminism, and philosophy. Bringing a new perspective to Islamic studies, Kugle shows how an important Islamic tradition integrated myriad understandings of the body in its nurturing role in the material, social, and spiritual realms.

Scott Kugle is author of *Rebel between Spirit and Law: Ahmad Zarruq and Juridical Sainthood in North Africa*. He lives in India.

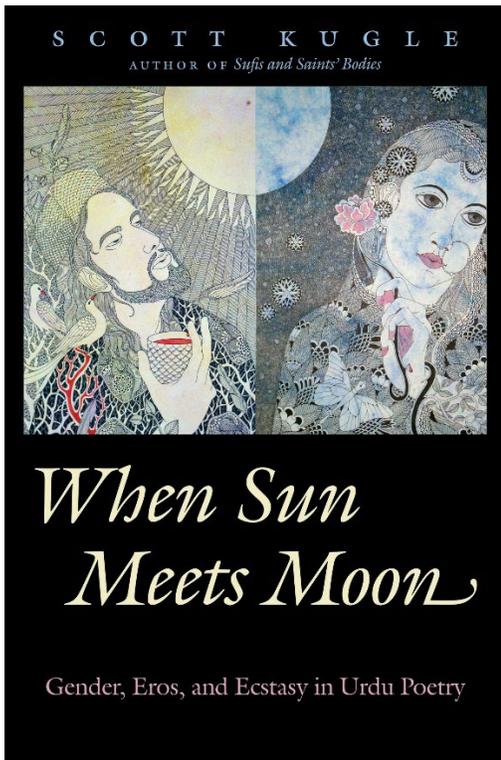
Praise & reviews

“Glistening with the author’s immense learning and passion for the material and his clear linguistic and historical expertise in the Muslim literatures of the pre- and early modern Arab and Indo-Persian worlds. ... This book is truly a joy to read. ... Essential reading for scholars of premodern and contemporary Islam alike.”—*Journal of Religion*

“A superb scholarly work which is animated by a passionate sympathy for the world it studies.”
—*Muslim World Book Review*

“Groundbreaking and sets a high standard for any future work on the topic. ... A milestone in the comparative study of Sufi traditions and a major contribution to the field of religion and the body.”
—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

“A magnificent work manifesting all the features of a morally engaged scholarship: an intimate embrace of the human body within a kind of ‘muted universalism’; a powerful focus on transgressive Sufi saints as countercultural actors; a radical queering of all those potentially violent and finally unbelievable binarisms (male/female, sexuality/spirituality, orthodox/heterodox); and a constant widening of the analysis into the comparative erotics of mystical literature in both the Christian West and Hindu South Asia. Many a reader will find real hope, and real heart, here. I certainly did.”
—Jeffrey J. Kripal, author of *Roads of Excess, Palaces of Wisdom: Eroticism and Reflexivity in the Study of Mysticism*



When Sun Meets Moon

Gender, Eros, and Ecstasy in Urdu Poetry

by Scott Kugle

Publication date: June 29, 2016

348 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 6 halftones, 2 figs., 3 maps, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Orient Blackswan

The place of the arts in Islamic devotional practice

The two Muslim poets featured in Scott Kugle's comparative study lived separate lives during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries in the Deccan region of southern India. Here, they meet in the realm of literary imagination, illuminating the complexity of gender, sexuality, and religious practice in South Asian Islamic culture. Shah Siraj Awrangabadi (1715-1763), known as "Sun," was a Sunni who, after a youthful homosexual love affair, gave up sexual relationships to follow a path of personal holiness. Mah Laqa Bai Chanda (1768-1820), known as "Moon," was a Shi'i and courtesan dancer who transferred her seduction of men to the pursuit of mystical love. Both were poets in the Urdu language of the

ghazal, or love lyric, often fusing a spiritual quest with erotic imagery.

Kugle argues that Sun and Moon expressed through their poetry exceptions to the general rules of heteronormativity and gender inequality common in their patriarchal societies. Their art provides a lens for a more subtle understanding of both the reach and the limitations of gender roles in Islamic and South Asian culture and underscores how the arts of poetry, music, and dance are integral to Islamic religious life. Integrated throughout are Kugle's translations of Urdu and Persian poetry previously unavailable in English.

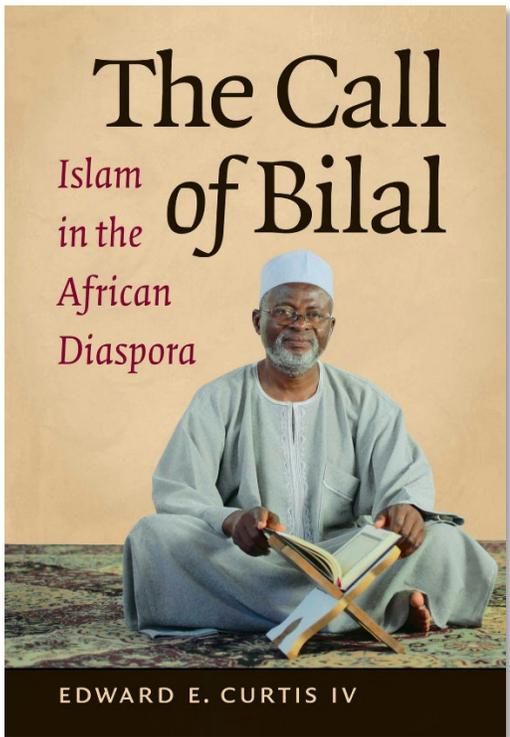
Scott A. Kugle, associate professor of South Asian and Islamic studies at Emory University, is author of *Sufis and Saints' Bodies: Mysticism, Corporeality, and Sacred Power in Islam*.

Praise & reviews

"Lively, engaging, and lucid, *When Sun Meets Moon* is a jewel of a book that enables a rethinking of normative understandings of the relationship between gender, sexuality and spirituality. Combining a sharp set of analytical insights with a finely honed and fragrant presentation of Sufi aesthetics, this transformative book foregrounds the humanity of these historical poets and displays Scott Kugle's sheer love of Urdu poetry and culture."

—Sa'diyya Shaikh, University of Cape Town

"Kugle is an engaging storyteller and a talented translator of the Persian and Urdu poetry that sits at the center of the stories he is telling. ... The key thread in Kugle's work is that literature is connected to religious life and social thought in ways that are not obvious to modern, Western (or westernized) readers. The book's great strength is to reconnect these threads in a manner that is engaging, erudite, and experiential."—*Reading Religion*



The Call of Bilal
Islam in the African Diaspora
by Edward E. Curtis IV

Publication date: October 15, 2014
248 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 6 halftones, notes, bibl., index
Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

The first global survey of Islamic religious practice in the African diaspora

How do people in the African diaspora practice Islam? While the term “Black Muslim” may conjure images of Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali, millions of African-descended Muslims around the globe have no connection to the American-based Nation of Islam. *The Call of Bilal* is a penetrating account of the rich diversity of Islamic religious practice among African Muslims worldwide. Covering North Africa and the Middle East, India and Pakistan, Europe, and the Americas, Edward E. Curtis IV reveals a fascinating range of religious activities — from the observance of the five pillars of Islam and the creation of transnational

Sufi networks to the veneration of African saints and political struggles for racial justice.

Weaving together ethnographic fieldwork and historical perspectives, Curtis shows how African Muslims interpret not only their religious identities but also their attachments to the African diaspora. For some, the dispersal of African people across time and space has been understood as a mere physical scattering or perhaps an economic opportunity. For others, it has been a metaphysical and spiritual exile of the soul from its sacred land and eternal home.

Edward E. Curtis IV is Millennium Chair of the Liberal Arts and professor of religious studies at the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts in Indianapolis. He is the author of *Black Muslim Religion in the Nation of Islam, 1960–1975*, among other books.

Praise & reviews

2016 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title

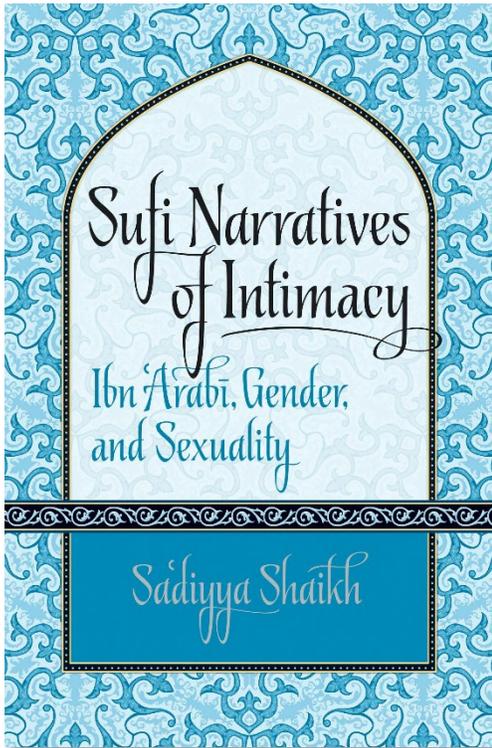
“This unique and valuable study of global Islam in the African diaspora is a compelling example of scholarly erudition, creative analysis, and original research wed to a synthesis of wide-ranging scholarship on the subject. It is refreshing to read a study of Islam that is concerned with its contemporary formations and that engages with important issues beyond those of religious violence.”—Sylvester A. Johnson, Northwestern University

“A major contribution to the literature on Islamic and diaspora studies.”—*CHOICE*

“A vivid portrait of the diverse Islamic practices of African-descended Muslims dispersed around the world.”
—*Contemporary Islam*

“[This] nuanced analysis of the complex history and diversity of diasporic African Muslims’ religious practices offers a much-needed corrective to monolithic narratives about Islam and Muslims.”—*Religious Studies Review*

“Curtis IV’s simple and wonderfully written text tellingly described and captured the stories of selected African diaspora communities.”—*Islamic Studies*



Sufi Narratives of Intimacy *Ibn 'Arabi, Gender, and Sexuality* by Sa'diyya Shaikh

Publication date: August 1, 2014

304 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 1 figure, appends., notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Munshiram Manoharial Publishers
- Previously published in Turkish

Gender equality and the ideals of Islamic spiritual cultivation

Thirteenth-century Sufi poet, mystic, and legal scholar Muhyi al-Din ibn al-'Arabi gave deep and sustained attention to gender as integral to questions of human existence and moral personhood. Reading his works through a critical feminist lens, Sa'diyya Shaikh opens fertile spaces in which new and creative encounters with gender justice in Islam can take place. Grounding her work in Islamic epistemology, Shaikh attends to the ways in which Sufi metaphysics and theology might allow for fundamental shifts in Islamic gender ethics and legal formulations, addressing wide-ranging contemporary challenges including questions of women's rights in marriage

and divorce, the politics of veiling, and women's leadership of ritual prayer.

