

Katherine Rose Merriman

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Religious Studies, Islamic Studies track advised by Juliane Hammer
Dissertation: "Forty Houses of Giving: Muslim Charitable Practices in the United States"

Arabic Certificate

Institut Français du Proche Orient (French Institute of the Near East), Aleppo, Syria
Academic year program in intensive Modern Standard Arabic and Syrian dialect

Master of Theological Studies

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Area of Focus: Islamic Studies Advisor: Leila Ahmed

Bachelor of Arts

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York
Major: Religion (with Honors) and Minor: Arabic Language and Culture
One Semester exchange at the American University in Cairo, Egypt

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

American Institute for Indian Studies: Urdu, Lucknow, India
Nine-week intensive program in Introductory and Intermediate Urdu

Arabic Language Institute in Fez, Fez, Morocco
Six-week intensive program in Introductory Modern Standard Arabic

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT

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|--------------|--|
| 2021-present | Assistant Professor , Department of Religious Studies
University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI |
| 2020-present | Director , Islamic Studies Program and Minor
University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit MI |
| 2020-2021 | Tenure-Track Instructor , Department of Religious Studies
University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI |
| 2019-2020 | Full Time Visiting Instructor , Department of Religious Studies
Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA |
| 2018 | Online Instructor , Friday Center for Continuing Education, UNC Chapel Hill |
| 2016-2017 | Teaching Fellow , Department of Religious Studies, UNC Chapel Hill
Designed syllabi and independently taught upper-level undergraduate courses |
| 2012-2016 | Teaching Assistant , Department of Religious Studies, UNC Chapel Hill |

Taught weekly recitation discussions for lecture courses; graded all student work and held office hours; co-created course assignments; offered guest lectures

- 2013 **Graduate Research Consultant**, Department of Religious Studies, UNC Chapel Hill
Advisor to ethnographic research project on Muslim sacred spaces in North Carolina

COURSE OFFERINGS RECORD

University of Detroit Mercy

Introduction to Islam
Geographies of Religion
Western Religions
Islam in America
Creative Islam

Franklin & Marshall College

Islam in North America
Introduction to Islam
Geographies of Religion

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Instructor)

Introduction to Islam
Modern Muslims and the Qur'an
Space, Place, and Religion

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Teaching Assistant)

Religion in America
Early Islamic Civilization
Later Islamic Civilization and Modern Cultures
New Testament Archaeology
Introduction to Jewish Studies

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 (under review) "'The Fundraiser's Not Religious, It Helps Everyone!' The Annual Ramadan Fundraiser and the Production of Muslim Ethical Norms." *Journal of Muslim Philanthropy & Civil Society*.
- 2021 Review of *Routledge Handbook of Islam in the West*, by Roberto Tottoli. *Religious Studies Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.15203>.
- 2020 "Epistemic Authority and a Just World: Remaking Islamic Studies through Collaborative Practices." In *Writing from Experience: Translating Islam with Carl W. Ernst*, edited by Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst and Brannon Wheeler. Sheffield, UK: Equinox.
- 2018 "Trust and Giving for the Sake of God: The Rise of the Bureaucratic Non-Profit in American Muslim Charity." *Project on Middle East Political Science Studies*, No. 32: The Politics of Islam in Europe and North America.
- 2017 Review of *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States* by Su'ad Abdul Khabeer. *Religious Studies Review* 4:43 (2017): 415-416.
- 2017 Review of *Making Moderate Islam: Sufism, Service, and the "Ground Zero Mosque" Controversy* by Rosemary R. Corbett. *Maydan*. <https://www.themaydan.com/2017/08/book-review-making-moderate-islam-sufism-service-ground-zero-mosque-rosemary-corbett/>.

