

Scholars

Editor's Note: Scholars' affiliations may have changed since their fellowships were awarded.

Class of 2005

Khaled M. Abou El Fadl

Professor of Law

University of California, Los Angeles

Title: *Reconstituting Jihad: From Making War to Constructing Peace*

Abou El Fadl's project is the first systematic study of the theology and jurisprudence of *jihad* in Islam. He will trace the evolving debates regarding the meanings and functions of *jihad* from the pre-modern to the modern periods, exploring, in particular, the tension between certain meanings of *jihad* and the *Qur'anic* mandate requiring human beings not only to know each other, but also to cooperate and co-mingle. A respected expert on Islamic and Middle Eastern law, Abou El Fadl presents a normative argument for reconstructing the theology of *jihad*, i.e., human beings reaching out to fulfill the unrealized potential placed by God in existence, and using this reconstituted theology as an ideology of state building and as an ethic supporting the constituting of pluralist societies within a nation state. The book resulting from this project is expected to become a comprehensive reference source for students of Islam, comparative religions, international law and policymakers.

Asma Afsaruddin

Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies

University of Notre Dame

Title: *Striving in the Path of God: Discursive Traditions on Jihad and the Cult of Martyrdom*

Afsaruddin proposes to uncover the semantic content of the term *jihad* from its earliest *Qur'anic* reference as a spiritual struggle over the carnal self and verbal and physical resistance to injustice to its current meaning of religiously mandated combat. She will accomplish this by tracing the historical and political evolution of the term and exploring how *jihad* came to be inextricably associated with *shahid* (martyr) and *shahada* (martyr-

dom). Using primary sources, including the *Qur'an*, early *hadith* compilations and selected *fada-il* literature, Afsaruddin will examine the trajectory of meanings assigned to the term over time and link the narrowing of its definition to specific socio-political circumstances along the way. The research aims to offer scrupulous and significant challenges to assertions that political belligerence and militancy is divinely sanctioned. Afsaruddin's research will be published as a monograph; it will also result in a series of related articles.

John R. Bowen

Dunbar-Van Cleve Professor in Arts & Sciences

Washington University of St. Louis

Title: *Shaping French Islam*

Muslims living in non-majority Muslim countries are challenged to adapt their religious institutions and practices to secular laws and traditions. Bowen's project will examine how French Muslims strive to build a base for their religious lives in a society that views these practices as incompatible with national values. Focusing on Muslim public reasoning and the activities of Muslim public intellectuals in France, Bowen will analyze the arguments and justifications that French Muslims use when discussing Islamic issues, e.g., marriage, divorce and dress prohibitions. Bowen asserts that these discourses, addressing the question of how to be at once a good Muslim and a French citizen, reveal how Islam is being adapted within Western culture. Bowen's book complements earlier research of French support for laws against displaying religious signs, which was published in a book, called *In Preparation: Why the French Don't Like Headscarves*. His current work is expected to make an important contribution to understanding how Middle Eastern Islamic values, particularly in respect to gender equality, are transformed by secular ideology and jurisprudence, offering fresh insight into Islam's future in Europe and the West.

Brian T. Edwards

Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies

Northwestern University

Title: *After the American Century: Globalization and the Circulation of "American Civilization" in North Africa and the Middle East*

Edwards is involved in a firsthand examination of ideas about America in North Africa and the Middle East and the means by which they are circulated, e.g., media, cyber-culture, material culture and education. Edwards, who has worked extensively in this region,

focuses on four sites—Fez, Cairo, Beirut and Tehran—to investigate cultural aspects of global confrontation. Recognizing that circuits of communication have changed dramatically within the globalization of media and economies, Edwards concentrates on communications venues used by the young (the most populous age group in the area), such as cybercafes, campuses and social centers. Arguing that cultural understanding is the foundation of long-term international peace and security, Edwards’ goal is to understand how and where American culture circulates and what meanings Arabs and Iranians make of American “civilization” in the supposedly de-politicized realm of culture. Results of this research will be published in a book.

Noah R. Feldman

Professor of Law

New York University

Title: *Constitutional Change in the Islamic World*

Feldman’s project will examine recurring themes and features that appear in constitutional initiatives underway in highly diverse majority-Muslim countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Bahrain and Nigeria. The study is expected to chart the contours of constitutional change in the contemporary Islamic world by studying the complex interplay of liberal and Islamic constitutional ideas and players. It also promises to provide historical context by examining the classical Islamic tradition of constitutional thought, which Feldman asserts is pragmatic about engagement with non-Muslims and open to assimilation of outside legal norms. Careful consideration will be given to the development of Islamic constitutional ideas under the conditions of Western imperial expansion, both as a product of concessions demanded by Western powers who held governments, e.g., the Ottomans, in debt as well as domestic movements instigated by foreign-educated elite from within. By showing that Islamic constitutional thought has historically encountered and synthesized foreign constitutional ideas, Feldman intends to show how contemporary processes of constitutional change may be conceived as the latest sites of ongoing engagement, rather than battles in a clash of civilizations.

Michael M.J. Fischer

Professor of Anthropology and Science and Technology Studies

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Title: *Emergent Forms of Life, Deep Play, and Ethical Plateaus in the Social and Technosci-*

entific Infrastructures Shaping Muslim Democratic Futures

Despite two centuries of scholarly research on the Muslim world and a half century of focused “area studies” research, little attention has been given to the contemporary technological infrastructures and technoscientific capacities that support the Muslim society. Fischer’s research will involve ethnographic forays into four focal areas of the Muslim world—the Middle East and North Africa, Persian and Turkish-speaking societies, India-Pakistan and the area encompassing Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines—to examine scientific technologies that are reshaping the possibilities for deliberative democracy, expanded legitimacy of governance and education. Noting a lack of contemporary scholarship on technological infrastructures in the Islamic world, Fischer’s examination goes beyond demographic and statistical abstractions to explore technoscientific institutions and the network of scientists and engineers who cross political divisions to maintain the technological framework and the educational system. The book resulting from Fischer’s current research will be of interest to educators, policymakers and the broader public.

Sohail H. Hashmi

Associate Professor of International Relations

Mount Holyoke College

Title: *Islamic International Law and Public International Law: Convergence or Dissonance?*

Hashmi’s research explores the current status of Islamic international law in light of the formal accession of Muslim states to public international law. Classical Islamic civilization developed a rich body of laws intended to govern the Islamic state’s relations with Muslims and non-Muslims. The theory behind these laws was based on two opposing spheres: *dar al-Islam*, practiced in Islamic states and grounded in interpretations of Islamic texts and precedents, and *dar al-harb*, which included non-Muslim legal systems from states and political entities that were conjoined to the Islamic empire as it expanded. Today, these aspects are debated by those who argue that Muslim states should abide by Islamic principles, in effect, a Muslim alliance formed as a subset within the broader global community. Others, the majority, generally accept prevailing international norms in theory and practice. Hashmi proposes that Islamic values provide a normative framework that informs Muslim political culture and shapes domestic and international politics, and that Islam’s fundamental moralistic principles may be invoked for the consolidation and support of positive international law rules with the goal of achieving justice and promoting

humanity throughout the world. By analyzing how the universal precepts of international law correlate to Muslim concepts and values, Hashmi is expected to break new ground in understanding parallels between Islamic international law and public international law.

Bernard Haykel

Associate Professor, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies
New York University

Title: *Saudi Arabia and the Global Salafi Movement*

Haykel's project is a study of the Salafi (aka the Wahhabiyya) movement from the 1960s to the present. By focusing on a network of scholars and activists in Saudi Arabia and other countries where Salafis have established a strong foothold, he will trace how and why the Salafis, under Saudi Arabia's patronage, have become one of the most influential intellectual and political groups in the Islamic world. Saudi Salafis are proselytizers who preach a literalist interpretation of Islamic sources of revelation, e.g., the *Qur'an*, claiming the path of Salafis is a certain path of God because their teachings are the most faithful to the pure Islam of the Prophet's time. A particular focus of this project will be the examination of Salafi devotion, devoid of emotional and affective expression—in Haykel's words: "punctilious adherence to the teachings and examples of the Prophet guarantees salvation." Without knowledge of whether Salafism is monolithic or multi-factioned, with conflicting sects and ranges of opinion, it is difficult to understand how effectual its role is within the Islamic world. Because Osama bin Laden is a member of a radical fringe of the Salafi movement, Salafism/Wahhabism has been generally vilified. The book resulting from Haykel's work will make an important contribution to the very limited English-language scholarship available on Salafism.

Ayesha Jalal

Professor of History
Tufts University

Title: *Partisans of Allah: Meanings of Jihad in South Asia*

Jalal's project explores the ethical connotations of *jihad* over the course of time by examining political battles within the Muslim community as well as imperatives of conquest by secular rulers in the name of Islam. Today, *jihad*, which actually means "to strive for a worthy and ennobling cause," is commonly thought of as "holy war" against non-Muslims. By injecting historical dimension and restoring the analytical distinction between

the temporal and sacred, Jalal places the concept of *jihad* within the framework of Islamic ethics from the earliest Muslim period forward. Spatial and temporal contours of the analysis focus on the Muslim presence in South Asia before, during and after the Raj. The region, home to one out of three of the 1.3 billion Muslims in the world, is an excellent backdrop for studying a millennium of both intra- and extra-Muslim relationships. Jalal's scholarship aims to provide fresh insights into political and intellectual developments within Islam, and more importantly, place the notion of *jihad* into historical context, making a misunderstood, yet crucial concept intelligible at a time when international attention is riveted by terrorism in the name of *jihad*. Jalal's research and the resulting book should stand as an example of the ways in which historical scholarship can contribute to normative political theory and contemporary public policy.

Amaney A. Jamal

Assistant Professor of Politics

Princeton University

Title: *Citizenship, Political Agency and Democracy in the Arab World: The Mediating Effects of Islam*

To understand when political institutions are successful, it is imperative to understand when and under what conditions citizens begin to believe that formal institutions take on broader political significance. Jamal's project centers on the current debate about the compatibility of Islam and democracy. However, instead of emphasizing aspects of Islam that limit meaningful linkages to formal political institutions, Jamal focuses on the mechanisms by which Islam mediates patterns of citizenship at the individual level, e.g., the type of "political agency" Islam produces among ordinary citizens in the Arab world. Examining ways in which the multiple frames of Islam shape levels of civic and political engagement, Jamal proposes that different frames of Islam, observance, political Islam and involvement in Islamic social service organizations shape levels of civic engagement among Arab citizens according to their socioeconomic status. The goal of Jamal's research, which will culminate in a book publication, is to enhance global understanding about the Islamic influence on views held by Arab citizens about government and democratic institutions, and to broaden knowledge about which types of formal political institutions are best equipped to meet the demands of citizens within the Arab world.