Shaikh deftly deconstructs traditional binaries between the spiritual and the political, private conceptions of spiritual development and public notions of social justice, and the realms of inner refinement and those of communal virtue. Drawing on the treasured works of Sufism, Shaikh raises a number of critical questions about the nature of selfhood, subjectivity, spirituality, and society to contribute richly to the prospects of Islamic feminism as well as feminist ethics more broadly.

Sa'diyya Shaikh is associate professor of religious studies at the University of Cape Town.

Praise & reviews

2015 University of Cape Town Book Award

"[A] pioneering study ... [that] begins to open new vistas in the study of this complex and difficult author."
—*Times Literary Supplement*

"Innovative and unique ... A groundbreaking feminist study ... rich, original, and illuminating."—*Religion and Gender*

"The most theoretically informed and conceptually innovative approach to this fascinating material to date."
—*Journal of Sufi Studies*

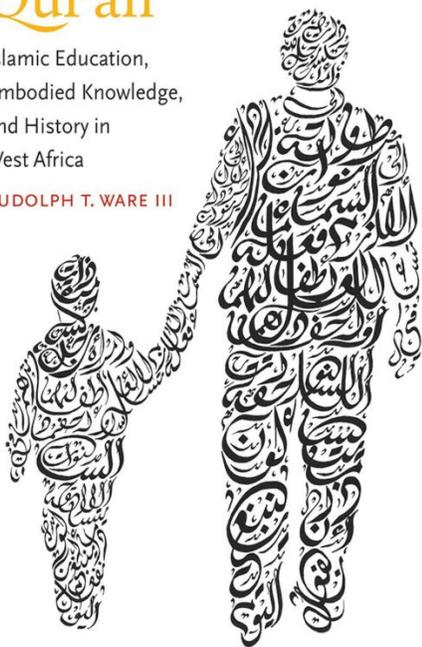
"Through an attentive reading of references to women and gender across Ibn 'Arabi's corpus, Shaikh uses the monumental Sufi thinker's work to argue for a comprehensive rethinking of the gendered theological anthropology that is foundational to various systems of Muslim ethics."—*Journal of Religious Ethics*

"Shaikh's groundbreaking *Sufi Narratives of Intimacy* not only makes a significant contribution to the growing body of scholarship on issues of gender and Islam, but also serves as an eloquent and accessible introduction to the life and work of Muhyi al-Din ibn Arabi, unquestionably one of the most important voices in the Islamic tradition."
—*American Journal of Islamic Sciences*

The Walking Qur'an

Islamic Education,
Embodied Knowledge,
and History in
West Africa

RUDOLPH T. WARE III



The Walking Qur'an

Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa

by Rudolph T. Ware III

Publication date: June 16, 2014

352 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 12 halftones, 4 maps, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

A detailed examination of Qur'an schools yields insight into Islam

Spanning a thousand years of history—and bringing the story to the present through ethnographic fieldwork in Senegal, Gambia, and Mauritania—Rudolph Ware documents the profound significance of Qur'an schools for West African Muslim communities. Such schools peacefully brought Islam to much of the region, becoming striking symbols of Muslim identity. Ware shows how in Senegambia the schools became powerful channels for African resistance during the eras of the slave trade and colonization. While illuminating the past, Ware also makes signal contributions to understanding contemporary Islam by demonstrating how the schools' epistemology of embodiment gives expression to classical Islamic

frameworks of learning and knowledge.

Today, many Muslims and non-Muslims find West African methods of Qur'an schooling puzzling and controversial. In fascinating detail, Ware introduces these practices from the viewpoint of the practitioners, explicating their emphasis on educating the whole human being as if to remake it as a living replica of the Qur'an. From this perspective, the transference of knowledge in core texts and rituals is literally embodied in people, helping shape them—like the Prophet of Islam—into vital bearers of the word of God.

Rudolph T. Ware III is assistant professor of history at the University of Michigan.

Praise & reviews

“An excellent and needed contribution to understanding classical Islamic learning methods.”

—*American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*

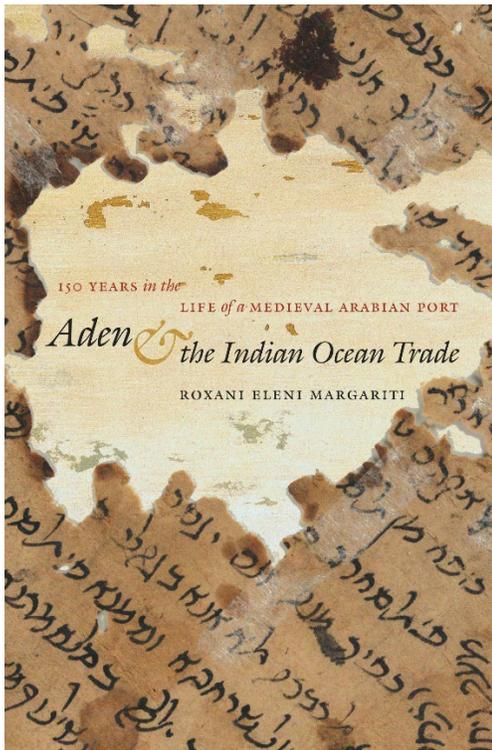
“Full of bold moves ... An important book whose provocative and controversial exploration of the phenomenology and epistemologies of West African Islam ... succeeds in reopening the scholarship and public debate about Islam, not only in West Africa but also in the Muslim world.”—*Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*

“A fascinating new account of the history of *talibés*.”—*Book and Ideas*

“Outstanding ... With [this] publication, Ware has established his reputation as an authority on West African history and Islamic epistemology.”—*Harvard Divinity Bulletin*

“A compelling account of Muslim epistemology and a strong contribution to African history.”

—*Journal of Africana Religions*



Aden and the Indian Ocean Trade

150 Years in the Life of a Medieval Arabian Port

by Roxani Eleni Margariti

Publication date: March 15, 2014

360 Pages, 5.5 × 8.5, 6 figs., 3 tables, 4 maps, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

Cosmopolitanism at the crossroads of the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean

Positioned at the crossroads of the maritime routes linking the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, the Yemeni port of Aden grew to be one of the medieval world's greatest commercial hubs. Approaching Aden's history between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries through the prism of overseas trade and commercial culture, Roxani Eleni Margariti examines the ways in which physical space and urban institutions developed to serve and harness the commercial potential presented by the city's strategic location.

Utilizing historical and archaeological methods, Margariti draws together a rich variety of sources far beyond the normative and relatively accessible legal rulings issued by Islamic courts of the time. She explores environmental, material, and textual data, including merchants' testimonies from the medieval documentary repository known as the Cairo Geniza. Her analysis brings the port city to life, detailing its fortifications, water supply, harbor, customs house, marketplaces, and ship-building facilities. She also provides a broader picture of the history of the city and the ways merchants and administrators regulated and fostered trade. Margariti ultimately demonstrates how port cities, as nodes of exchange, communication, and interconnectedness, are crucial in Indian Ocean and Middle Eastern history as well as Islamic and Jewish history.

Roxani Eleni Margariti is assistant professor of Middle Eastern and South Asian studies at Emory University.

Praise & reviews

“Well-researched. ... A welcome addition to the never-completed work on the Indian Ocean trade.”

—*Journal of Interdisciplinary History*

“Dotted with numerous ... insights.”—*International Journal of Maritime History*

“Notable for its broad use of both archeological sources and medieval Judeo-Arabic documents, which provide a crucial window into both Aden and the Indian Ocean trade.”—*Middle East Journal*

“[A] major contribution to scholarly understanding of seaborne trade in the medieval period, not only in the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and the Gulf. ... A very readable book.”—*Quaderni di Studi Indo-Mediterranei*

“A significant original step in the right direction.”—*International History Review*

“Margariti's work should be required reading — not just for those interested in the Indian Ocean trade, but for anyone who is interested in seaborne trade in the medieval period. Her mastery of the sources and her ability to extract maximum data from Geniza letters and Arab texts enables her to reconstruct the physical setting in Aden on a scale lacking in all previous works.”—Jere L. Bacharach, University of Washington

Constructing Bangladesh

Religion, Ethnicity, and Language in an Islamic Nation

by Sufia M. Uddin

Publication date: March 1, 2014

248 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 8 illus., 3 maps, append., notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

Competing visions of community in the formation of an Islamic state

Highlighting the dynamic, pluralistic nature of Islamic civilization, Sufia M. Uddin examines the complex history of Islamic state formation in Bangladesh, formerly the eastern part of the Indian province of Bengal. Uddin focuses on significant moments in the region's history from medieval to modern times, examining the interplay of language, popular and scholarly religious literature, and the colonial experience as they contributed to the creation of a unique Bengali-Islamic identity.