- “Interview with Juliane Hammer.” In *Critical Epistemologies of Global Politics*, edited by Marc Woons and Sebastian Weier: 216-226. Bristol, UK: E-International Relations, 2017.
- 2016 “Multiracial Struggles and Solidarities in Islamic Harlem.” *The Funambulist: Politics of Space and Bodies* 1:8 (2016): 4-7.
- Review of *The Call of Bilal: Islam in the African Diaspora*, by Edward Curtis. *Nova Religio* 2:1 (2016): 116-118.
- 2014 Review of *Rebel Music: Race, Empire, and the New Muslim Youth Culture*, by Hisham Aidi. *Sociology of Islam* 2:34 (2014): 362-365.
- 2013 “The Council For Islamic American Relations.” In *Multicultural America: A Multimedia Encyclopedia*, ed. Carlos E. Cortés, et al. Pine Forge, CA: Sage Publications, 2013.
- 2011 “Yacoobi, Sakena” and “Ziada, Dalia.” In *The Multimedia Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World*, ed. Mary Z. Stange, et al. Pine Forge, CA: Sage Publications, 2011.
- 2010 “Progressive Muslims.” In *The Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World*, ed. Mary Z. Stange, et al. Pine Forge, CA: Sage Publications, 2010.

REPORTS

- 2022 Thematic Index for “Aisha A. L. Al-Adawiya and Women in Islam, Inc. collection” (105 linear feet). Buke Library, Union Theological Seminary at Columbia University. Prepared in affiliation with the Center for the Study of Muslim Societies, Columbia University.

PRESENTED PAPERS

Refereed Presentations

- 2022 “‘Service is Life and Service is Islam’ The Spatial Dynamic of Charitable Work in Volunteering Events,” *6th Annual Symposium on Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society*, Muslim Philanthropy Initiative at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indianapolis, IN
- “Defining Muslim Philanthropy in & Beyond the Surveillance State,” *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Regional American Academy of Religion*, Virtual (Group Submission and Individual Presentations)
- 2019 “Islamic Horizons for Aid: Taking the long view of Muslim charitable practice in the United States,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Diego, CA
- “Rewriting Urban History on Race, Religion, and Social Change: Muslim History Tour NYC,” *National Council on Public History Annual Meeting*, Hartford CT
- 2018 “Dinner, Speeches, and Shaping Sensibilities: The Ramadan charity fundraiser as a space for the creation of legal norms in American Islam,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Denver, CO
- “‘The Fundraiser’s Not Religious, It Helps Everyone!’ The Annual Ramadan Fundraiser and the Production of Muslim Ethical Norms,” *Lily Family School of Philanthropy Annual Symposium on Muslim Philanthropy & Civil Society*, Indianapolis, IN
- “Give for the Sake of God: The Logics of Humanitarianism and Development in American Muslim Charities,” *The Politics of Islam in Europe and North America Workshop*, co-hosted by the Center for International Studies at Sciences Po and organized by the Project on Middle East Political Science at George Washington University | Paris, France

- 2017 “A Duty to One’s Own: Muslim Diasporic Imaginings and the Promise of Return through Humanitarian Aid,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Boston, MA
- 2015 “Muhammad Ali and the Ritualization of the Muslim Body as Social Protest,” *2015 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Atlanta, GA
- “A Country of The Mind: Political Blackness and Muslim Internationalism After World War II,” *Borders, Borderthinking, Borderlands Summer Institute*, Co-organized by the University of Bremen, UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University, Bremen, Germany
- “Malcolm’s Lost Son: Muhammad Ali’s Muslim Internationalism in the 1960s,” *Malcolm X’s World 50 Years Later: Reappraising Race, Religion, and Revolution Today*, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
- 2015 “Freedom by Our Own Hands: The Revolutionary Theology of Warith Deen Mohammed,” *Reformers and Intellectual Reformulation in Contemporary Islam Symposium*, SOAS/University of Exeter/Queen Mary University, London, UK
- 2014 “Ethnographic Islands and the Geographic Expanse of History: West African Muslims in New York City,” *2014 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Diego, CA
- 2013 “Meeting Again for the First Time: African Muslims Performing Authenticity in the ‘Black Mecca’ of Harlem,” King’s College special conference on *Religion in American Life*, University College London, UK
- 2011 “Beyond Park 51: Mosques and Muslim Communities in New York City Post 9/11,” *2011 Association of Muslim Social Scientists Annual Conference*, New York, NY