Adeeb Khalid

Associate Professor of History

Carleton College

Title: *Understanding Soviet Islam: The Roots of Contemporary Central Asia*

Khalid, a leading expert on Central Asia, is engaged in a sustained historical study of the transformation of Islam and Islamic knowledge within Central Asia during the Soviet era. His work focuses on both the Soviet destruction of Islamic institutions in the region between 1927 and 1938 and the modern-day consequences resulting from it. Situating Central Asia at the intersection of Islamic and Soviet history, he proposes to bring disparate literatures in history, anthropology and religious studies to bear on materials from various sources, including the Russian State Archives for Sociopolitical History and the State Archives of the Russian Federation in Moscow. The strategic importance of post-Soviet Central Asia can scarcely be exaggerated. Lying astride the boundaries of the Middle East, China and Russia, the region plays a critical role in the “war on terror.” Khalid’s research will expand knowledge of contemporary Islam in Central Asia, a region largely unknown to experts in Islamic studies. Results of the project will be disseminated through a book and academic articles.

Ebrahim E.I. Moosa

Associate Research Professor of Religion

Duke University

Title: *Inside Madrasas: The ‘Ulama Search for Authenticity*

Since the September 11 attacks, much has been written about the influence of the ‘*ulama*, traditional Islamic scholars, and *madrasas*, the educational institutions where they preside. Most of this literature presents the ‘*ulama* and *madrasas* stereotypically as a bane of contemporary Islam, an image that prevails not only in the West, but among Muslim elite as well. Moosa, who attended *madrasas* in India during his youth, will use his vantage point as an insider to develop a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the ‘*ulama* and their institutions that is at once scholarly and autobiographical. To gain a broader perspective, he will return to the *madrasas* in India at which he studied, then visit their equivalents elsewhere: a *pesantran* in Indonesia, a *hawziya* in Iran and other ‘*ulama* centers in Africa. By describing the range of ‘*ulama* institutions and practices, he expects to demonstrate that the ‘*ulama* retain and transmit a rich and complex intellectual tradition, imbued with moral authority, at the same time the traditions and practices they pursue are being transformed by moder-

nity. The book resulting from Moosa's cultural translation will offer a rare view of a world hidden from public gaze and emphasize the critical need for a deeper understanding of this important Islamic tradition.

Lawrence Rosen

William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Anthropology

Princeton University

Title: *Everyday Muslim Thought and Its Encounters*

Rosen's distinguished career bridges his specializations in anthropology, law and Middle Eastern studies, including nearly four decades of extensive research and fieldwork in Morocco and North Africa. His project focuses on the importance of understanding the contrast between Western democratic values and systems and Islamic cultural concepts, and the critical need for Westerners to understand the significance of interpersonal relationships and obligations in the Muslim world, especially when policy decisions affecting the region are being made. Rosen's research will culminate in the publication of two books. The first, *Drawn from Memory: Arab Lives Unremembered*, will present the intellectual lives of four knowledgeable Moroccan men whose assumptions, experiences and actions are rooted in cultural associations built on interpersonal relationships and obligations. The second publication, *Re-Presenting Islam: Western Encounters with Muslim Experience*, will analyze specific Islamic issues that Westerners frequently find puzzling but are necessary to understanding the Muslim world.

Abdulaziz Sachedina

Francis Ball Professor of Religious Studies

University of Virginia

Title: *Islam and Human Rights: A Clash of Universalisms*

Sachedina asserts that human rights discourse in the Muslim world is faced with an internal crisis resulting from the refusal of some Muslim factions to recognize the religious validity of the secular document known as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a keystone of the United Nations that sets minimum international standards for the protections of the rights and freedoms of the individual. While the universal claim has been opposed, both as a Western hegemonic imposition on Muslim peoples and an affront to the religiously derived claim to independent universality, Sachedina argues there is a universal character to human rights that can be globally embraced. His goal is

to initiate a substantial theoretical discussion of an inclusive foundational conception of human rights that will appeal to the traditional authorities in the Muslim world, and to propose a foundational theory of human rights based on some of the pluralistic features of Islam and its culture. Sachedina's new work, which is expected to be published in book form, expands on earlier research that resulted in the publication of *The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism*.

Elizabeth F. Thompson

Associate Professor, Department of History
University of Virginia

Title: *Seeking Justice in the Modern Middle East*

Thompson argues that all Middle Eastern social movements since the beginning of the 20th century have drawn upon a common repertoire of Islamic values and text that have been shaped by transnational influences and anti-colonial revolutionary ideologies. Her aim is to wed two methodologies—cultural analysis and social science—to examine how contemporary Islamist groups are heirs to the struggles for justice waged decades earlier by common people who acted against social and political injustice. Framed around the life stories of these people, Thompson's work focuses on former Ottoman territories that became the nation-states of Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Israel and Egypt as well as Iran, and encompasses the critical roles played by America, Europe and the Soviet Union in supporting or undermining the political movements toward justice. Thompson carefully refrains from equating "democracy" with "justice" to avoid the European dichotomy of the West being "modern" and the East/Islam as "backward." Instead, she prefers to examine how particular individuals come to formulate notions of justice through feelings of grievance, misfortune or violation. This original interpretation will result in a book for students, specialists and the general public.

Muhammad Qasim Zaman

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Brown University

Title: *Internal Criticism and Religious Authority in Modern Islam*

Discussions of social, political and religious "reform" in the Muslim world are seldom guided by a sophisticated understanding of how Muslim scholars and activists have themselves argued about reform. Zaman proposes to examine particular conceptions

of the Islamic tradition that are at stake in these arguments and how religious authority is challenged and reconfigured through them. He'll do this by focusing on modes of internal criticism among the *'ulama*, traditionally educated religious Islamic scholars, of the Middle East and South Asia from the late 19th century to the present and by comparing the *'ulama*'s reactions to external critics, particularly the modernists and Islamists, but also from the non-Islamic world. Zaman's study aims to provide a deeper understanding of key debates among Muslims on reform and religious authority and a context for understanding issues relating to religious and political change for the global community. The book resulting from this research succeeds an earlier study and publication by Zaman called *'Ulama in Contemporary Islam*, which focuses on modern Islamic religious scholars.

Class of 2006

Abbas Amanat

Professor of History

Yale University

New Haven, CT

Title: *Defying Islamic Conformity: Sceptics, Heretics and Rebellious Dervishes*

Chair of the Council on Middle East Studies of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies for the past 10 years, Amanat will concentrate on the study of nonconformity in the Muslim world through a historical assessment of Muslim societies, dissenters and heretics in the period between the 15th and 20th centuries in the eastern Muslim world, with particular attention on Anatolia, Central Asia, Iran and South Asia. Furthering this goal, he will endeavor to explain how Muslim societies allocated space to skeptics, agnostics, heretics and political dissenters in a seemingly immutable Islamic paradigm. His analysis will focus on individuals and movements as well as on intellectual and popular trends with the aim of analyzing their rich humanistic and libertarian dimensions. By highlighting the open space given in Muslim societies to social dissenters, the study will demonstrate the historical absence of a monolithic Islam. Furthermore, it will examine how the state and religious authorities were often unwilling or unable to oppose these trends of openness. Amanat intends to produce a book that reaches a wide audience beyond the academic community.

Said Amir Arjomand

Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology

State University of New York, Stony Brook

Stony Brook, NY

Title: *Islam and Constitutional Reconstruction in the Middle East: A Historical and Comparative Perspective*

Arjomand has worked extensively in the realm of Islam and is a widely regarded expert in the sociology of constitutionalism. His expertise, most recently, has been called upon to help advise the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan during the drafting of their constitution. He was also selected to be the inaugural Martin & Kathleen Crane Fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Law and Public Affairs. Arjomand's project will raise the level of debate on Islam and constitutionalism through a historical and institutional examination of the constitutional history of the Middle East. His research will further define issues in the relationship between Islam and constitutionalism by studying the intersection of global trends and the revolutionary and evolutionary processes of the Middle East. A range of historically significant settings for constitution-making and constructional change, such as Turkey/Iran and Afghanistan/Iran, will be compared. Revolution, military conquest, and Islamicization based on ideological constitutions will be compared with existing types of legal systems of civil law and common law. Furthermore, Arjomand will examine the transition from the era of ideological constitutions, with the state as social transformer, to a new constitutionalism of the rule of law and human rights, with the law as the protector of civil society. Through a historical sociology of constitutional law in the Islamic Middle East, Arjomand intends to produce a book that moves beyond the current ideological debate, while also providing guidance to policymakers for constitutional reform and institution-building in the Muslim world. He intends to disseminate his book to the general public both in the United States and the Middle East.

Raymond Baker

Professor of International Politics

Trinity College

Hartford, CT

Title: *The Contemporary Islamic Wassatteyya (Mainstream): Understanding the Resilience and Appeal of Islam in a Global Age*

A scholar, lecturer, educator and leader in the field of Middle-Eastern studies,

Baker has done much to promote understanding of the region and Islam both in the United States and abroad. Currently based in Cairo, he serves as president of the International Association of Middle East Studies and is a Board Member of the World Organization of Middle East Studies. Baker's project will address the following questions: How has the Islamic Awakening become such a force and what are the implications for the West? Through a study of the *Wassatteyya*, a cultural/institutional configuration that emerged from a unique Islamic historical transition during the Islamic Awakening of the 1970s, Baker will examine how this mainstream centrist movement is a sustaining force of Islamic renewal in the world today. He will explore the mechanisms by which Islamic centrists have formed a network to gain control of leadership while situating themselves in the new globalized world. He will explore how this centrist network can play a positive role in the Islamic Awakening, rejecting violent extremism and forming positive relationships with the globe's dominant powers. Through his research, Baker intends to guide efforts to prompt a more approachable form of dialogue and cooperation between the West and the Islamic world. He will publish a book accessible to the public and policy makers and share his findings at international and national policy forums.

Eva Bellin

Associate Professor of Political Science

Hunter College

New York, NY

Title: *Arbitrating Identity: High Courts and the Politics of Islamic-Liberal Reconciliation in the Muslim World*

A younger scholar, Bellin is regarded as one of the most outstanding scholars in the United States today in the study of the politics of the Middle East, publishing scholarly papers in some of the most competitive peer-reviewed journals in her discipline. She has become a critical participant in the study of politics in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Bellin's research, which should culminate in a book, aims to explore the roles that high courts play in those states in the Muslim world whose foundational institutions are informed both by their religious identity and their liberal democratic values. She will situate her case studies in Egypt and Pakistan, two countries where the courts play an activist role in reconciling liberal and Islamist traditions. She will investigate the strategies employed by the courts in reconciling these two traditions, as well as explore the institutional, sociological and international factors that help define the justices' innovative rulings. Bellin aims to elucidate the role that

legal elites and institutions may play in forging new paths of cultural reconciliation. With her book, she intends to reach the academic, policymaking and general audiences.

Zvi Ben-Dor Benite

Assistant Professor of History/Middle East and Islam

New York University

New York, NY

Title: *Islam and the Emergence of Modern China*

Ben-Dor Benite is a recognized younger scholar, having received several awards and honors, among them, a Fulbright Fellowship, an Edmond Safra Pioneering Student Award and a post-doctoral Fellowship at the Center for Historical Analysis at Rutgers University. Drawing on his rich academic background and on the significant body of work by Chinese Muslim intellectuals, Ben-Dor Benite will explore models for framing and understanding the presence of large Muslim populations in historically and demographically non-Muslim lands. He will also examine to what extent the systems of non-Muslim lands shape the way Muslims are able to integrate into the larger, non-Muslim society. Ben-Dor Benite will provide a fresh lens for the study of Islamic diasporas. He will look at how modern Chinese Muslim intellectuals simultaneously redefined Islam and carved out a new space in the post-imperial context through a careful examination of text and interviews by the students of Pang Shiqian, who translated the Qur'an into Chinese, and Ma Jian, a Confucian scholar turned Islamic Jurist. Ben-Dor Benite's intended book will reach non-academic audiences, including Muslim diasporas in the United States, Europe and China.