During the precolonial era, Bengali, the dominant regional language, infused the richly diverse traditions of the region, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and, eventually, the Islamic religion and literature brought by

Urdu-speaking Muslim conquerors from North India. Islam was not simply imported into the region by the ruling elite, Uddin explains, but was incorporated into local tradition over hundreds of years of interactions between Bengalis and non-Bengali Muslims. Constantly contested and negotiated, the Bengali vision of Islamic orthodoxy and community was reflected in both language and politics, which ultimately produced a specifically Bengali-Muslim culture. Uddin argues that this process in Bangladesh is representative of what happens elsewhere in the Muslim world and is therefore an instructive example of the complex and fluid relations between local heritage and the greater Islamic global community, or *umma*.

Sufia M. Uddin is associate professor of religious studies at the University of Vermont.

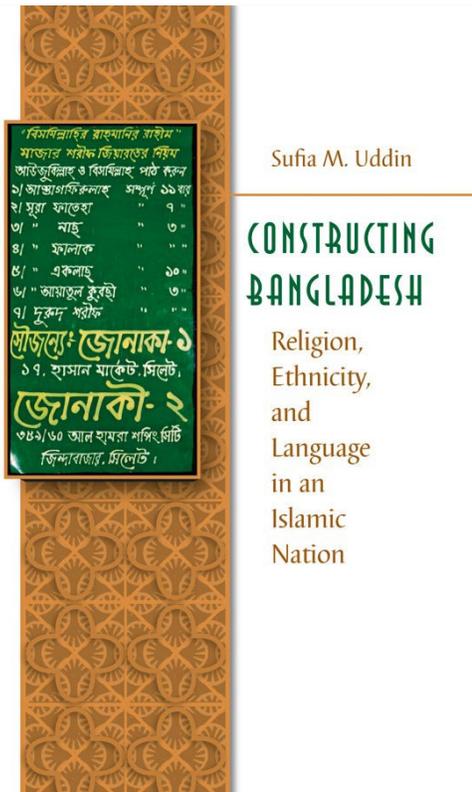
Praise & reviews

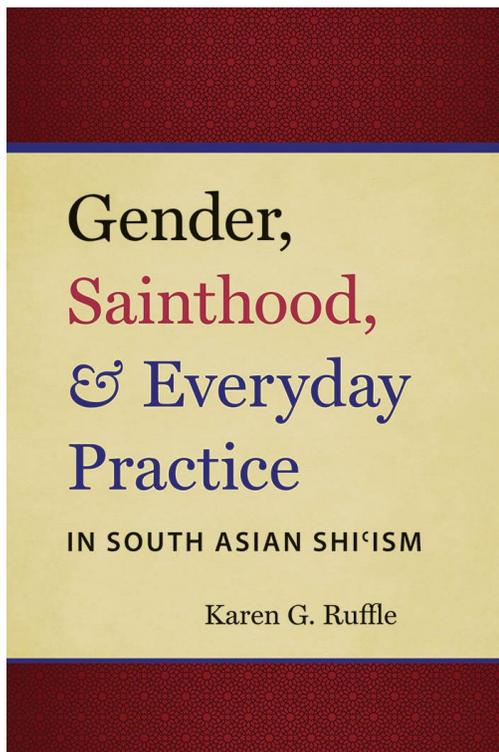
“Uddin offers a balanced view of the tensions and debates in Bengali Islam from the medieval period through modern times. She makes a convincing argument for the transnational as well as the regional dimensions of Islam and how these shape the attitudes, perceptions, and world-views of Muslims in all societies, specifically in Bangladesh. This book will be received with enthusiasm by scholars and general readers interested in Islam, South Asia, nationalism, and the politics of identity.”—Rafiuddin Ahmed, Elmira College and Cornell University

“Like no other study I have seen, *Constructing Bangladesh* carefully illustrates the complex way that language and ethnicity create allegiances that color, if not come into conflict with, a transnational Islam. Uddin convincingly demonstrates how Islam in Bengal became a distinctly regional Bengali Islam.”

—Tony K. Stewart, North Carolina State University

“[Uddin] guides her readers ... in a refreshingly lucid style. ... Her book [is] a useful addition to the reading lists of students and scholars of Bengal.”—*South Asia Research*





Gender, Sainthood, and Everyday Practice in South Asian Shi'ism

by Karen G. Ruffle

Publication date: February 1, 2014

240 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 5 illus., 1 table, notes, index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- English co-publication in South Asia, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers

Shi'i religious practices and connections between gender and hagiography

In this study of devotional hagiographical texts and contemporary ritual performances of the Shi'a of Hyderabad, India, Karen Ruffle demonstrates how traditions of sainthood and localized cultural values shape gender roles. Ruffle focuses on the annual mourning assemblies held on 7 Muharram to commemorate the battlefield wedding of Fatimah Kubra and her warrior-bridegroom Qasem, who was martyred in 680 C.E. at the battle of Karbala, Iraq, before their marriage was consummated.

Ruffle argues that hagiography, an important textual tradition in Islam, plays a dynamic role in constructing the memory, piety, and social

sensibilities of a Shi'i community. Through the Hyderabad rituals that idealize and venerate Qasem, Fatimah Kubra, and the other heroes of Karbala, a distinct form of sainthood is produced. These saints, Ruffle explains, serve as socioethical role models and religious paragons whom Shi'i Muslims aim to imitate in their everyday lives, improving their personal religious practice and social selves. On a broader community level, Ruffle observes, such practices help generate and reinforce group identity, shared ethics, and gendered sensibilities. By putting gender and everyday practice at the center of her study, Ruffle challenges Shi'i patriarchal narratives that present only men as saints and brings to light typically overlooked women's religious practices.

Karen G. Ruffle is assistant professor of history of religions and women's and gender studies at the University of Toronto.

Praise & reviews

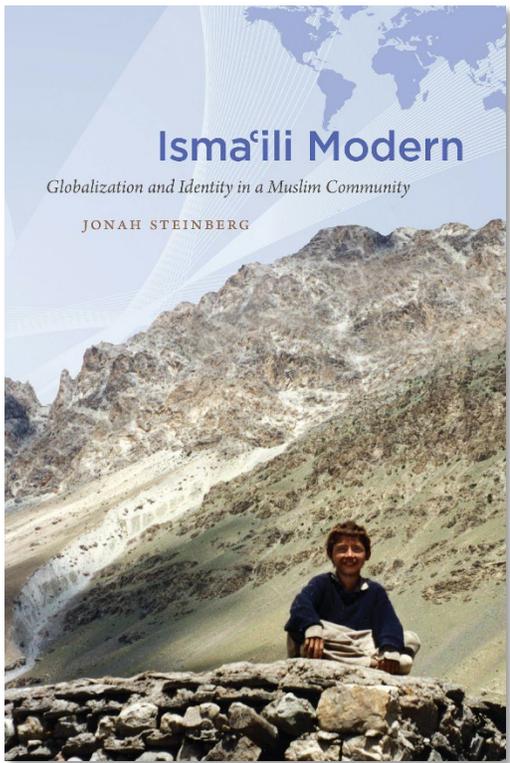
"Combining impressive, on-the-ground fieldwork with extensive readings in primary-source documents, Ruffle provides valuable, thorough, and original insight into Shi'i devotional literature and ritual practice. This is a very significant contribution to Islamic studies."—David Pinault, Santa Clara University

"Karen Ruffle's highly original, in-depth study offers previously undocumented ethnographic details that reveal the gendered everyday ritual practices of the Hyderabad Shi'a Muslims. This work joins a newly emerging tradition of scholarship that is multidisciplinary, regionally diverse, and attentive to pluralism within Islam."

—Tazim R. Kassam, Syracuse University

"*Gender, Sainthood, and Everyday Practice* is a study of interest to students and scholars of Islamic practices among the laity of the Indian sub-continent."—*Journal of Shi'a Islamic Studies*

"An important contribution to the extant scholarship on the piety and practice of South Asian Shi'ism. . . Ruffle's personal relationship with members of the Hyderabad Shi'a community and her empathetic reading of their spiritual lives brings a palpable intimacy and immediacy to the study."—*Religion*



Isma'ili Modern

Globalization and Identity in a Muslim Community

by Jonah Steinberg

Publication date: January 17, 2011

256 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 6 illus., 1 map, notes, bibl., index

Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

New possibilities for identity and community in a global age

The Isma'ili Muslims, a major sect of Shi'i Islam, form a community that is intriguing in its deterritorialized social organization. Informed by the richness of Isma'ili history, theories of transnationalism and globalization, and firsthand ethnographic fieldwork in the Himalayan regions of Tajikistan and Pakistan as well as in Europe, Jonah Steinberg investigates Isma'ili Muslims and the development of their remarkable and expansive twenty-first-century global structures.