Invited Presentations

- 2023 (upcoming) “Mother of the City: Sister Aisha al-Adawiya and Archiving a New Historical Narrative,” Re-evaluating Methodological Trajectories in the Academic Study of Islam, *Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto & Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University*, Toronto, Canada
- 2022 Workshop Facilitator, “Religious Worlds of New York,” *National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholars Institute for K-12 Educators*, hosted by the Interfaith Center of New York, NY
- “Histories of Immigration for South Asian and Other Racial and Religious Minorities in New York,” *Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania*, On-Site Lecture and Interactive Presentation in New York, NY
- 2020 “Muslim History in New York City,” *Designit*, Online Lecture
- 2019 “Covering Contemporary and Historical Muslims in New York City,” *New York Times Headquarters*, New York, NY
- 2018 Workshop Facilitator, “A Reverence for Words: Understanding Muslim Cultures Through the Arts,” *National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholars Institute for K-12 Educators*, hosted by CityLore, New York, NY
- 2017 “Intersectionality, American Muslims, and the Domestic ‘War on Terror,’” Racial Literacies Working Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Understanding Islam and Muslims: A Panel Conversation,” Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“The White Savior Complex,” *Go! Global Orientation*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Convener: The Center for Global Initiatives (Also given for *Go!* in 2016)

“Cross-cultural engagement and responsibilities for Study Abroad,” Campus Y Global Engagement Fair, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2016 “Women Are Not Their Clothes: Muslim Women's Diverse Perspectives on Faith, Gender, and Politics,” Alamance Community College, Graham, NC

SELECTED SERVICE

- 2022-present **Director**, Islamic Studies Program and Minor, University of Detroit Mercy
 Conduct curriculum development and evaluation
 Update and expand course offerings across departments
 Recruit undergraduate minors and contribute to university recruitment efforts
 Build connections and partnerships with local Muslim organizations and mosques
 Plan events and obtain co-sponsorship with relevant university offices and departments
- Core Curriculum Committee Member and Secretary** (University Level), McNichols Faculty Assembly, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI
- Grants & Funds Committee Member** (College Level), College of Liberal Arts and Education Shared Governance, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI
- 2022 **Article Reviewer**, Islam Section, *Religion Compass*, John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
- 2014-2016 **President**, Islamicate Graduate Student Association at UNC, Chapel Hill, NC
 Organize, fundraise, and manage academic speakers and artistic performances
- 2013-2014 **Conference Director**, “Cartographies of Islam”
 11th Annual Duke-UNC Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2012-2013 **Conference Co-organizer**, “(De-)Centering Islam and the Question of Authenticity,”
 10th Annual Duke-UNC Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, Durham, NC
- Co-Coordinator**, Islam in the Global Context Speaker Series
 Ran a public monthly speaker series of graduate work across disciplines
- 2011 **Trip coordinator and Arabic translator**, Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY
 Cultural guide and translator for a college honor society group trip to Palestine/Israel
- Member Fundraiser**, The Iraqi Student Project: New York City Chapter, NY
 Created social media presence; organized fundraising events
- Events Volunteer**, Alwan for the Arts, New York, NY
 Assisted with events for premier Middle East cultural center in lower Manhattan
- 2010 **Vice President**, Islamic Studies Forum, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
 Created and ran events for graduate students such as movie screenings and discussions

2009 **Conference Organizer**, “Muslim Community Leadership in America: Women’s Challenges and Horizons,” Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA

SCHOLARLY AFFILIATION

American Academy of Religion | Member

Center for the Study of Muslim Societies, Middle East Institute, Columbia University | Research Affiliate

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014-present **Founder and Guide**, Muslim History Tour NYC, New York, NY
 Historical Walking Tour of New York City neighborhoods and their Muslim histories
 Offers lectures and trainings on religion, race, and urban socio-political history
 Interactive tours given to academic, interfaith, civic, and nonprofit groups
 Free public tours

2014 **Citizenship Program Intern**, Arab American Association of New York, Brooklyn, NY
 Developed curriculum and taught courses and individual sessions on citizenship and naturalization; provided casework for immigration applications; translated documents

2013 **Interim Director of Higher Education**, Jesuit Refugee Service, Amman, Jordan
 Managed college and vocational programs for adult urban refugees; coordinated new interpretation course; Taught “Leadership” accredited course in the college program