Devin DeWeese

Professor of Central Eurasian Studies

Indiana University, Bloomington

Bloomington, IN

Title: *Historical and Critical Perspectives on Islam in Central Asia*

DeWeese's work is uniquely informed by his knowledge of the primary languages of Central Asia, as well as the modern languages of Uzbek and Russian. DeWeese will illuminate the fundamental assumptions, theories and approaches regarding Islam in Central Asia that have shaped U.S. policies toward that region. He will focus on Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, as well as on Afghanistan and the Xingjian province of China. DeWeese aims to inform the discussion of Islam in this region

by examining the following three essential deficiencies in the field thus far: the inadequate analysis of Islam as a religion and social system, the lack of attention paid to the specific religious history of Central Asia, and the uncritical acceptance of the frameworks developed for characterizing the religious life that developed under the Soviet establishment.

Marwa Elshakry

Assistant Professor of the History of Science

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Title: *Science and Secularism in the Arab World after Darwin*

Elshakry has been awarded numerous prestigious grants and fellowships, including the Sultan Postdoctoral Fellowship from the University of California at Berkeley and a grant from the British Academy for research in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. With this fellowship, she will continue her research by exploring how Muslim thinkers in Egypt and Greater Syria approached Western science after Darwin. The translations of the new evolutionary sciences prompted debate among Muslim thinkers and the emerging Arab press: they served to catalyze change on numerous social fronts, including religion, social development, cultural advancement, and political struggle. Elshakry will illustrate how Darwinism fostered a spirit of interdisciplinary knowledge-sharing among many Muslim thinkers, as part of the larger incremental debate between science—ilm—and secularism—ilmaniyya. Elshakry will pose three main questions: how did the translation of modern concepts of science reconfigure epistemological and social categories in the Arab world? What were the responses to Darwin's ideas about the relationship of religion to science and how do they help us understand notions of secularism in this region? And, lastly, how did the discussion of evolutionary science and progress change Muslim thinkers perceptions of Arab society and politics in the recent past? Elshakry will prepare a book and write articles for both scholarly and public audiences.

Fawaz A. Gerges

Christian A. Johnson Chair in International Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies

Sarah Lawrence College

Bronxville, NY

Title: *The Intra-Jihadist War*

With this Carnegie Scholars award, Gerges, the noted author of books and articles

on the Middle East will explore the ways in which the global jihad survives given the intensification of intra-jihadist struggles. Gerges will examine the durability of the larger jihadist movement launched by bin Laden and Zawahiri within the broader Jihad movement in the Middle East. By analyzing the Arab media, jihadi literature, correspondence between jihadis, and interviews with Islamist and jihadi leaders, much of which will be translated into English for the first time, Gerges will assess the future global prospects of the movement. Gerges will illuminate the schisms within the current jihadi movement and explore the shifting perceptions of those who might support or censure it. He will prepare articles for academic journals, newspapers, and magazines and produce a book.

Kambiz GhaneaBassiri

Associate Professor of Religions and Humanities

Reed College

Portland, OR

Title: *A History of Islam in America since the Colonial Period*

GhaneaBassiri will explore the role of Islam in America and how Muslims proactively participated in the history and pluralism of the United States. GhaneaBassiri will approach Islam in America from a historical, humanistic perspective, examining how Muslims, informed by their historical context, have created American Islamic institutions and how other non-Muslim institutions have been changed by contact with this population. GhaneaBassiri plans research committed to a plain-language view of history focusing on actual events and experiences and will look at the positive interaction between Muslims and non-Muslims as they construct their lives in a common democracy. It is GhaneaBassiri's hope that by highlighting the agency of Muslim Americans in history, this project will develop a new analytical vocabulary and historical framework that could change the way Islam and modernity are taught.

Ellis Goldberg

Professor of Political Science

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

Title: *Sovereignty, Community and Citizenship in Contemporary Arab Political Thought*

Goldberg is an expert on Egypt and the relationship between Arab Muslim societies and political movements. His scholarship has been published, in numerous prestigious

and influential journals around the world, including the Arab language journal, *Abwa*. He has continuously engaged communities of intellectuals both in the United States and the Middle East with the aim of mutual understanding. With this fellowship Goldberg will continue to explore the issues of national sovereignty, community and citizenship in the current Arab world by examining how three influential intellectuals, from Egypt (Tariq al-Bishri); Morocco (Muhammad Abid al-Jabari); and Lebanon (Ridwan al-Sayyid) have wrestled with this debate in the context of the modern state. Additionally, the ideas of the sovereign state and the role of citizenship will be discussed in light of their European origin and the impact of these discussions on the modern Arab world. Goldberg will bring to Western audiences as yet untranslated works of these three who advised leaders of opposition movements and have attracted widespread public readership throughout the Arab world.

Aziz Huq

Associate Counsel
The Brennan Center
New York University
New York, NY

Title: *Counter-Terrorism, Speech Regulation and Muslim Minorities in the West*

Huq's past clerkship with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and his work with Muslim, Sunni and Shi'ite communities around the world, including some of the most challenging areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan, have well positioned him to take on this challenging research topic. Recent terrorist assaults have resulted in more stringent applications of European and North American legal regimes. Such mechanisms, which have been principally used against Muslim minorities, include stricter regulations on freedom of speech and association. Huq will analyze post-September 11th legislation in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and France by describing the new counterterrorism powers within legal, historical and political contexts and by examining whether this new legislation accomplishes the goal of curtailing radicalism or instead further marginalizes Muslim minority communities. Huq's scholarship will combine analysis of the lawfulness of counterterrorist tactics with research on the dynamics of radicalization and religious identity among Muslim minorities. His work will contribute to the current debate by illuminating new understanding of the consequences of legal regulations on minority groups' speech and association.

Marion Holmes Katz

Associate Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Study

New York University

New York, NY

Title: *Contesting the Mosque: Debates over Muslim Women's Ritual Access*

Katz will use her Carnegie Scholars award to explore the participation of Muslim women in public congregational prayer and their access to mosques. The research will examine three areas: the fact that Islamic law excludes women from the mosque; Islamic law excludes women from the mosque, but its authoritative sources permit them; and Islamic law permits women access to the mosque, but custom and convenience keep them away. The debate reveals the vigor with which issues of women's ritual participation have been contested and the complexity of the process by which normative Islamic ritual has been produced. Katz will explore how *fitna*, a term describing the dangers that may result from feminine powers of seduction, has been used in Islamic legal reasoning in different social and historical contexts. Katz's research will postulate that Islamic law has been more accommodating to women's agency than was previously recognized.

Clark Lombardi

Assistant Professor

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

Title: *Muslim Judges as a New Voice in Islamic Discourse*

Lombardi, a professor in Islamic Studies and practicing lawyer, will analyze the ways in which influential judges have interpreted Islamic law informed by civil, common or legal reasoning. Building on his previous research on the evolution of different judicial theories of Islamic laws, Lombardi will examine judicial opinions as expressions of contemporary legal theory in three non-Arab Muslim countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Malaysia. He will explore how modern judges trained in the Western legal systems interpret and apply Islamic laws. The following three questions will be considered: What sources influence judicial understanding of Islam? How does training affect the approach to Islamic legal interpretations? And what factors cause judges to take a more nuanced approach to the interpretation of *shari'a* and its relationship to other legal traditions? In addition to producing a book, Lombardi will develop a website and give public talks to disseminate the findings of his scholarship.

Farzaneh Milani

Professor of Persian and Women Studies

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA

Title: *Re-Mapping the Cultural Geography of Iran: Islam, Woman and Mobility*

The past three decades have produced an unprecedented amount of writing about Islam in the West in which the Muslim woman is often a central character. In a familiar story of captivity recast now for a present-day audience, she is incarcerated in segregated spaces and trapped in her veil. And yet, as Milani points out, Muslim women have been very much on the move—a moderating, modernizing force in most Muslim societies. Seeking to analyze the complexities of women's role in modern Muslim societies, Milani, a recognized scholar of Persian literature and culture, will research the competing narratives of mobility and confinement in Iranian literature. Borrowing from Eastern and Western theories, Milani will employ a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary perspective to pinpoint women's struggle for freedom/mobility as a concept for social transformation and modernization. The resulting book will provide a study of women's mobility and its effects on the social structure of modern-day Iran.

Yitzhak Nakash

Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies

Brandeis University

Waltham, MA

Title: *Governance and Leadership in Modern Islam*

Building on his previous work on Shi'ism in the modern Arab world, Nakash, an expert on the modern history of the Iraqi Shi'ites, will examine the greater success of Shi'i clerics in providing religious and sociopolitical leadership to Muslims in Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia since the rise of the modern state in the 20th century. By comparing works of Muslim clerics on state and government in Islam, Nakash will discuss Muslim politics at a time when shifts in geopolitics are challenging clerics' leadership. His scholarship will explore how Shi'i clerics are better positioned today than their Sunni counterparts to provide leadership to followers, inspire religious and sociopolitical reform in the Arab world, and combat the radicalism of militant Islamists. Nakash's work will result in a book that illuminates the diverse nature of Muslim politics, the complexity of political Islam, and the capacity of Shi'i and Sunni clerics to act as a force for moderation and reduce tension between Islam and the West.

Vali Nasr

Professor of Middle East and South Asia Politics

Department of National Security Affairs

Naval Post Graduate School,

La Jolla, CA

Title: *Gauging the Prospects for the Rise of "Muslim Democratic" Political Parties and Platforms in Muslim Democracies*

Nasr, an expert on political and social developments in the Muslim world, will research the following questions: What will be the shape of democracy in the Muslim world? Who will be the likely spokespeople of Islam in the political process? Nasr posits that the "strategic middle," a term used to describe a new trend of secular political agendas and pragmatic Islamic concerns, will likely dominate Muslim societies. This rise of Muslim democracy reflects the compatibility of Muslim values and ethics with practical election strategies in a democratic setting. Nasr's project will analyze the make-up of this "strategic middle" by questioning the factors and actors that matter in defining its shape. His preliminary findings suggest that the "strategic middle" in the political arena is created in the context of electoral competition and, although it appeals to Muslim values, is neither defined nor controlled by Islamist forces. Through case studies in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey, with supportive data from Iran, Egypt and Morocco, Nasr's scholarship, which will result in articles and a book, will move beyond the study of Islamic actions and ideas to include the forming of democratic arenas and the prospects for democratization in the broader Muslim world.