Led by a charismatic European-based hereditary Imam, Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, global Isma'ili organizations make available an astonishing array

of services — social, economic, political, and religious — to some three to five million subjects stretching from Afghanistan to England, from Pakistan to Tanzania. Steinberg argues that this intricate and highly integrated network enables a new kind of shared identity and citizenship, one that goes well beyond the sense of community maintained by other diasporic populations. Of note in this process is the rapid assimilation in the postcolonial period of once-isolated societies into the intensively centralized Isma'ili structure. Also remarkable is the Isma'ilis' self-presentation, contrary to common characterizations of Islam in the mass media, as a Muslim society that is broadly sympathetic to capitalist systems, opposed to fundamentalism, and distinctly modern in orientation. Steinberg's unique journey into remote mountain regions highlights today's rapidly shifting meanings of citizenship, faith, and identity and reveals their global scale.

Jonah Steinberg is assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Vermont.

Praise & reviews

2013 Book Award in Citizenship Studies, Center for the Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University

“A pioneering study.”—*Times Literary Supplement*

“Jonah Steinberg's ethnographic accounts of meetings and encounters with Isma'ilis are fascinating and valuable, giving voice to the actors with respect to ethnicity, language, and religion. An incredibly innovative and provocative book.”

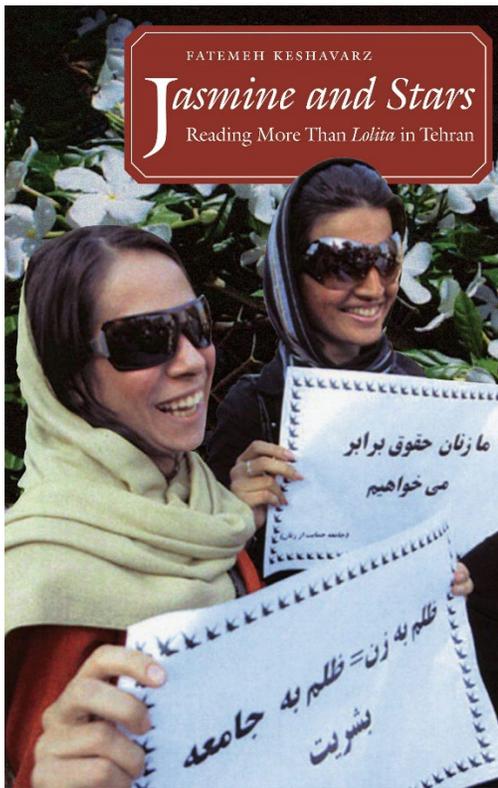
—John Richard Bowen, author of *Religions in Practice: An Approach to the Anthropology of Religion*

“Steinberg expands his investigation to the very meaning of human sociopolitical organization, sovereignty, subjectivity, territoriality, citizenship, affiliation, and self-presentation in the transforming globalized sphere of human relations.”

—*Middle East Journal*

“A significant contribution to scholarship on Isma'ili Islam.”—*MESA*

“With a strong theoretical base ... Steinberg develops a nuanced portrait. ... A well-researched and strongly theorized work.”—*Contemporary Islam*



Jasmine and Stars

Reading More Than Lolita in Tehran

by Fatemeh Keshavarz

Publication date: February 1, 2009
 192 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, index
 Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Audio rights, Audible

Countering stereotypes with a fresh perspective on Iran

In a direct, frank, and intimate exploration of Iranian literature and society, scholar, teacher, and poet Fatemeh Keshavarz challenges popular perceptions of Iran as a society bereft of vitality and joy. Her fresh perspective on present-day Iran provides a rare insight into this rich culture alive with artistic expression but virtually unknown to most Americans.

Keshavarz introduces readers to two modern Iranian women writers whose strong and articulate voices belie the stereotypical perception of Iranian women as voiceless victims in a country of villains. She follows with a lively critique of the recent best-seller *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, which epitomizes what Keshavarz calls the “New Orientalist

narrative,” a view marred by stereotype and prejudice more often tied to current geopolitical conflicts than to an understanding of Iran.

Blending in firsthand glimpses of her own life—from childhood memories in 1960s Shiraz to her present life as a professor in America—Keshavarz paints a portrait of Iran depicting both cultural depth and intellectual complexity. With a scholar’s expertise and a poet’s hand, she helps amplify the powerful voices of contemporary Iranians and leads readers toward a deeper understanding of the country’s past and present.

Fatemeh Keshavarz is Roshan Institute Chair in Persian Studies at the University of Maryland. She is author of four previous books, including *Reading Mystical Lyric: The Case of Jalal Al-Din Rumi* and a volume of poetry.

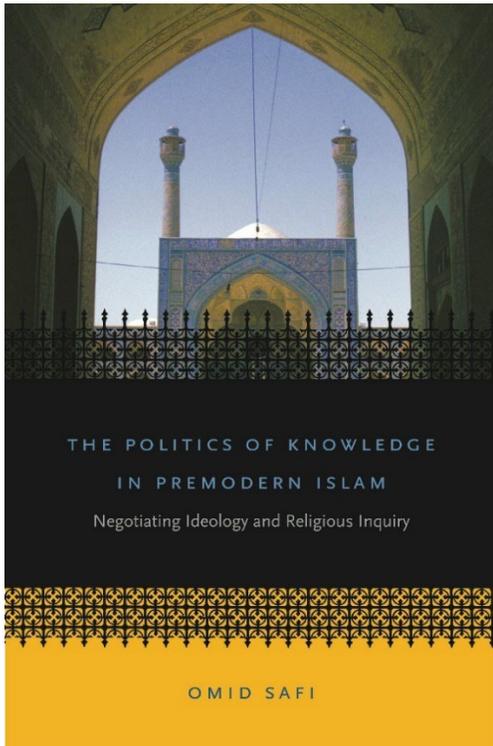
Praise & reviews

“Draws from her own rich experiences and illustrates wonderfully rich portraits of her family and close friends. ... Assures readers that every word is wholly heartfelt and sincere.”—*Arab American News*

“Eye opening. ... Keshavarz gives a rare glimpse into post-revolutionary Iran, showing that while there are a host of political problems and unresolved social issues, still literature, culture and Iranians’ love of life and beauty are alive and well.”—*The Jordan Times*

“Extremely valuable as a personal testimony of [Keshavarz’s] own experiences growing up in Iran and provides a counterbalance to Nafisi’s dark portrayal of her life in Iran. ... Important ... because of its active participation in the debate about how Western views of Middle Eastern countries are colored by prejudice and stereotyping.”
 —*Middle East Journal*

“Narrated in a very engaging and evocative style, embellished with poetic force. This personal story is told in a direct narrative form which transcends the boundaries of telling and showing.”—*Muslim World Book Review*



The Politics of Knowledge in Premodern Islam *Negotiating Ideology and Religious Inquiry* by Omid Safi

Publication date: January 31, 2006

352 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 6 illus., 1 map, appends., notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- Previously published in Turkish

Scholars, saints, and the state

The eleventh and twelfth centuries comprised a period of great significance in Islamic history. The Great Saljuqs, a Turkish-speaking tribe hailing from central Asia, ruled the eastern half of the Islamic world for a great portion of that time. In a far-reaching analysis that combines social, cultural, and political history, Omid Safi demonstrates how the Saljuqs tried to create a lasting political presence by joining forces with scholars and saints, among them a number of well-known Sufi Muslims, who functioned under state patronage.

In order to legitimize their political power, Saljuq rulers presented themselves as champions of what they alleged was an orthodox and normative view of Islam. Their notion of religious orthodoxy was constructed by administrators in state-sponsored arenas such as madrasas and khanaqahs. Thus orthodoxy was linked to political loyalty, and disloyalty to the state was articulated in terms of religious heresy.

Drawing on a vast reservoir of primary sources and eschewing anachronistic terms of analysis such as nationalism, Safi revises conventional views both of the Saljuqs as benevolent Muslim rulers and of the Sufis as timeless, ethereal mystics. He makes a significant contribution to understanding premodern Islam as well as illuminating the complex relationship between power and religious knowledge.

Omid Safi is director of Duke University's Islamic Studies Center. He is the past Chair for the Study of Islam, and the current Chair for Islamic Mysticism Group at the American Academy of Religion. He is author or editor of several books, including *Memories of Muhammad*.