2012 **Editorial Assistant**, Islawmix Project, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
 Analyzed news from American media sources on Islamic law for online resource site

Higher Education Program Coordinator and Instructor, Jesuit Refugee Service
 Designed structure and curriculum for a 5-week intensive college preparatory program;
 Taught grammar and writing sections; coordinated supplementary workshops and tutors

2011 **Consultant/Translator**, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, New York, NY
 Translation and document preparation in Arabic for Middle East/North Africa conference

Arabic and English Editor, Oded Halahmy Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY
 Line and copy editing for bilingual book on Iraqi cuisine, with essays, poetry, and recipes

2008 - 2010 **Senior Research Associate**, The Pluralism Project, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
 Research and publication on Islam in America and general history and religion
 Event planning and promotion; Administration

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND PRIZES

2018 **Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellow 2018-2019**, Lily Family School of Philanthropy, IN
Robert Miller Fund for Student Excellence Travel Grant, UNC Chapel Hill, NC
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UNC Chapel Hill, NC [declined]

2018 **Community Engagement Fellowship**, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

2017 **Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship**, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

2017 **Chi-Jung Chu Memorial Summer Research Fellowship**, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

2016 **Doctoral Summer Research Grant**, International Institute of Islamic Thought, VA
Perry Summer Fellowship, Department of Religious Studies, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

- 2015 **Pre-Dissertation Travel Award**, Center for Global Initiatives, UNC Chapel Hill, NC
- 2014 **Graduate Student Association Conference Travel Scholarship**, UNC Chapel Hill, NC
- 2013 **Elizabeth Skinner Hubbard Graduate Fellowship**, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2012 **Weiss Urban Livability Fellowship**, UNC Chapel Hill, NC
- 2010 **Ann Cornelisen Language Fellowship [Arabic]**, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2010 **Critical Language Summer Scholarship [Urdu]**, U.S. Department of State
- 2009 **Elizabeth Skinner Hubbard Graduate Fellowship**, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2008 **Frederick C. Wood, Sr. Prize**, Religion Department, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

- 2019 Farah Dosani. "Religious Walking Tour Maps Out the History of Muslims In New York City." *NPR*, October 12, 2019. <https://www.npr.org/2019/10/12/769046586/religious-walking-tour-maps-out-the-history-of-muslims-in-new-york-city>.
- Adeel Hassan. "Chronicling New York's Muslim History." *The New York Times*, September 9, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/17/us/chronicling-new-yorks-muslim-history.html>.
- Zac Thompson. "Muslim History Tour Tells Untold Chapter of New York City's Past—and Present." *Frommer's*, April 25, 2019. https://www.frommers.com/blogs/arthur-frommer-online/blog_posts/muslim-history-tour-tells-untold-chapter-of-new-york-city-s-past-and-present.
- 2018 Sharon Otterman. "Malcolm X. Mosque No. 7. Hotel Theresa. Remembering Harlem's Muslim History." *The New York Times*, August 12, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/12/nyregion/muslim-history-harlem-nyc.html>.
- 2018 Rozina Ali. "New York City's Forgotten Muslim Past." *The New Yorker*, August 6/13, 2018. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/08/06/new-york-citys-forgotten-muslim-past>.
- Jana Ibrahim. "An academic's quest to unearth centuries-old history of Islam in New York." *Al Arabiya English*, August 9, 2018. <https://english.alarabiya.net/life-style/travel-and-tourism/2018/08/09/An-academic-s-quest-to-unearth-centuries-old-history-of-Islam-in-New-York>.
- 2017 "Katie Merriman: Researcher of Islamic American History"
Interview with Tariq El-Amin on *Radio Islam* WCEV 1450 AM, Chicago, IL
- "How This Academic Is Sharing 400 Years of Muslim History in Harlem"
NBC News [Video]. <https://www.nbcnews.com/video/how-this-academic-is-sharing-400-years-of-muslim-history-in-harlem-1076065859599>
- "Muslim History in Harlem," Interview with Olivia Canlas on *Asia Pacific Forum*, WBAI 99.5 FM, New York, NY