Jen'nan Ghazal Read

Assistant Professor of Sociology

University of California, Irvine

Irvine, CA

Title: *Multiple Identities and Muslim American Political Incorporation*

A scholar of U.S. Muslims and Arab Americans, Read, using the only nationally representative data on Muslim Americans to date, will examine factors that affect the political incorporation of Muslim Americans in the United States across racial and ethnic lines. Her project will address the following three questions: To what extent do South Asian, Arab, and African American Muslims differ in their political attitudes and behaviors? To what extent do socioeconomic, demographic and cultural differences between these groups explain

variations in their political integration? And, to what extent do the facts that produce differences between groups generate differences within each group? She will also assess how different dimensions of Muslim religious identity influence political engagement, providing a textured discussion of the Muslim American experience. Her work will aim to inform public debate about policies that intend to increase the democratic inclusion of these groups, as well as contribute to the distinction between political attitudes toward U.S. domestic policy and those toward U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. This study will culminate in a book aimed at scholarly, policy and public audiences.

Heather J. Sharkey

Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

Title: *Christian Evangelism and Western Imperialism in the Modern Middle East: The Long-Term Consequences of American Missionary Encounters with Muslims*

An historian of the Middle East specializing in colonial Africa, the early Islamic world, and modern Islamic thought, Sharkey will examine how Christian missionary work in the 19th and 20th century Middle East contributed to local, regional, and global social changes and affected regional politics. The missionary encounter became a catalyst for the transfer of knowledge and ideas that still can be seen today. In Egypt, for example, the efforts to educate women contributed to a reconfiguration of gender relations. Missionary activity also inadvertently galvanized anti-colonial nationalist Islamist sentiment. Sharkey's research will also assess the impact of the missionary experience on U.S. Protestant culture, the politics of American churches, and the shaping of Muslim-Christian relations. Her scholarship will result in articles and a book that will illuminate the mutual and ongoing transformations prompted by Christian missionary activities.

Elora Shehabuddin

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Political Science

Rice University

Houston, TX

Title: *Women at the Muslim Center: Islamist Ideals and Democratic Exigencies*

Drawing on a combination of ethnographic research, open-ended interviews and critical textual analysis, Shehabuddin, an expert on gender and Islam, will investigate wom-

en's political and social efforts to reshape Islamist politics. She will explore how women have compelled a rethinking of traditionally conservative and rigid positions on gender issues by studying two self-avowedly Islamist parties in formal democratic political systems: Lebanon's Hezbollah (Party of God) and Bangladesh's Jamaat-I Islami (Party of Islam). As these parties vie for central billing on their country's respective political stage, women have leveraged their voting powers. Central to Shehabuddin's analysis is the notion that Islamist politics are mutable and can be shaped by external and internal pressures, such as a women's movement. This scholarship, which will result in a book, builds on Shehabuddin's previous work on impoverished Bangladeshi women and their involvement in Islamism and secularism. Shehabuddin's also intends her work to contribute to the understanding of Islam and politics, and the role of increasingly mobilized female citizenry in changing the priorities of Islamist movements.

Madhavi Sunder

Professor of Law

University of California, Davis

Davis, CA

Title: *The New Enlightenment: How Muslim Women are Bringing Religion and Culture Out of the Dark Ages*

A scholar of human rights, legal theory and Islam, Sunder will examine, through case studies of the transformational information-sharing and solidarity network Women Living Under Muslim Laws and the archives of Muslim women's human rights education manuals, how women in the Muslim world have demanded democracy and rights within religious and cultural communities, not just outside of them. Premised on a centuries-old Enlightenment compromise that establishes reason in the public sphere but tolerated religious despotism in the private sphere, law continues to define religion in the 21st century as a sovereign, extralegal jurisdiction in which inequality is not only accepted, but expected. Sunder conceptualizes the "New Enlightenment" movement based on women's right to seek reason, equality, democracy, and liberty not only in the public sphere but also in the private spheres of religion, culture, and family. Sunder's scholarship will produce a book that applies Enlightenment theory and strategy to constitutional conflicts between Islam and women's rights and explores a new framework for operationalizing modernity and freedom within culture and community.

Class of 2007**Lila Abu-Lughod**

Professor of Anthropology

Columbia University

New York, NY

Title: *Do Muslim Women Have Rights? The Ethics and Politics of Muslim Women's Rights in an International Field*

Abu-Lughod will address the ethical and political dilemmas posed by the internationalization of discourse on Muslim women's rights. Her research will focus on pivotal questions about how the rights of Muslim women can be discussed without contributing to arguments common in today's debates about the "clash of civilizations" and associated political, economic and military agendas. Drawing on her nearly 30 years experience as an anthropologist studying Muslim women in the Arab world, she will analyze the way that arguments couched in language of women's rights tend to become compromised in the global political and culture fields in which they are discussed. She will explore questions such as: Do Muslim women need saving? What is the relationship between religion and women's rights? Who has the power to define women's rights? How do those definitions circulate globally? How do new feminist legal categories, such as the "honor crime" so often associated with Muslim societies, come to frame social phenomena, highlighting certain issues and occluding others? Using ethnographic, literary, and historical research, Abu-Lughod will aim to answer these questions, conducting fieldwork in Egypt, Jordan, and the United States. Her scholarship will result in a book intended to reach both scholarly and public audiences.

Beth Baron

Professor of History

City College and Graduate Center

City University of New York

New York, NY

Title: *In Their Own Image: Americans and Middle Eastern Muslim Women*

Baron will explore a trajectory of American proselytizing, modernizing, and democratizing projects that targeted Middle Eastern girls and women over a century-and-a-half. Baron contrasts this with Muslim women's responses to these projects and their own activist agendas. She will examine how attempts by American missionaries and experts to

remake Middle Eastern Muslim women in a Western image resulted in a mixed record, at times generating a backlash that undermined their limited successes. Building on her past research on women's movements and nationalism in Egypt, Baron will look at the encounter of Americans with Middle Eastern Muslim women around the specific issues of education, family planning, and empowerment in countries across the Middle East. She will use integrative and comparative historical research techniques to produce a book for practitioners, policymakers, and the general public who are interested in an analysis of American interventions in the Muslim world.

Ahmad Dallal

Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

Title: *Islam, Science and the Challenge of History*

Dallal will examine the ways in which the past is used in the construction of modern Islamic discourse on the relationship between science and religion. By juxtaposing modern views to historical traditions, Dallal will trace the evolution of the contemporary Islamic attitude towards science and elucidate some of the factors shaping this process in modern times. The first part of his research will analyze Islamic articulations of the relationship in such fields as theology, Quranic exegesis, classification of the sciences, and philosophy. Dallal will also examine classical scientific and religious texts to illuminate how the sciences were classified in order to separate them from the religious disciplines, and will trace discontinuities between the classical and modern articulations of the relationship between Islam and science. Dallal will prepare a book aimed at reaching historians of Islamic culture and a larger audience interested in learning more about the ethical and epistemological dilemmas and challenges Muslims face regarding modern scientific and technological developments.

Eric Davis

Professor of Political Science

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

Title: *Islam and the Formation of Political Identities in Post-Ba'athist Iraq: Implications for a Democratic Transition.*

Davis will explore the rise of radical Islamist movements and sectarian politics in post-Ba’thist Iraq, especially since the 1990s, giving particular attention to the causes underlying both support for and opposition to sectarianism among prominent clerics, tribal leaders and political actors. He will also analyze the attitudes and behavior of Iraqi youth to determine whether the new generation supports sectarianism and to better comprehend its understandings of Islam. Davis aims to make an in-depth, multi-variate contribution to the understanding of the rise of sectarian identities in Iraq, hypothesizing that sectarian violence is due more to institutional and economic collapse than “ancient hatreds.” He intends to develop a conceptual framework based on concepts of religion and ethnicity, which will incorporate ideas promoted by clerics who support moderate interpretations of Islam, and which will be used to examine attitudes on the relationship between Islam and politics among clerics in the Sunni and Shi’i Arab and Kurdish communities. Davis’ work will provide a more analytical basis for understanding the level of support for sectarian identities among high-ranking Iraqi officials, clerics, and youth. His research will result in a book aimed at academic audiences and the broader public in the Middle East and non-Western world as well as the West.

Finbarr Barry Flood

Assistant Professor of Art History

New York University

New York, NY

Title: *The Trouble with Images: “Cartoon Wars” in Context*

Flood, an assistant professor in the Department of Fine Arts, has authored *The Great Mosque of Damascus*, and *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and “Hindu-Muslim” Encounter, 800-1200*. He has been a research fellow at the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art and the Getty Research Institute. As a Carnegie Scholar, he will write a history of debates over the nature and status of images in the Islamic world. Flood will explore the impact of these debates on the production and reception of images in the Islamic world, combining textual analysis with empirical study of ceramics, metalwork, inscriptions, and manuscripts in order to consider the ways in which artists have negotiated questions of artistry, agency, and proscription. A particular concern of the study will be the ways in which the relationship between Islam and images has figured in Euro-American representations of Islam. This historical survey will provide a context for analyses of contemporary instances of image destruction in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as the recent controversy over the Danish caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

Frank Griffel

Associate Professor of Islamic Studies

Yale University

New Haven, CT

Title: *The Continuation of the Philosophical Tradition Within Muslim Theology*

Griffel's research will critically examine the role philosophical learning played in the period of Muslim history after the "Golden Age." Griffel's research will build on recent research challenging the belief in Western scholarship that Islam had abandoned philosophical thinking during the late Middle Ages. He will explore how the teaching tradition of philosophy, *falsafa*, became an integral part of mainstream Muslim theology and its legal discourse. The focus of his work will be on the earliest period of integration of philosophy into Muslim theology and legal thought during the 12th and early 13th centuries in the Muslim Middle East. Through an analysis of primary texts, Griffel will reconstruct the theological and philosophical systems during the period from 1100 to 1258 and evaluate how philosophical scholarship during that period shaped the whole Islamic tradition. His research findings will be drawn together into a book that aims to bring modern understanding to the ways Western intellectuals perceive Islam, its history and its future developments.

Robert W. Hefner

Professor of Anthropology

Boston University

Boston, MA

Title: *Islamic Education and Democratization in Indonesia*

Hefner will focus his research on the educational dynamism of Islam in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country. His research will examine the ways in which social and political developments since 1990 have given rise to rival varieties of Islamic education, including the largest mass-based program for civic and democratic education in the Muslim world. He will analyze how these rival models of religious schooling present issues of pluralism, gender, and democracy. He will also examine the implications of the Indonesian example for political and educational reform in the broader Muslim world. The research is based on classroom, ethnographic and survey materials gathered during research visits to Indonesia since 1999. The resulting book is intended to reach both the academic and public audiences, as well as policy analysts working on issues of pluralism, education, and democratization.

Charles Hirschkind

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

Title: *The “Moorish Problem” and the Politics of Multiculturalism in Spain*

Hirschkind’s project is a study of the different ways in which Europe’s Islamic past inhabits its present, unsettling contemporary efforts to secure Europe’s Christian civilizational identity. Taking southern Spain as his focus, Hirschkind will analyze the social and political processes that mediate and sustain an active relation to Europe’s Islamic heritage, and the potential impact these processes have on forms of cooperation and responsibility linking Muslim immigrants, Spanish converts, and Andalusian Catholics as subjects of Europe. Hirschkind’s research involves both historical analysis of the political and legal frameworks regulating the status of religious minorities in contemporary Spain, as well as ethnographic fieldwork with Andalusian officials, lawyers, activists, Spanish converts to Islam, and Muslim immigrants residing in and around the city of Granada. By exploring some of the fissures within contemporary narratives of Europe’s Judeo-Christian identity, this project contributes to the contested place assigned to Islam and Muslims in contemporary debates about religious pluralism in western societies.