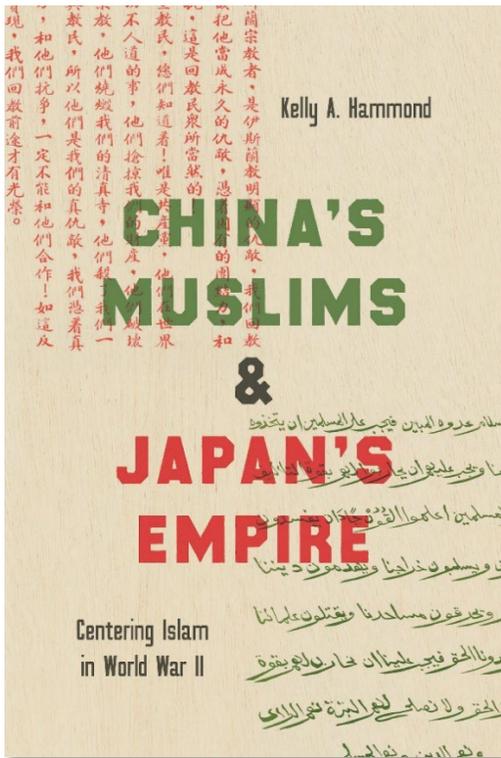
Praise & reviews

“Safi focuses on a fascinating period in Islamic history that is not only replete with famous historical figures but also brimming over with historical developments of immeasurable significance for all subsequent Islamic history. Safi's book is the only integrated and engaging social and cultural history of this period, and as such it makes a singular contribution to the study of Islamic history.”—Ahmet T. Karamustafa, Washington University

“Quite contemporary, not just in vocabulary and method, but in intellectual tastes and opinions as well.”
—*Islamic Studies*

“An important step forward in raising questions and problematizing previously unstudied issues ... It can readily serve both as a foundation and as an inspiration for future studies.”—*Journal of American Academy of Religion*

“Well written and decidedly useful, Omid Safi's study should stand as a lasting contribution to Saljuq history and to Islamic/Near Eastern history more generally. His many new ideas oblige those in the overlapping fields of premodern Islamic studies to recast long-held arguments concerning Saljuq politics and society and to rethink the lives of prominent figures of the period.”—Matthew S. Gordon, Miami University



China's Muslims and Japan's Empire *Centering Islam in World War II* by Kelly A. Hammond

Publication date: November 16, 2020

314 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 15 halftones, 3 maps, 2 tables, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

Sino-Muslims on a bamboo fence

In this transnational history of World War II, Kelly A. Hammond places Sino-Muslims at the center of imperial Japan's challenges to Chinese nation-building efforts. Revealing the little-known story of Japan's interest in Islam during its occupation of North China, Hammond shows how imperial Japanese aimed to defeat the Chinese Nationalists in winning the hearts and minds of Sino-Muslims, a vital minority population. Offering programs that presented themselves as protectors of Islam, the Japanese aimed to provide Muslims with a viable alternative—and, at the same time, to create new Muslim consumer markets that would, the Japanese hoped, act to subvert the existing global capitalist world order and destabilize the

Soviets.

This history can be told only by reinstating agency to Muslims in China who became active participants in the brokering and political jockeying between the Chinese Nationalists and the Japanese Empire. Hammond argues that the competition for their loyalty was central to the creation of the ethnoreligious identity of Muslims living on the Chinese mainland. Their wartime experience ultimately helped shape the formation of Sino-Muslims' religious identities within global Islamic networks, as well as their incorporation into the Chinese state, where the conditions of that incorporation remain unstable and contested to this day.

Kelly A. Hammond is assistant professor of history at the University of Arkansas.

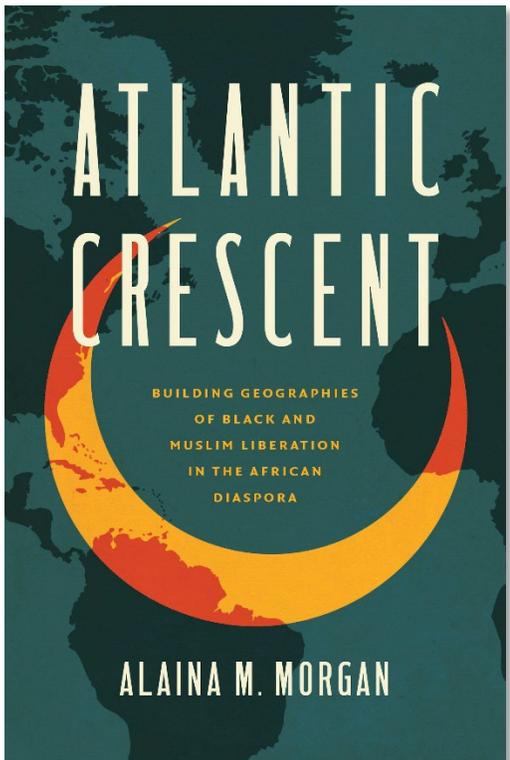
Praise & reviews

“Striking. ... *China's Muslims & Japan's Empire* adds immensely to our understanding of both the wartime scope and postwar legacy of Imperial Japan.”—*Journal of Religious History*

“Kelly Hammond's [work] is the first monograph in a Western language to illuminate how Japanese imperialists who aimed to expand their empire even into the Eurasian continent and North Africa tried to strengthen Japan's foothold in China and defeat the Chinese Nationalists. ... [A] thrilling new contribution to the scholarship on Japan's strategic interests in and interactions with Muslims in wartime China.”—*China and Asia: A Journal in Historical Studies*

“A fascinating read and provides insight into a region and history which are all too often neglected. The book forces us to re-think how the history of the Second World War is taught. Our understanding of the conflict is usually from the perspective of Europe and the war with Germany, but millions fought and died across Asia and many of the wounds from that time are part of the political memory in places like China. This book is a much needed study. The fact that it is also an enjoyable read is a bonus.”—*Middle East Monitor*

“Hammond deftly weaves a compelling narrative that centres Islam in a period of history in which it is often overlooked and excluded.”—*Muslim World Book Review*



Atlantic Crescent
*Building Geographies of Black and Muslim Liberation
in the African Diaspora*
by Alaina M. Morgan

Publication date: July 29, 2025

286 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 20 halftones, notes, bibl., index

Rights information

- All rights available

Illuminating Islam's role in global Black freedom struggles

In the period between the twentieth century's two world wars, Black and Muslim people from the United States, South Asia, and the Caribbean collided across an expansive diasporic geography. As these people and their ideas came into contact, they reignited the practice of Islam among people of African descent living in the United States and the Anglophone Caribbean and prompted them to adopt new understandings of their place in the world. As the freedom dreams of these diasporic communities met the realities and limitations of colonialism and race in the Atlantic world, Islam presented new strategies for combating oppression and introduced new allies in the struggle.

Envisioning the geography and significance of this encounter within what she calls the Atlantic Crescent, Alaina M. Morgan draws on an expansive archive to show how Black and Muslim people imagined, understood, and acted on their religious and racial identities. Morgan reveals how her subjects' overlapping diasporic encounters with Islam led to varied local adaptation as well as common ground to pursue liberation from racial subjugation and white supremacy.

Alaina M. Morgan is assistant professor of history at the University of Southern California.

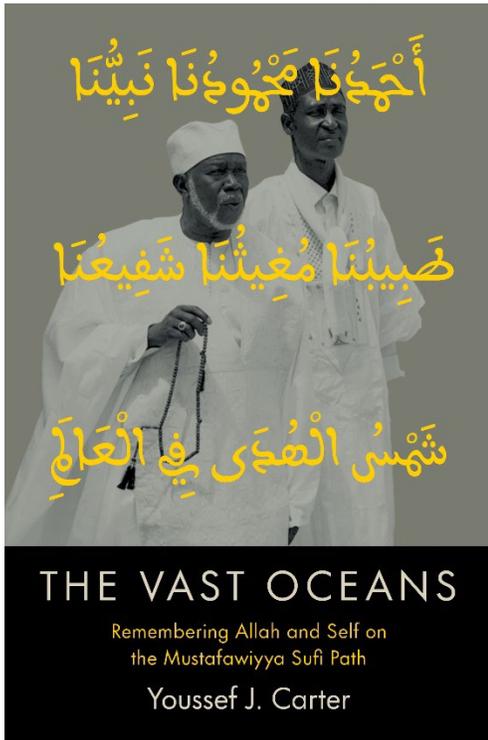
Praise & reviews

"Morgan's suggestive imagery of the Atlantic Crescent and her attention to Black Islamic practices as a conduit of African diasporas make this book stand out among its peers. Stunningly written and brilliantly argued, Morgan's book draws on a diverse body of religious work to illuminate an underappreciated element of black internationalist political thought."

—Minkah Makalani, Johns Hopkins University

"Well written, carefully organized, and deeply researched, this field-shaping book is critical to understanding what has motivated those pursuing transnational work for justice and freedom. Morgan models how to make understudied histories accessible and charts a Muslim Black internationalism, reconfiguring American religious history in the process."

—Sarah Azaransky, Union Theological Seminary



The Vast Oceans

Remembering Allah and Self on the Mustafawiyya Sufi Path

Youssef J. Carter

Publication date: June 16, 2026

304 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 13 halftones, notes, bibl., index

Series: Islamic Civilization and Muslim Networks

Rights information

- All rights available

In the mid-1990s, Shaykh Arona Rashid Faye al-Faqir arrived in South Carolina from Senegal. Settling in Moncks Corner, he brought with him the Mustafawiyya Tariqa, a Sufi movement that emphasizes remembrance and inward cultivation, which he inherited from its founder, Shaykh Muhammad Mustafa Gueye. Today, Masjid Muhajjirun wal Ansar in Moncks Corner remains the center of this North American transnational community despite the Mustafawiyya Tariqa's spread to larger cities like Philadelphia and Atlanta. Monck's Corner serves as a haven for Muslims to build community and, as Youssef J. Carter argues, to construct diasporic consciousness as they connect with Muslims across the Atlantic.

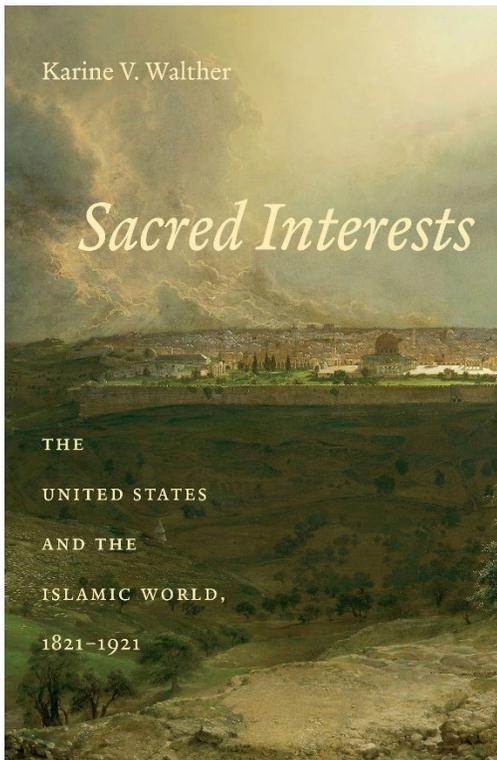
In *The Vast Oceans*, Carter shows that this expansion of a West African Sufi movement in the Black Atlantic offers those traveling the Mustafawiyya path empowerment through spiritual care as they confront historical and contemporary anti-Blackness. As Carter tracks the community's thought and practice over time and space, he examines how practices of solidarity and remembrance aid in healing. Ultimately, his richly textured depiction of lived religion expands our understanding of global Islam, particularly the dynamic Black Muslim devotional practices of study and remembrance that span from West Africa to the American South.

Youssef J. Carter is assistant professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Praise & reviews

“An incredibly rich and novel ethnography, *The Vast Oceans* creates and documents conversations between voices that are rarely brought together to show how much has been lost by their separation.”

—Oludamini Ogunnaike, University of Virginia



Sacred Interests

The United States and the Islamic World, 1821-1921

by Karine V. Walther

Publication date: August 1, 2018

480 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 16 halftones, notes, bibl., index

Rights information

- Arabic, The National Center for Translation

Islamophobia in America in the nineteenth century

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as Americans increasingly came into contact with the Islamic world, U.S. diplomatic, cultural, political, and religious beliefs about Islam began to shape their responses to world events. In *Sacred Interests*, Karine V. Walther excavates the deep history of American Islamophobia, showing how negative perceptions of Islam and Muslims shaped U.S. foreign relations from the Early Republic to the end of World War I.

Beginning with the Greek War of Independence in 1821, Walther illuminates reactions to and involvement in the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, the efforts to protect Jews from Muslim authorities in Morocco,

American colonial policies in the Philippines, and American attempts to aid Christians during the Armenian Genocide. Walther examines the American role in the peace negotiations after World War I, support for the Balfour Declaration, and the establishment of the mandate system in the Middle East. The result is a vital exploration of the crucial role the United States played in the Islamic world during the long nineteenth century — an interaction that shaped a historical legacy that remains with us today.

Karine Walther is associate professor of history at the School of Foreign Service in Qatar. She holds a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University, a Maîtrise and Licence in Sociology from the University of Paris VIII, and a B.A. in American studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

Praise & reviews

2016 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title

“An excellent, detailed and well-constructed introduction to an important subject.”—*Times Literary Supplement*

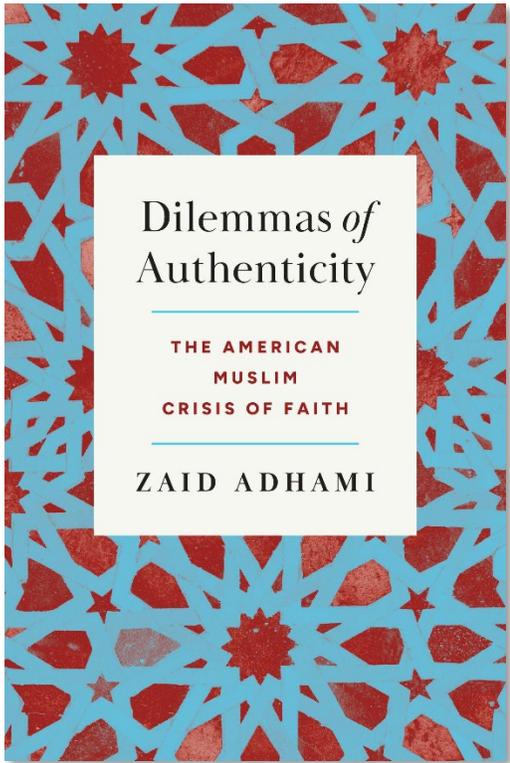
“Its transnational breadth, refined scope, and authorial care make *Sacred Interests* essential reading for scholars and students of race, religion, and empire.”—*Journal of American History*

“Walther’s excellent new study is the first overview of American relations with the Islamic World in the years between the Barbary Wars and world War II.”—*Review of Middle East Studies*

“An important study that deserves to be widely read. . . . Walther has uncovered the ideological and rhetorical foundations of the recrudescing Islamophobia today.”—*American Historical Review*

“Illuminates a series of transnational engagements which helped shape U.S. foreign policy . . . and which reveal the roots of a persistent racialization of Islam in America today.”—*Religion in American History*

“Scholars are now equipped with a fuller picture of America’s relationship with the broader Islamic world.”
—*Journal of the Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamic World*



Dilemmas of Authenticity *The American Muslim Crisis of Faith* by Zaid Adhami

Publication date: May 20, 2025
318 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 2 halftones, notes, bibl., index
Series: Where Religion Lives

Rights information

- All rights available

What is an authentic religious faith?

The past two decades have witnessed pervasive anxieties in US Muslim communities around a perceived crisis of faith. As Zaid Adhami argues in this richly textured ethnography, these concerns are fundamentally about the pressures and dilemmas of authenticity—what it *really* means to be a Muslim. While discussions about authenticity in Islam typically focus on maintaining tradition and competing claims to “true Islam,” Adhami focuses instead on the powerful idea of being true to one’s own self and what it means to have genuine belief. Drawing on extensive conversations with American Muslims and careful readings of broader communal discourse, Adhami shows that this drive for personal authenticity plays out

in complicated ways. It can produce deep doubt while also serving as the grounds to affirm tradition. It can converge with revivalist modes of piety, but it can also prompt emphatic challenges to communal orthodoxies.

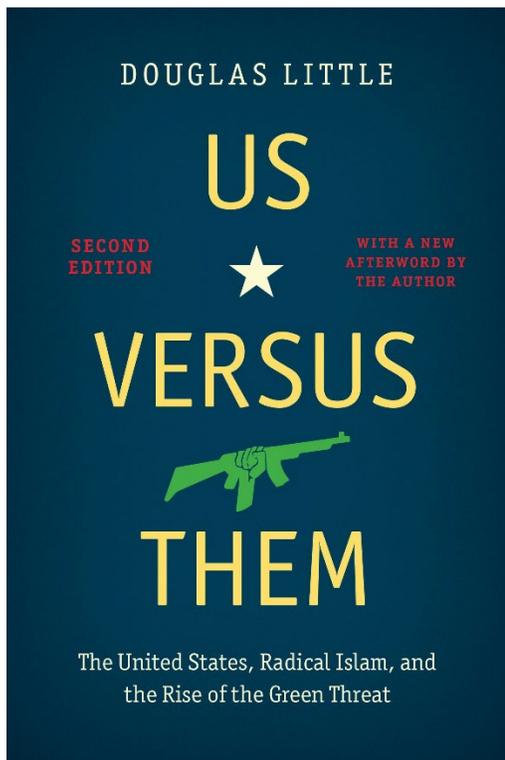
Through vivid storytelling and sensitive analysis, Adhami illuminates why religious doubt is often a source of intense anxiety in today’s world and how people maintain their faith despite such unsettling uncertainty.

Zaid Adhami is associate professor of religion at Williams College.

Praise & reviews

“Through insightful ethnography and superb analysis, Adhami convincingly argues that a contemporary ‘crisis of faith’ among American Muslims stems from the convergence of global Islamic revivalism and American spirituality, both of which revolve around concerns over ‘authenticity.’ Expertly weaving debates in Islamic studies and American religions, Adhami shows how this crisis has generated new possibilities for individual and communal religiosity in contemporary Islam.”—Justine Howe, Case Western Reserve University

“This is an important book, written in engaging and accessible prose while sacrificing nothing in terms of conceptual and philosophical sophistication. Adhami draws on a wealth of ethnographic and historical data to advance multiple conversations in religious studies, American Muslim studies, and American studies.”
—Alireza Doostdar, The University of Chicago



Us versus Them, Second Edition

The United States, Radical Islam, and the Rise of the Green Threat

Second Edition, with a new afterword by the author
by Douglas Little

Publication date: September 6, 2022

356 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 4 maps

Rights information

- All rights available

An updated edition with a new afterword on Trump, Biden, and Afghanistan.

Acclaimed historian of U.S.–Middle East foreign relations Douglas Little examines how American presidents, policy makers, and diplomats dealt with the rise of Islamic extremism in the modern era. Focusing on White House decision-making from George H. W. Bush to Barack Obama, Little traces the transformation of the Cold War–era “Red Threat” into the “Green Threat” of radical Islam. Analyzing key episodes from the 1991 Persian Gulf War and Bill Clinton’s mishandling of the Oslo peace process through the 9/11 attacks, George W. Bush’s decision to invade Iraq, and the

showdown with ISIS, Little shows how the threat posed by Islamic “others” shaped the Middle Eastern policies of both Democratic and Republican presidents. This second edition includes a new afterword that carries the story through the Trump administration and into the Biden presidency, focusing particularly on Afghanistan, a major trouble spot in the Muslim world that will command global attention for many years to come.