Engseng Ho

Frederick S. Danzinger Associate Professor of Anthropology and of Social Studies

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Title: *Empires through Diasporic Eyes: The U.S., Militant Islamism, Indian Ocean Precedents*

It is widely believed that the current challenge posed by militant Islamism to the U.S. is without precedent; thus history provides no guide to the new world of globalized guerrilla warfare that is jihad, and states need new laws, weapons, powers and ideas. Yet over the past half-millennium of Western predominance, successive hegemonic powers—the Portuguese, Dutch, English, and now Americans—have been opposed by Muslims led or inspired by diasporic Arabs originating from Arabia. Ho’s project seeks to understand the broader social basis of these episodic contests by assessing how and when local grievances against specific instances of imperial expansion came to be expressed and represented in international Islamic terms by diasporic Arab Muslims. The research will focus on leading

figures such as Zayn al-Din al-Malibari, Sayyid Fadl, Abd al-Rahman al-Zahir and Usama bin Ladin, interpreted in the context of long-term relations between diasporic Arab Muslims and western empires across the Indian Ocean. The project frames the ongoing conflict between the United States and militant Islamist groups led or inspired by Usama bin Ladin within this history of both contest and co-operation, thus questioning the assumption that the current challenge posed by militant Islamism to the U.S. is without precedent. Ho's study will result in a book intended for the academic, public and policymaking communities.

Jytte Klausen

Associate Professor of Politics

Brandeis University

Waltham, MA

Title: *European Muslims and the Secularization of Islam*

Klausen's research will identify overlapping areas of consensus and dissent between Muslim faith groups and public policy makers in Britain, France, Germany and Belgium, countries that pursued policies designed to achieve a measure of control over the teaching of Islam, mosque management, and the role of imams in the mosque and society. Her study focuses on recent experiments in the development of new legal and funding frameworks for Islamic faith institutions and the perceived attempt to secularize Islamic religious expression. She will also examine the European requirement that Muslim faith communities marginalize radical and extremist theology, a particularly contested issue. Klausen's study will incorporate a cross-national comparison of the ongoing dialogues between mosque associations and the governments of each of the four countries. The resulting book will reach a wide audience of scholars, policymakers and the public.

Ricardo René Larémont

Professor of Political Science and Sociology

State University of New York at Binghamton

Binghamton, NY

Title: *Islamic Law and Politics in Nigeria, 1804-2007*

Larémont will examine Islamic law and political movements in Nigeria in order to address the larger question of how to create a stable polity in religiously mixed societies. His research will focus on the role of Islam and Islamic law in three important political issues: the conferral of partial or total legitimacy to governments; mass mobilization of the popula-

tion for political action; and the possibilities for intra-religious and inter-religious reconciliation within the state. His study will analyze and critique prevailing work on the meaning of Islam and other religious experiences within the context of Nigerian politics. He will also address the broader question of whether Nigeria's attempts at inter-religious convivencia can provide lessons that can be applied to societies and states beyond Nigeria, such as the Sudan, Kosovo or East Timor. The resulting book will help inform public policy debates on Muslim-Christian rapprochement as well as institution building across religious divides.

Saba Mahmood

Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Title: *Defining the Secular in the Modern Middle East*

Mahmood's research is a comparative study of how secularism has been promoted and contested in two Muslim majority societies, Lebanon and Egypt, in the post-colonial period. In both these contexts, secularism has increasingly come to be seen as a prophylaxis against the ascendance of religious strife and political struggle. Despite this widely held consensus, it is unclear what secularism means within these two national contexts, both conceptually and practically, given their distinct demographic, political, and religious profiles. Mahmood's historical and ethnographic study will analyze: (a) how secularism has come to be understood differentially in light of the state's regulation of religious life in these two societies; and (b) how Muslim religious scholars and ordinary believers have come to both accommodate and challenge various ethical and political dimensions of the secularization process. Her work will result in a series of articles and a book that aim to provide a nuanced and in-depth analysis of different traditions of Muslim secular politics in the Middle East.

Khalid M. Medani

Assistant Professor of Political Science and Islamic Studies
McGill University Quebec, Canada

Title: *Joining Jihad: A Comparative Political Economy of Islamist Militancy and Recruitment*

Medani's research will focus on the economic and political conditions that have led to the rise of different forms of mobilization and recruitment of Islamic fundamentalists and militants in Egypt, Sudan and Somalia. His work will examine the informal institu-

tional arrangements that have given rise to new, and variable, forms of Islamist politics in the context of declining state capacity. The research will concentrate on the expansion of the *hawwalat*, unregulated Islamic welfare organizations, and the role of *Ahali*, or private mosques, in providing an environment conducive for recruitment of young militants under very specific contexts. Through an historical institutional analysis, building upon two-and-a-half years of ethnographic research, Medani will show how and why informal institutions and networks have oriented social and economic relations around Islamist, as well as ethnic, loyalties across different cases. By examining the precise local socioeconomic and cultural conditions that give rise to militant recruitment in a comparative fashion, Medani's work will contribute to the understanding of what attracts young Muslims to these organizations in a way that does not begin with a monolithic view of Islam as the explanation, and broadens our knowledge about which specific types of informal networks are (or are not) conducive to the rise of militancy. The resulting book is intended to reach the academic and policymaking communities.

Ali Mirsepassi

Professor of Middle Eastern Studies

New York University

New York, New York

Title: *Western Influence on Political Islam*

Mirsepassi will examine the Western intellectual trends, specifically the work of Nietzsche and Heidegger, that have shaped the principle ideological formation of the Islamist critique of modernity, arguing that it is exclusively secular and inherently hostile to non-secular ideas. He will explore the emphasis that has been placed on the religious quality of political Islam, which has led to a scholarly blindness concerning "non-Islamic ideas" in the development of Islamist ideology. By highlighting the historical diversity of intellectual trends in the West, he will seek to offer an alternative democratic narrative of modernity by looking in-depth at models of democratic social change that incorporate religious and cultural sensibilities. With a special focus on Iranian intellectuals, Mirsepassi will situate the rise of political Islam in contemporary social and cultural contests in a way that may be relevant for modeling alternative paradigms for Islamic democracy in the contemporary world.

Tamir Moustafa

Assistant Professor of Political Science

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Madison, WI

Title: *Islamic Law and Legal Contention in Egypt, Pakistan and Malaysia*

In the 1970s and early 1980s, Egypt's Anwar Sadat, Pakistan's Zia ul-Haq, and Malaysia's Mahathir Muhammad introduced new constitutional provisions to Islamize their states. In what is now a familiar pattern throughout the Muslim world, the three leaders sought to harness the legitimating power of Islamic symbolism and discourse in order to bolster the religious credentials of their regimes vis-à-vis emerging Islamist movements. But rather than shoring up state legitimacy and national unity, the introduction of new constitutional provisions opened a new forum of political contestation. Constitutional provisions enshrining both Islamic law and secular, liberal rights protections lay the seeds for legal friction, and courtrooms quickly became important sites of contention between groups with competing visions for their states and societies. Moustafa will study how these high-profile cases generate transformative effects far beyond the courtroom by sparking national debates and shaping public perceptions. He seeks to understand how Islamist litigation provokes and shapes competing conceptions of national/religious identity, resolves or exacerbates contending visions of Islamic law, and ultimately bolsters or undermines public perceptions of government legitimacy. The project will result in a book aimed at both the public and policymaking communities, in addition to engaging scholars interested in the intersection of comparative law, politics and religion.

David S. Powers

Professor of Near Eastern Studies

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Title: *Wifely (Dis)obedience in Muslim Societies*

Powers will analyze the religio-cultural notion of *nushuz* or wifely (dis)obedience in Muslim societies. Using his background as an historian, he will explain how the understanding of domestic relations, with special attention to domestic violence, has varied across time and space in different Muslim societies. His study will focus on three time periods: the emergence of *nushuz* in the Qur'an, sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, and legal texts; historical practices relating to this concept as documented in court cases and fatwas issued

between 1200 and 1800; and contemporary debates relating to wifely (dis)obedience. In the book that results from his study, Powers will situate the contemporary debate over wifely (dis)obedience in its historical context, thereby demonstrating how the study of the past can not only enrich our understanding of the present but also qualify or dispel claims and stereotypes about the status of Muslim women today.

Megan Reid

Assistant Professor of Religion
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA

Title: *Punishment and Appropriate Justice in Islamic Societies*

Reid's research will investigate concepts of punishment in Sunni Islam within the context of their sacred beginnings. Because certain punishments have sacred authority, it is assumed that violent forms of punishment are inherent to Islamic society. Reid will study the logic behind these forms of punishments and the ways in which the level of shock they inspire relates to their symbolic value. She will examine how religious punishments have been implemented to different degrees over time in Islamic communities. Reid argues that the case for violent justice cannot be found in Qur'anic passages but rather in successive generations of those who interpret Islamic legal texts, resulting in evolving and fluid notions of appropriate justice. Her analysis will include the study of past and present attitudes of Muslim judges and legal scholars regarding corporal and capital punishments as well as the imagery of those punishments and their capacity to shock and satisfy. Reid will collaborate with scholars in the Islamic world who work in law, sociology and criminal justice to discuss modern ideas of proportional punishment. She intends that her research, which will form the basis of a book, will shed light on how Islamic societies today understand changing conceptions of fair punishment and also notions of clemency.

Omid Safi

Associate Professor of Islamic Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC

Title: *Reforming Islam in the "Axis of Evil": Contesting Islam in Post-Revolutionary Iran*

Through this research endeavor, Safi aims to raise the level of American public knowledge and scholarly engagement with the role of Islam in post-revolutionary Iran,

which offers a holistic view of a modern, pluralistic Muslim society. His native fluency in Persian and Arabic and deep understanding of the reformist debate in Iran today inform his work in mapping the intellectual heirs of the Iranian reform movement situated against the context reaching from Khomeini to Ahmadinejad. The dominant themes pursued by Safi will include pluralism, hermeneutics, gender debates, and democracy. His research will focus on recent and contentious debates between Abdolkarim Soroush, the current intellectual face of reform in Iran, and more conservative thinkers. He will also go through the important reformists (Kadivar, Shabestari, Ebadi), etc., who have emerged after Soroush. Through interviews with some of the country's most significant contemporary thinkers, Safi will bring to light the distinctive features of their writings and speeches to provide a more nuanced insight into their intellectual and religious worldviews. His research will culminate in a book that will reach both academic and public audiences.

Kristen A. Stilt

Assistant Professor of Law
The University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Title: *"Islam is the Religion of My State": A Study of the Competing Interpretations of a Widespread Constitutional Provision in the Muslim World.*

Stilt will study how political actors view, and seek to implement, the relationship between Islam and the state in three countries: Morocco, Egypt, and Malaysia. As in many countries in the Muslim world, the constitutions of the three countries she will study include the provision that "Islam is the official religion of the state." This clause, which Stilt calls the "establishment clause," is a significant rhetorical site for debates about the place of Islam in the state. She will address the crucial question of how actors articulate and advance their agendas with the use of the establishment clause as legal authority. Stilt intends to reach scholars and policymakers both in the United States and the countries she is studying.

Leonardo A. Villalón

Associate Professor of Political Science
The University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

Title: *Negotiating Democracy in Muslim Contexts: Political Liberalization and Religious Mobilization in the West African Sahel*

Villalón will focus his research on the establishment of democratic regimes in the context of Muslim societies in the Sahelian West African countries of Mali, Senegal and Niger. The study of these cases will consider the following question: How can states with an official ideology of secularism, and led by a Francophone elite strongly committed to that notion, govern Islamic and increasingly religious and mobilized populations within the parameters of democratic political institutions? His research will analyze the intersection of political reforms via the formulation of new legal and institutional frameworks with the mobilization of religious movements attempting to shape these processes. His research will examine how the democratic debate is framed, pursued and negotiated in a context of discussion and negotiation with religious groups on various points of contention in each case. Villalón's scholarship builds on his previous research on the politics of Islam and on democratization in West Africa, and will result in a book accessible to the public, policy-makers and the academic community.

Ibrahim A. Warde

Adjunct Professor of International Business

Tufts University

Medford, MA

Title: *Financial Practices and Networks in Islamic Countries: Implications for the Financial War on Terror*

Warde will research a cluster of savings and credit practices related to elucidating the economic and financial dimensions of terrorist networks. The cluster will cover such aspects as formal, informal, and underground economies, including those of refugee camps and charities, smuggling routes, and financial and other networks. He will examine the financial systems in Islamic countries covering Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. His underlying assumption is that financial and regulatory cultures in the Islamic world are embedded within religious institutions as well as political and cultural contexts that cannot be changed overnight. Warde will investigate how strict financial controls regimes can be so easily circumvented in the attempts to stymie terrorist and other nefarious activities aided by such systems. His research will result in a book that will be accessible to the public and academic community.

Class of 2008**Hussein Agrama**

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

University of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

Title: *State Power and Islamic Authority: A Comparative Ethnography of the Fatwa*

Agrama, a cultural anthropologist, will focus on Islamic authority by examining the uses of the fatwa under the distinctive legal systems and regulatory policies of two very different states: Egypt, where Islam is the state religion, and France, where secularism is official policy. Because fatwas are a primary means of exercising Islamic authority, Agrama's examination of how they are actually practiced will bring to light the unintended and often counterintuitive ways that state law and regulatory policies shape and enable religious authority within the daily lives of Muslims. His book aims to broaden the public's knowledge of what sustains and gives vitality to contemporary Islamic movements, as well as help policymakers better understand the implications of their regulatory policies.

Hisham Aidi

Lecturer

Columbia University

New York, New York

Title: *Identity, Inclusion and Muslim Youth*

Aidi, a political scientist, will examine the cultural and political responses of Muslim youth in America and Western Europe in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 and the different initiatives Western states have adopted to integrate Muslim communities within their borders. Aidi's research will explain how Muslim youth, in their bid for social inclusion, are becoming racially and politically conscious, and are producing new diaspora identities and movements. The study will also analyze the rise of Islam in peripheral urban areas in the Americas and Europe, the growing influence of Islam and Middle Eastern art forms on American and European popular culture, and the reactions of non-Muslims to the growing Muslim communities in their midst. Aidi's book and his related outreach efforts should help connect conversations taking place on both sides of the Atlantic.

Anna Bigelow

Assistant Professor

North Carolina State University

Raleigh, North Carolina

Title: *Holy Ground: Strategies of Sharing Islamic Sacred Space*

Bigelow, a religion scholar, will study shared sacred sites in India and the Middle East where, despite the possibility of conflict, violence does not occur. Bigelow seeks to identify and analyze the day-to-day work involved in establishing and maintaining inter-religious peace between Muslims and non-Muslims at the local level. This analysis will provide an important corrective to both scholarship and journalism on shared sites, which tend to focus on explosive sites such as Jerusalem or Ayodhya, India, leaving nonviolent, pluralistic communities comparatively neglected. Bigelow's balanced approach will make it possible to analyze factors that exacerbate or mitigate peace and conflict. In articles lectures and a book, Bigelow will explore how multi-religious communities establish and maintain stable shared sacred and civic spaces. Her work will identify effective grassroots strategies and tactics applicable to other situations, offering to policymakers new options for reducing or preventing destructive conflict.

Laurie Brand

Professor

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, California

Title: *Islam v. Nationalism in Arab Post-Independence Narratives*

Brand, a political scientist, will study the evolution of national narratives in post-independence Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. She will examine the interplay of religion and nationalism in the development and refinement of these countries' official histories and seek to explain the processes by which they were written (or re-written) to repress or co-opt competing "stories" about religion and political power. In her book, Brand intends to offer new insights into the complex relationship of Islam to the Arab state and to national identity. Her analysis aims to contribute to the ongoing conversation regarding the apparent intractability of authoritarianism in the region, a characteristic that is routinely attributed to Islam. Brand's work will add to a deeper understanding of how repressive regimes often employ religion as part of their strategy for securing power and battling their enemies.

Kanchan Chandra

Associate Professor

New York University

New York, New York

Title: *Islam and Democracy: The Effect of Institutions*

Chandra, a political scientist, will address the effect of the mobilization of Muslim political identities on democracy. Using a cross-national dataset on the mobilization of ethnic identities by political parties around the world and a series of ethnographic studies, Chandra will test a hypothesis that suggests that the relationship between Islam and democracy may be determined less by the doctrine or practice of Islam and more by the institutional context within which Islam is practiced. Her multi-disciplinary approach will yield a deeper understanding of the institutional structures that are most likely to produce a benign relationship between Islamic parties and democratic stability. Not only will Chandra prepare a book drawing together the results of her country-specific and cross-national analyses, she also aims to reach broad audiences through newspaper and popular journal articles.

Nora Colton

Professor

Drew University

Madison, New Jersey

Title: *The Migration of Islamist Militancy to Urban Poverty Belts in the Middle East*

Colton, an economist, will examine the association between the spread of militant Islamic ideology and poverty in urban areas in the Arab world. She will document the shift in the role that religion plays in the lives of poor people to understand why they are increasingly embracing militant Islam. Her research will articulate, for example, how the Islamist message is packaged for the urban poor and will analyze the foreign policy repercussions of the relationship between poverty and Islam. Colton expects that her research, including a book and articles for the popular media, will provide policymakers in the Middle East and the West with the detailed analysis to more adequately address the complex causes of poverty and inequality in the Middle East.

Edward E. Curtis IV

Associate Professor

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Indianapolis, Indiana

Title: *The Transnational History of African American Islam*

Curtis, a religious studies scholar, will explore the influences of foreign and immigrant Muslims on the development of Islam as a twentieth-century African American religious tradition. His work will challenge the notion that African American Muslims have been vulnerable to the ideals of Muslim radicals. African American Muslims, Curtis will argue in his book, have shaped a transnational Islam that has been a resource for spiritual, political, and cultural autonomy. He will show how African American Muslim study, travel, and pilgrimage in the Islamic world have led to the incorporation of Islamic practices and material culture into a distinctly American religious tradition. Curtis's research will address the concerns of policy makers that overseas Muslims are leading American Muslims toward anti-Americanism, and confront doubts by foreign and immigrant Muslims about the authenticity of African American Islam.

Leila Fawaz

Professor

Tufts University

Medford, Massachusetts

Title: *The Experience of War: Muslims in the Middle East and South Asia, 1914-1920*

Fawaz, an historian, will examine the globalizing influences of the First World War on Islamic identities. To do so, she will draw on the perceptions of the British colonial army's more than one million South Asian soldiers, many serving in the Ottoman-controlled Middle East. Fawaz's research will focus on connections between the Middle East and South Asia as well as the complex relationship of Muslim and Hindu soldiers fighting for a colonial power against the leader of the largest Muslim territorial empire of the day, and of Muslim soldiers siding with non-Muslims against their own leaders. Fawaz's book will result in a deeper understanding of the complex issues of power and identity that continue to impact the Muslim world today.

Michael Gasper

Assistant Professor

Yale University

New Haven, Connecticut

Title: *Re-Thinking Secularism and Sectarianism in the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990)*

Gasper, an historian, will examine the intersection of religion and politics around the questions of identity and national history through the lens of the Lebanese Civil War. By developing an understanding of the complex motivations of the militias, Gasper will critique the notion of sectarianism as the predominant narrative explaining the country's history. The research is especially timely and important in that it will contribute to policymakers' comprehension of what has been referred to as the "Lebanonization" of Iraq—an idea that holds that Iraq will devolve into the same kind of kind of confessional strife that marked Lebanon during its civil war. Thus his book should have wide appeal for policymakers and others seeking to better understand current conditions in the Middle East.

Susannah Heschel

Professor

Dartmouth College

Hanover, New Hampshire

Title: *The Monotheistic Triangle: Judaism and Islam in the Modern Christian World*

Heschel, a religion scholar, will examine the prominence of Jews in European scholarship on Islam during the 19th and 20th centuries, prior to World War II, to demonstrate how the Jewish fascination with Islam shaped Jewish self-understanding and theology. Building upon her earlier work on the history of Jewish scholarship on Jesus and Christian origins, Heschel will, in her new book, demonstrate the ways both Judaism and Islam are affected by Christianity's attitudes toward religious pluralism and its role in antisemitism and Islamophobia. Stressing points of similarity between Muslim and Jewish experiences of assimilation into Europe and the United States and the modernization of their respective religions, Heschel's scholarship will suggest ways Jewish historical experience affects Muslim self-understanding, and how tensions between Christians and Muslims in Europe and the United States might be overcome. She further intends to offer points of theological and political commonality between Muslims and Jews.

Bruce B. Lawrence

Professor of Islamic Studies

Duke University

Durham, North Carolina

Title: *Christian and Muslim Minorities as Secular Citizens in Africa and Asia*

Lawrence, a scholar whose work compares religion across different societies, will investigate how Egypt and Ethiopia, Indonesia and the Philippines have contended with challenges posed to multi-creedal nationalism by religious nationalists who deny both pluralism and the rights of religious minorities. He will explore why religious minorities remain a crucial index to the success, or failure, of deep pluralism and social comity. Lawrence's work will also analyze how location, whether in Africa or Asia, produces not just different narratives but also diverse outcomes for minority and majority religious communities. Academics and political observers alike will benefit from Lawrence's work. His book will throw welcome light on the dynamics that compel ideologues to claim religion as the major explanation for both policies and actions that, in fact, have little to do with religious beliefs or practices. Lawrence will contrast these ideologues with indigenous pluralists who, in their opposition to ideologues, strive to be both devout believers and pragmatic secularists.

Miriam R. Lowi

Associate Professor

The College of New Jersey

Ewing, New Jersey

Title: *Islam and Oil: The Economy of Meaning*

Lowi, a political scientist, will examine the relationship between Islam and oil: how interpretations of Islam have shaped the exploitation of oil and allocation of oil revenues, and how the latter have influenced adherence to and the practice of Islam. She suggests that a disjuncture exists in the Middle East and North Africa between Islamic norms and expectations about public resources, on the one hand, and state policy and practices, on the other, and that this disjuncture is a source of instability in the region. To explore the relationship and elucidate the disjuncture, Lowi will study the writings of Muslim thinkers, Islamist organizations, and the popular Arab media, to understand how Muslims think their oil wealth should be exploited. She will investigate state policies financed by oil to learn how elites have exploited oil wealth, both within and outside the state, and their effects on

Muslim publics. Lowi's research will culminate in a book-length manuscript on a relationship that is vital, yet has remained uncharted.