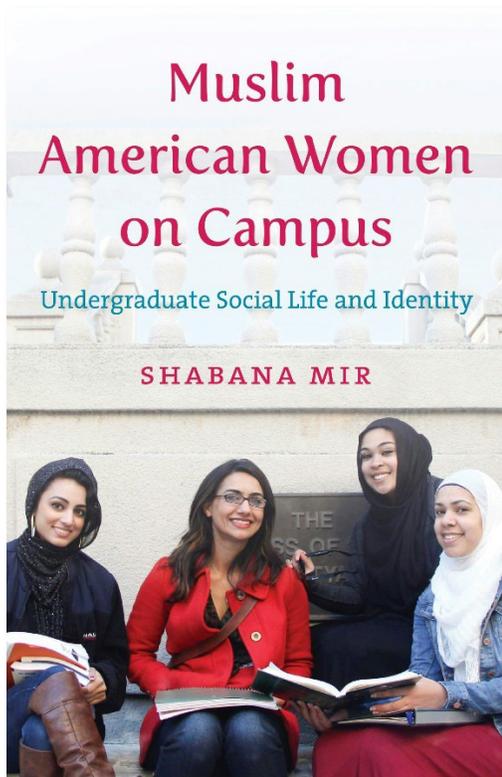
Douglas Little is professor of history at Clark University. He is author of *American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East since 1945*.

Praise & reviews

“Little demonstrates the value of professional historical research for what have become politicized, even polemical, debates over America’s confrontation with Islamists and offers the best available account of post-9/11 U.S. foreign policy.”—*American Historical Review*

“A major contribution to historical scholarship on the subject, one that will fascinate, enlighten, provoke, and at times delight readers of all levels and persuasions.”

—Salim Yaqub, author of *Imperfect Strangers: Americans, Arabs, and U.S.-Middle East Relations in the 1970s*



Muslim American Women on Campus *Undergraduate Social Life and Identity* by Shabana Mir

Publication date: August 1, 2016

224 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 1 table, appends., bibl., index, glossary

Rights information

- Audio rights, Audible

Identity, community, scrutiny

Shabana Mir's powerful ethnographic study of women on Washington, D.C., college campuses reveals that being a young female Muslim in post-9/11 America means experiencing double scrutiny—scrutiny from the Muslim community as well as from the dominant non-Muslim community. *Muslim American Women on Campus* illuminates the processes by which a group of ethnically diverse American college women, all identifying as Muslim and all raised in the United States, construct their identities during one of the most formative times in their lives.

Mir, an anthropologist of education, focuses on key leisure practices—drinking, dating, and fashion—to probe how Muslim American students adapt to campus life and build social networks that are seamlessly

American, Muslim, and youthful. In this lively and highly accessible book, we hear the women's own often poignant voices as they articulate how they find spaces within campus culture as well as their Muslim student communities to grow and assert themselves as individuals, women, and Americans. Mir concludes, however, that institutions of higher learning continue to have much to learn about fostering religious diversity on campus.

Shabana Mir is assistant professor of anthropology at American Islamic College.

Praise & reviews

Outstanding Book Award, Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights in North America
2014 Critics' Choice Book Award, American Educational Studies Association

"Important, timely, and provocative. Mir reveals the struggle of Muslim American women to negotiate identities in the gaze of both the dominant and Muslim communities."

—Michelle Fine, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

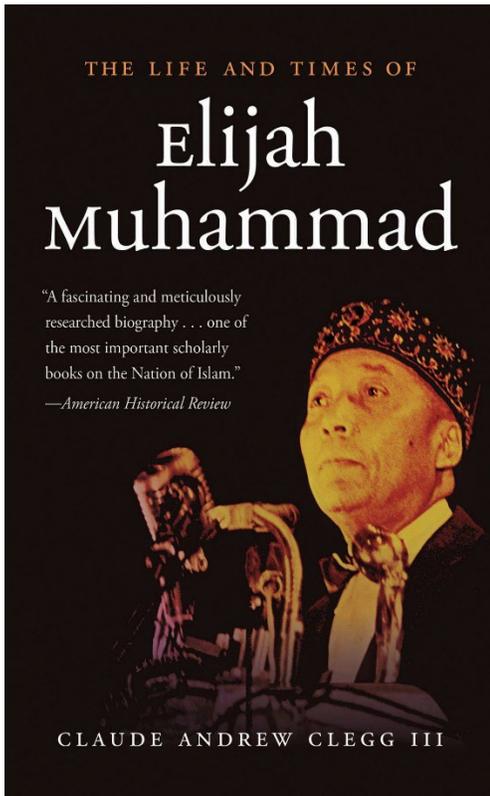
"Thought-provoking and timely ... the book offers a nuanced, frank voice to issues seldom discussed so openly and a bracing challenge to academic communities, especially multicultural, religious, and women's studies scholars, as well as general readers."—*Publishers Weekly*

"The reticence Mir found on both campuses is unfortunate in a university setting, where dialogue and mutual understanding should be the norm."—*Washington Post*

"Extremely accessible. ... Highly recommended. All levels/libraries."—*CHOICE*

"The social insights of Mir's work—especially the reflections of a minority group on majority campus culture—and the approachable writing style make this text particularly useful to scholars of education and policy makers."

—*Anthropology & Education Quarterly*



The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad

by Claude Andrew Clegg III

Publication date: September 2, 2014
400 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, appends., notes, bibl., index

Rights information

- All rights available

The definitive biography of the leader of the Nation of Islam

Elijah Muhammad (1897-1975) was one of the most significant and controversial black leaders of the twentieth century. His followers called him the Messenger of Allah, while his critics labeled him a teacher of hate. Southern by birth, Muhammad moved north, eventually serving as the influential head of the Nation of Islam for over forty years. Claude Clegg III not only chronicles Muhammad's life, but also examines the history of American black nationalists and the relationship between Islam and the African American experience.

In this authoritative biography, which also covers half a century of the evolution of the Nation of Islam, Clegg charts Muhammad's early life, his brush with Jim Crow in the South, his rise to leadership of the Nation of Islam, and his tumultuous relationship with Malcolm X. Clegg is the first

biographer to weave together speeches and published works by Muhammad, as well as delving into declassified government documents, insider accounts, audio and video records, and interviews, producing the definitive account of an extraordinary man and his legacy.

Claude Clegg III teaches history at Indiana University at Bloomington. He is the author of *The Price of Liberty: African Americans and the Making of Liberia*.

Praise & reviews

"I can think of no twentieth-century leader with anything like the impact of Elijah Muhammad whose life has been so profoundly unexamined. [Clegg] has brought Muhammad to light in a fluidly written biography rich with information, analysis and suspense."—*The New York Times Book Review*

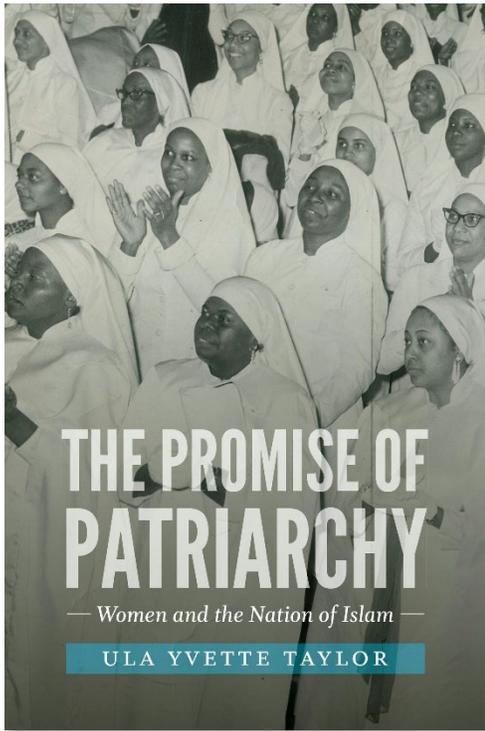
"An impressively perceptive and valuable book ... A major contribution to African-American history that ought to be read by anyone interested in Malcolm X."—David J. Garrow, in *Newsday*

"Anyone seeking to understand the enduring significance of the Nation of Islam, or the rising political stock of Louis Farrakhan, should begin by reading this biography."—*The Washington Post Book World*

"A fascinating and meticulously researched biography. Clegg's balanced historical narrative removes the study of Muslim individuals and groups from the realm of exotica and stereotype and joins the works of Lincoln and Essien-Udom as one of the most important scholarly books on the Nation of Islam. I highly recommend it."—*American Historical Review*

"Fills a significant void in the historical literature by examining the life of one of the twentieth century's most enigmatic African American leaders. This is an important work that may arouse some controversy but nonetheless contains a message of hope and redemption that has timeless resonance."—*Journal of Southern History*

"Clegg gives us more information than we've ever had before and new ways to think about the man whose organization bequeathed us Malcolm X and Louis Farrakhan."—*Los Angeles Times Book Review*



The Promise of Patriarchy *Women and the Nation of Islam* by Ula Yvette Taylor

Publication date: October 9, 2017

288 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 14 halftones, notes, bibl., index

Series: The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture

Rights information

- All rights available

Putting women at the center of the Nation of Islam

The patriarchal structure of the Nation of Islam (NOI) promised black women the prospect of finding a provider and a protector among the organization's men, who were fiercely committed to these masculine roles. Black women's experience in the NOI, however, has largely remained on the periphery of scholarship. Here, Ula Taylor documents their struggle to escape the devaluation of black womanhood while also clinging to the empowering promises of patriarchy. Taylor shows how, despite being relegated to a lifestyle that did not encourage working outside of the home,

NOI women found freedom in being able to bypass the degrading experiences connected to labor performed largely by working-class black women and in raising and educating their children in racially affirming environments.