Susan Moeller

Associate Professor

University of Maryland

College Park, Maryland

Title: *Framing Islam: How Media Cover Muslims & Terrorism—and Why That Matters*

Moeller, a historian and former foreign correspondent, will investigate the “stories” American and British media tell about Islam and terrorism. When terrorists are depicted by the media as a monolithic enemy, argues Moeller, rather than as distinctive actors intent on achieving specific political ends, terrorism becomes inexplicable. Moeller will examine when and why the U.S. and British governments' priorities as well as their narratives have become the media's conventional wisdom. Moeller will investigate how media report on the context of terrorism, distinguish the perpetrators, listen to other voices, and consider its victims. The book that will result from her research will inform policymakers, journalists and the general public about how both government and the media “frame” terrorism for our consumption, too often leaving us fearful, but not well informed.

Tahera Qutbuddin

Assistant Professor

University of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

Title: *Classical Arabic Oratory: The Politics and Rhetoric of Public Address in the Islamic World*

Qutbuddin, a scholar of Arabic literature, intends to analyze classical Arabic speeches and sermons. Qutbuddin's will be one of the first substantial studies on the earliest and arguably most influential genre of Arabic prose in order to demonstrate that this tradition of oratory has permeated and given shape to the language and concepts of politics in the contemporary Islamic world. By examining the roots of Islamic oratorical discourse from a non-Western conceptual framework, Qutbuddin's work, which will result in a book aimed at academic and public audiences, will foster better understanding of its resonance with present-day Muslim audiences; enhanced appreciation of the declamatory traditions in-

herited by Muslim clergy and politicians; and more nuanced interpretations of the linguistic and rhetorical symbols of public address in the Islamic world.

Sadiq Reza

Professor of Law

New York Law School

New York, New York

Title: *Due Process in Islamic Criminal Law*

Reza, a legal scholar, will identify the essentials of criminal due process in classical Islamic legal theory and modern-day Islamic criminal jurisprudence. His research addresses the absence of an established system of “Islamic” criminal procedure—rules governing how criminal suspects are investigated and prosecuted—to correspond with and regulate the enforcement of Islamic criminal law today. By identifying these essentials, Reza’s work will suggest a framework for bringing contemporary Islamic criminal practice into closer conformity not only with international standards of criminal due process, but with Islamic rules and principles of justice as well. Reza will publish his findings in a series of articles and a book aimed at legal scholars, policymakers and the public.

Amr A. Shalakany

Assistant Professor

The American University in Cairo

Cairo, Egypt

Title: *The Redefinition of Shari’a in Modern Egyptian Legal Thought: 1798-Present*

Shalakany, a legal scholar, will trace the changing definition of Shari’a or Islamic law in modern Egyptian thought. The significance of 1883, considered a transitional moment from “Islamic” to “Western/secular” law, will be challenged by Shalakany’s research. He will argue that legal secularism existed in Egypt prior to the 1883 reforms, a thoroughly pre-colonial variant of secularism whose legitimacy rested on Ottoman and even Shari’a sources. Moreover, he will further argue that the significance of 1883 lies more in the transformation of Islamic jurisprudence triggered by the legal reforms adopted that year, rather than merely in the transplantation of French courts and codes to Egyptian soil. By connecting Egyptian legal thought across two centuries, Shalakany will demonstrate how the contemporary notion of Shari’a promoted by jurists affiliated with Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood movement is itself a modern invention, deeply influenced by the jurispru-

dence of Western Europe. Shalakany's research will lead to a book manuscript that will be translated into Arabic.

Paul A. Silverstein

Associate Professor

Reed College

Portland, Oregon

Title: *The Ethnic Politics of Muslim Secularism: North Africa at the Crossroads*

Silverstein, an anthropologist, will focus on how claims to indigenous secularism and non-orthodox religious practice by minority Muslim ethnic groups have gained new political currency. By tracing the intersection between Berber-speaking secularists and Islamic politics in the transnational space linking countries across the western Mediterranean, Silverstein will investigate how the Berber Diaspora in secular Western states influences new developments in ethnic and religious affairs in their Muslim-majority countries of origin. The project, which will culminate in a book-length study written equally for scholars, policymakers, and a general informed public, will contribute to a deeper understanding of the intersection of ethnic and religious politics within the Islamic world.

Monica Duffy Toft

Associate Professor

Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Title: *Religion, Islam and Civil Wars*

Toft, a political scientist, will investigate the role of religion in civil wars—particularly the involvement of Muslim-majority states, which are presently involved in a disproportionate number of conflicts. Toft will introduce and test a general explanation of the conditions under which religion becomes a central issue in civil war. The model, which she will continue to refine, holds that religion is more likely to become a central issue in a civil war when political elites compete in evoking religious doctrine and beliefs in an effort to maintain or attract domestic and international support. Toft will apply this model to resolve the puzzle of why Islam has been so over-represented in religious civil wars from 1940 to 2000. The book resulting from her research will help scholars and practitioners answer important questions about how faith and practice impact the likelihood of organized large-scale violence.

Muhammad S. Umar

Associate Professor

Northwestern University

Evanston, Illinois

Title: *Pragmatism and Pluralism in the Traditional Islamic Thought of al-Shaykh Ibrahim Saleh of Nigeria*

Umar, a religion scholar, will analyze the writings of al-Shaykh Ibrahim Saleh, a contemporary Nigerian public intellectual, who articulates Islamic arguments for pragmatism on topical issues such as pluralism and peaceful coexistence. One of modern Islam's paradoxes is that the most vocal proponents of militancy have been mostly those trained in modern secular education rather than those steeped in traditional Islamic learning. Umar's analysis of Saleh will help address the question of what intellectual capital classical traditions of Islamic learning provide for supporting pragmatic solutions to problems of contemporary Muslim societies. His work aims to advance the compatibility of Islam with tolerance, pluralism and peace. And, in particular, Umar's scholarship will result in a book, providing an important opportunity for fruitful dialogue on Islam among Nigerians, while also shedding light on the intellectual trends within contemporary Islamic thought more broadly.

Ashutosh Varshney

Professor

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Title: *Ethnocommunal Conflict, Civil Society and the State*

Varshney, a political scientist, will examine the determinants of ethnocommunal violence and attempt to identify the conditions under which ethnocommunal peace endures. To do so he will build upon his earlier work in India by examining ethnic and communal relations in 15 cities across four countries all of which are, or were at one time, prone to violence. In the cities and countries involved in the research, Varshney seeks to demonstrate that Islam as a religion does not have an integral relationship to violence. In these countries, whether Muslims get involved in repeated and large-scale riots is not a function of Islamic religiosity per se, but of the kinds of links built between them and the other communities, and the role of the state. The volume which Varshney intends to publish as a result of his work will serve as a guide for public policymakers and academics and will facilitate a deeper understanding of ethnocommunal peace and violence.

Class of 2009**Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im**

Professor

Emory University School of Law

Atlanta, Georgia

Title: *Enhancing Citizenship: American Muslims and American Secularism*

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im, a legal scholar, will investigate the theoretical and practical underpinnings of American secularism as the basis for encouraging American Muslims to participate more actively in civic life. He will present this as a framework for addressing issues of concern to American Muslims including education, family relations, foreign policy and social and economic advancement. To build a case for this deeper engagement and to demonstrate that Muslims are equal partners in the negotiation and adaptation of American secularism, An-Na'im will clarify how secularism ensures respect and protection of Muslims' fundamental rights. He will explore these dimensions with American Muslim leaders and activists, civil society organizations, scholars, the media and the broader public. An-Na'im will be preparing scholarly background papers, holding workshops and discussion groups, conducting interviews and engaging in outreach via his project website and blog. The resulting book, along with the outreach activities, have the potential to bring Muslims and non-Muslims together in common recognition of their shared American values, as well as building mutual respect for their differences.

Nathan Jude Brown

Professor

George Washington University

Washington, DC

Title: *Islamist Movements in Arab Politics*

Brown, a political scientist, will analyze the impacts of increased participation by Islamist groups in electoral politics on both the movements themselves and the political systems in which they operate. Recognizing that Islamist movements and authoritarian rule are both deeply entrenched in the Arab world, Brown will not ask how these movements could operate if circumstances were different and democratic rules faithfully observed. Instead, his comparative work will probe inside the movements focusing on why they enter politics in such an unfriendly environment, how they do so and how it affects them as well

as the societies in which they operate. In the resulting book and articles, Brown seeks to develop a nuanced understanding of the significance of these groups and their likely impact on the future of the Middle East. Brown also intends to share the findings with scholars and activists in the region.

Richard Bulliet

Professor

Columbia University

New York, New York

Title: *Islam and Military Rule*

Bulliet, a historian, will explore the historic and contemporary relationships between Islam and the military institutions that play a leading role in so many Muslim societies today. To gain deeper insight into the current situation, he will examine the historical model of the mamluks, non-free warriors who came from outside mainstream society and ascended to the highest positions of power. He hypothesizes that modern authoritarian regimes are neo-mamluk in character. Though often comprised of devout Muslims, they perceive Islamic political movements as mortal threats to their power. Bulliet believes that the instability, violence and oppression common in many Muslim countries is rooted in the historical Muslim religio-political discourse, not in a confrontation with modernity and the West. The Columbia University historian will compare the cases of Egypt, Syria and Turkey with Iran to delineate the nature of this confrontation and illuminate its historical evolution in order to diminish its dangers, and more positively, lead to greater political participation of civilian populations.

Robert Crews

Assistant Professor

Stanford University

Stanford, California

Title: *Muslims without Borders: Empires, States and Transborder Communities from the Caucasus to the Hindu Kush*

Historian Robert Crews's project seeks to understand how the mobility and interconnectedness of Muslims have intersected with the politics of empires, states, nations, and locales. His research challenges predominant American frameworks for understanding Muslim identities of an undifferentiated "Muslim world" on one hand, and the nation-state

on the other hand. Crews will explore how Muslim networks have been entangled since the early 18th century with struggles over state consolidation, the construction of borders, the politics of citizenship, control over resources, and great power hegemony. Emerging from his work—which will investigate flows and exchanges across state borders and regions of merchants, scholars, pilgrims, information, and commodities—will be an alternative geography for understanding how these flows have connected the experiences of Muslims across time and place from the deep past to the present. Crews’ book will be written to reach a broad audience, with special appeal for undergraduate students.

Dale Eickelman

Professor

Dartmouth College

Hanover, New Hampshire

Title: *Mainstreaming Islam: Taking Charge of the Faith*

Eickelman, an anthropologist, will explore the impact educated Muslims are having on rethinking Islamic thought and practice. He argues that profound transformations in the Muslim world today are occurring through the actions of middle class professionals and religious intellectuals. This process of “mainstreaming”—which includes tolerance of other faiths and accommodation of alternative Muslim religious ideas and practices—presents Islam as a part of civic life requiring concrete skills and aptitudes. Through a better understanding of these skills using fieldwork and his past research in Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, Eickelman’s work will present a more complex analysis of those reformers who are rethinking religion outside of traditional boundaries, or are shaping new social movements. Through his resulting book and participation in related activities, Eickelman will reach a wide audience of the public and policy makers interested in and shaping Muslim world developments.