Telling the stories of women like Clara Poole (wife of Elijah Muhammad) and Burnsteen Sharrieff (secretary to W. D. Fard, founder of the Allah Temple of Islam), Taylor offers a compelling narrative that explains how their decision to join a homegrown, male-controlled Islamic movement was a complicated act of self-preservation and self-love in Jim Crow America.

Ula Yvette Taylor is professor of African American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

2018 Darlene Clark Hine Award, Organization of American Historians (commended)

2018 Liberty Legacy Foundation Award, Organization of American Historians

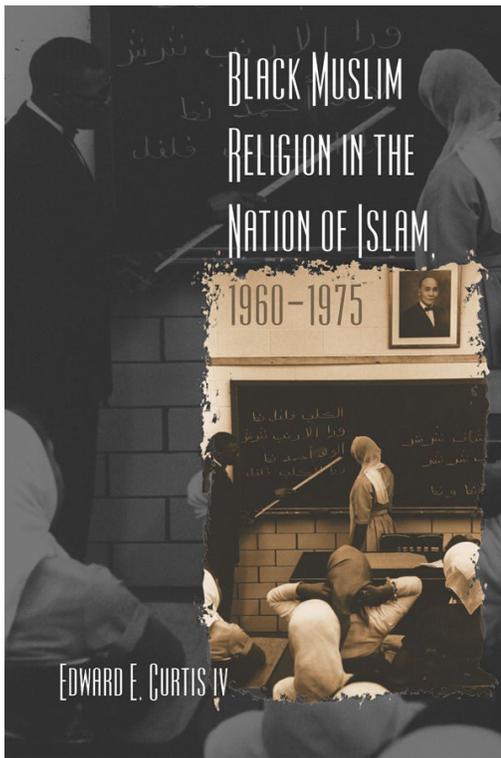
2018 Letitia Woods Brown Prize, Association for Black Women Historians

“Peels back the layers of mystery and silence associated with the NOI to provide a riveting account of the daily lives of the group's members and the profound crises and contradictions of the organization. ... Well-written, richly sourced, and intensely felt.”—*Journal of American History*

“Until now, histories of the NOI have not given women their due, and none have had this kind of archival breadth and reach. This is superb scholarship.”—Gerald Horne, author of *Fire This Time*

“While much has been written about the Nation of Islam, male-centered narratives of the most controversial and high-profile leaders have predominated. And yet, as Taylor demonstrates, without the work and foresight of women, the NOI would have been a far-less-effective organization. This study moves the women of the NOI from the periphery to the center to unveil layers of insight into the politics of black intimacy. It combines compelling storytelling of individual biographies and deft analysis of the larger cultural and political forces impacting the lives of ordinary black people using a rich treasure trove of archival records and interviews. This is a stellar contribution to gender studies, African American studies, and late twentieth-century U.S. history.”—Tera W. Hunter, Princeton University

“A refreshing, robust study of the most prominent community of African American Muslims in the 20th century.”
—*Reading Religion*



Black Muslim Religion in the Nation of Islam, 1960-1975

by Edward E. Curtis IV

Publication date: October 30, 2006

256 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 7 illus., notes, index

Rights information

- All rights available

More than a political movement

Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam came to America's attention in the 1960s and 1970s as a radical separatist African American social and political group. But the movement was also a religious one. Edward E. Curtis IV offers the first comprehensive examination of the rituals, ethics, theologies, and religious narratives of the Nation of Islam, showing how the movement combined elements of Afro-Eurasian Islamic traditions with African American traditions to create a new form of Islamic faith.

Considering everything from bean pies to religious cartoons, clothing styles to prayer rituals, Curtis explains how the practice of Islam in the movement included the disciplining and purifying of the black body, the

reorientation of African American historical consciousness toward the Muslim world, an engagement with both mainstream Islamic texts and the prophecies of Elijah Muhammad, and the development of a holistic approach to political, religious, and social liberation. Curtis's analysis pushes beyond essentialist ideas about what it means to be Muslim and offers a view of the importance of local processes in identity formation and the appropriation of Islamic traditions.

Edward E. Curtis IV is Millennium Scholar of the Liberal Arts and associate professor of religious studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He is author of *Islam in Black America: Identity, Liberation and Difference in African-American Islamic Thought*.

Praise & reviews

"This text is a 'must-read' for those interested in religion in America, black studies, Islam in America, and the Nation of Islam."—*Journal of Religion*

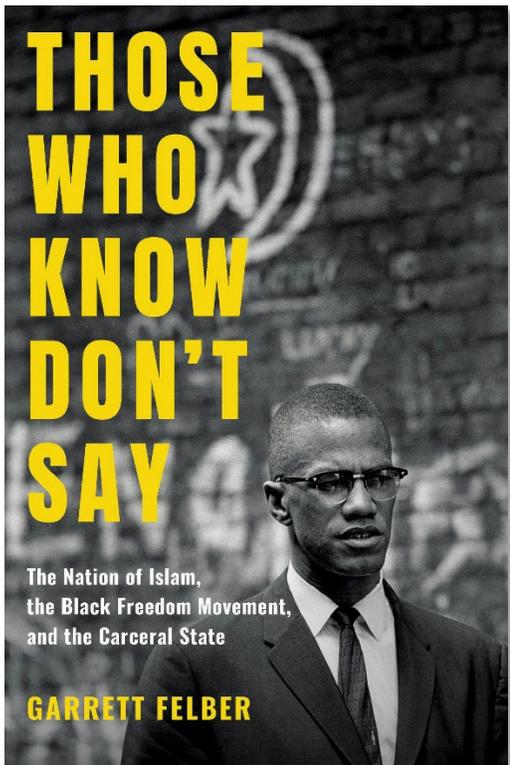
"A 'must-read' for those interested in religion in America, black studies, Islam in America, and the Nation of Islam."—*Journal of American History*

"This is a groundbreaking and excellent study of the religious life of the Nation of Islam."—*American Historical Review*

"Provides heretofore unexplored discourse on how Black Muslims perceived, understood, and validated their practice of religion and connected it to traditional Islam between 1960 and 1975."—*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

"Curtis makes a valuable addition to the scholarship on the Nation of Islam and to African American religious history more generally. This book is well written and well-researched, and makes a careful and fully convincing argument that ordinary members of the Nation of Islam experienced their participation in the Nation as a religious activity, and not only a political or ideological engagement."—Melani McAlister, George Washington University

"A fresh, new perspective on the Nation of Islam (NOI) by adopting a religious-studies approach that focuses specifically on religious ritual, ethics, doctrine, and narrative. ... An important book and it should become a standard text on this small but hotly debated religious movement."—*Michigan Historical Review*



Those Who Know Don't Say *The Nation of Islam, the Black Freedom Movement, and the Carceral State*

by Garrett Felber

Publication date: January 13, 2020
272 Pages, 6.12 × 9.25, 23 halftones
Series: Justice, Power, and Politics

Rights information

- Audio rights, Tantor Audio

How the Nation of Islam organized and built coalitions against policing and prisons

Challenging incarceration and policing was central to the postwar Black Freedom Movement. In this bold new political and intellectual history of the Nation of Islam, Garrett Felber centers the Nation in the Civil Rights Era and the making of the modern carceral state. In doing so, he reveals a multifaceted freedom struggle that focused as much on policing and prisons as on school desegregation and voting rights. The book examines efforts to build broad-based grassroots coalitions among liberals, radicals, and nationalists to oppose the carceral state and struggle for local Black

self-determination. It captures the ambiguous place of the Nation of Islam specifically, and Black nationalist organizing more broadly, during an era which has come to be defined by nonviolent resistance, desegregation campaigns, and racial liberalism.

By provocatively documenting the interplay between law enforcement and Muslim communities, Felber decisively shows how state repression and Muslim organizing laid the groundwork for the modern carceral state and the contemporary prison abolition movement which opposes it. Exhaustively researched, the book illuminates new sites and forms of political struggle as Muslims prayed under surveillance in prison yards and used courtroom political theater to put the state on trial. This history captures familiar figures in new ways—Malcolm X the courtroom lawyer and A. Philip Randolph the Harlem coalition builder—while highlighting the forgotten organizing of rank-and-file activists in prisons such as Martin Sostre. This definitive account is an urgent reminder that Islamophobia, state surveillance, and police violence have deep roots in the state repression of Black communities during the mid-20th century.

Garrett Felber is assistant professor of history at the University of Mississippi.

Praise & reviews

2020 Museum of African American History Stone Book Award (short-listed)

2021 Merle Curti Intellectual History Award, Organization of American Historians

2021 Pauli Murray Book Prize, African American Intellectual History Society (short-listed)

“Essential ... Felber insists—rightly—on reading prisons and courts as ‘sites of activism,’ where the legitimacy of the state was challenged, locating litigation alongside hunger strikes, sit-ins, takeovers of solitary confinement, street protests, and prison uprisings as acts of resistance within a broader Black Freedom struggle—acts to which the state responded, often with crushing force.”—*American Religion*

“Felber’s political and intellectual history of the Nation of Islam centers the Nation in the US Civil Rights Era and the making of the modern carceral state, seeking to capture the ambiguous place of the Nation—and Black nationalist organizing more broadly—during an era which has come to be defined by nonviolent resistance, desegregation campaigns, and racial liberalism.”—*Law and Social Inquiry*