Mona El-Ghobashy

Assistant Professor

Barnard College

New York, New York

Title: *Petition and Protest in Authoritarian Egypt*

El-Ghobashy, a political scientist, will explore how ordinary citizens represent their interests, secure public services, and defend their rights while living under an unac-

countable authoritarian regime. She argues that citizens of multiple religions use court petitions and street protests to demand that government restore essential services and protect religious rights. El-Ghobashy aims to reconceptualize citizen mobilization not as “resistance” to the state but as a bottom-up attempt to hold public officials accountable. The resulting book will contribute to the understanding of Islam in the modern world by demonstrating how Islam and other religions are mobilized by citizens with no access to free and fair elections or other means to represent their interests.

Hussein Anwar Fancy

Assistant Professor

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Title: *Medieval Violence and Modern Tolerance*

Hussein Anwar Fancy, a medieval historian, will offer a novel perspective on religious violence in the Middle Ages that challenges and redirects contemporary debates about tolerance. His research will center on a virtually unknown history of the Crusades in which thousands of Muslim and Christian soldiers were traded to serve in kingdoms of the other faith: Christian soldiers in service of North African sultans and Muslim soldiers in service of Catalan kings. These curious exchanges paradoxically reinforced religious violence, rather than acting to diminish them. Fancy argues that the language of tolerance, grounded in assumptions about medieval religion, has impeded both the understanding of the historical past and the mitigation of conflict. His work will examine unpublished archival material from the 13th century in an effort to bring to light rules and limits to the use of violence in the context of the Crusades and jihad across the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa. In the resulting articles and books, aimed at audiences in the United States and abroad, the University of Michigan historian will offer a revised understanding of violence and religion in order to re-focus debates on values such as justice and equality, notions that have long been obscured by the language of tolerance and intolerance.

John Ghazvinian

Senior Fellow, Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Title: *Children of the Revolution: Iran and America from the Mayflower to the Mullahs*

John Ghazvinian, a historian, will write the full story of America's relationship with Iran. Unlike most historical accounts, Ghazvinian's will not begin with an examination of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, nor will he start with the CIA-backed coup in 1953. Instead, he will begin his narrative in the early 1600s, when English ships set sail for Hormuz and Roanoke. By moving beyond headlines and placing U.S.-Iran relations in a much broader timeframe, Ghazvinian will argue that, paradoxically, Iran is in many ways America's most natural ally in the Middle East. His research will draw on archival material in the U.S. and Iran including periodicals, newspapers, and other primary data sources. As the United States enters into a new and possibly decisive relationship with Iran, the book resulting from Ghazvinian's research will aim to answer a perplexing yet fundamental question about U.S.-Iran relations, which only sporadically enters the public discourse, that is: How exactly did we get here?

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad

Professor

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

Title: *Sayyid Qutb: From Village Boy to Islamist Martyr*

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, a historian of religion, will analyze the impact of Western theological and political discourse on Islamic thought and Muslims through a re-examination of the life and works of Sayyid Qutb, an Egyptian whose writings represent the most radical interpretation of Islam. Qutb, whose thinking has influenced revolutionary and terrorist movements, underwent a transformation from a liberal to neo-conservative revolutionary during and following his stay in the United States from 1949-1951. While much has been written about this transformation, Haddad will situate it in the context of American educational philosophy prominent at the time and Qutb's exposure to American religiosity. She will expand the analysis by placing Qutb's work within the intellectual and religious context of Egypt in the 1930s as well as his exposure to various influential Western writings. With Qutb's transformation as context, Haddad will provide insight into the influence of contemporary Western ideas on Muslim youth in the West, thus offering a more nuanced understanding of the impact of American values on American Muslim youth as they cope with racism and alienation.

Valerie Hoffman

Associate Professor

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Champaign, Illinois

Title: *Islamic Sectarianism Reconsidered: Ibadi Islam in the Modern Age*

Religion scholar Valerie Hoffman will explore the impact of globalization on Ibadism, a neglected strand of Islam that is distinct from the Shi'a and Sunni denominations. Hoffman will examine how Ibadism, which exists mainly in Oman and isolated pockets in the Maghreb and East Africa, challenges conventional academia's mutually exclusive categories. In a seeming contradiction, the fundamentalist sect embraces rational theology, mystical practice and liberal tolerance toward outsiders. Hoffman's exploration of Ibadism's responses to globalization will shed light on the potential for a rigid, closed sect to embrace the diversity of the global age. The resulting book will fill a significant gap in the field and enhance both academic and public understanding of the distinctive nature of modern Ibadism.

Asim Ijaz Khwaja

Associate Professor

John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Title: *The Hajj: Islam's Global Gathering*

Economist Asim Khwaja's project will examine how the pilgrimage to Mecca affects individual pilgrims' economic, social, ethical and cultural outlooks. His preliminary work, based on data from a survey of 1600 Pakistani pilgrims, or *Hajjis*, suggests that they are more religious as a result of their pilgrimage. Yet the same data reveals that pilgrims also return with an increased desire for peace and tolerance—both towards fellow Muslims and non-Muslims. Given the increasing global concern about intolerance and religiously-motivated violence, Khwaja's research on the impact of the *Hajj* will offer a unique perspective on social interaction among Muslims. In what some observers may consider a departure from accepted knowledge, Khwaja will examine how mixing across the lines of ethnicity, nationality, sect and gender may result in deeper feelings of equality and harmony even towards outsiders. By combining survey data with in-depth interviews of *Hajjis*, Khwaja intends to produce a monograph and articles aimed at policy and academic audiences that will enrich and deepen the current debate about Islam from the perspective of religion and tolerance.

Ussama Makdisi

Professor

Rice University

Houston, Texas

Title: *A Mutual Concern: A History of U.S.-Arab Relations*

Historian Ussama Makdisi's project will reshape the understanding of U.S. Arab relations during the 19th and early 20th century. Makdisi's account will challenge most histories written about American-Arab relations, which focus primarily on oil, the Cold War, the Arab-Israeli conflict and, more recently, terrorism and Iraq. These conventional histories often ignore an earlier American cultural involvement with the Arab world, an involvement marked by missionary encounters with the Muslim and Christian inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire beginning in the 1820s, major American-led higher education efforts in the 1860s, and Arab nationalists' embrace of Wilsonian self-determination in 1919. Ussama Makdisi's book-length history will go beyond ideological assumptions about Americans and Arabs to tell a story of mutual interaction and transformation that has clear ramifications for contemporary dialogue between Americans and much of the Arab world.

Tarek Masoud

Assistant Professor

John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Title: *Electoral Ecologies of Political Islam: Islamist Parties and their Rivals*

Tarek Masoud, a political scientist, aims to explain why political parties that demand the application of the Islamic holy law have emerged as the principal opponents of the authoritarian regimes that dominate the Middle East. The conventional wisdom holds that Islamists win elections because Muslims are somehow inherently receptive to political appeals that harness the rhetorical power of the faith. But the assistant professor of public policy suggests that we should instead focus on the electoral terrain in which Islamic parties and their opponents must operate. He contends that Islamists score electoral victories not because of their broad appeal, but rather due to adaptive advantages that render them particularly suited to elections held under authoritarian conditions. At a time when efforts to promote democracy in the Middle East have stalled on fears of Islamist takeover, Masoud's research—drawing on cases in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Yemen—will examine whether those fears may be unfounded. He intends to produce a book that is both scholarly and ac-

cessible to a broad readership, and will disseminate his findings here and to Arabic-speaking audiences in the Middle East.

Asifa Quraishi

Assistant Professor

University of Wisconsin Law School

Madison, Wisconsin

Title: *Lost in Non-translation: What's Missing When We Say Shari'a*

Legal scholar and activist Asifa Quraishi's work aims to explore how a more complex and careful understanding of *shari'a* may lead to workable compromises between Islamic law and international rights norms, thereby changing the current paradigm of often irreconcilable absolutes. Quraishi argues that the concept has become dangerously politicized in recent years, as questions arise as to how a devotion to Islamic law can exist in harmony with more secular principles of human rights. By offering a comprehensive framing for *shari'a*—one which acknowledges that it is composed of two interdependent realms of law, divine revelation and public good—she seeks to cultivate a workable consensus around this new framing. Through her publishing and via discussions with scholars and the public in the United States and Muslim audiences around the world, Quraishi aims to alter the global debate about *shari'a* so that it is more informed and nuanced.

Intisar A. Rabb

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

Title: *Islamic Law and Legal Change: The Internal Critique*

Intisar Rabb, a legal scholar trained in Islamic and U.S. law, will examine Muslim juristic debates about modern legislation and implementation of classical Islamic criminal law. Her work will focus on these distinctly “internal” critiques—balancing them, and those who present them, against critical assessments of Islamic law offered by human rights activists who argue with respect to international legal norms. To better inform such critiques, Rabb will survey criminal law practices—not all of which are “Islamic”—in the 27 countries that have incorporated Islamic law into their constitutions or allow for a jurisdiction of Islamic criminal law. Rabb's survey findings will populate a public, online database aimed at legal and other scholars, nongovernmental organizations and government policymakers. She will also conduct a comparative study of judicial debates in Iran and Saudi Arabia, with

reference to Pakistan. These are countries with constitutional legal systems drawing on Islamic law as the main source of law, and legal and governmental actors in each have turned increased attention to their criminal law regimes in recent years. The legal scholar's resulting book is intended for use by international lawyers, scholars, the media and the public.

Samuel J. Rascoff

Assistant Professor

New York University School of Law

New York, New York

Title: *Understanding How the U.S. Government Understands Islam*

Samuel Rascoff, a specialist in national security law and counterterrorism, will focus on how the U.S. government acquires knowledge and sets policy in the area of Islamic thought and practice. The government's concept of Islam, which the New York University professor refers to as "official Islam," is enormously consequential. Unlike strictly academic accounts, official Islam reverberates throughout society as a function of the policies to which it gives rise. His examination of official Islam will draw on comparisons with the Sovietology of a previous generation, as well as with current policies in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Through the resulting monograph, articles and talks, Rascoff aims to disseminate his findings to a wide audience of academics and policymakers as well as to members of the military, law enforcement and intelligence communities. He intends to offer recommendations on how the U.S. approach to acquiring and analyzing information on Islam might be improved.

Kishwar Rizvi

Assistant Professor

Yale University

New Haven, Connecticut

Title: *Ideology and Architecture: Transnational Mosques in the Middle East*

Art historian Kishwar Rizvi's project will offer a nuanced study of the role of contemporary mosques in the construction of modern Muslim identity by examining their political, religious and architectural history. The mosque reflects the choice of architect, institutional patronage, and religious networks, and as Rizvi contends, is an important lens through which to understand the ways in which Islamic culture defines itself. However unique and specific a mosque's symbolic meanings and formal relationships are to the local

Muslim context, they are conceptually and, sometimes architecturally, related to religious buildings throughout the world. Through examination of the architectural networks emanating from Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, Rizvi will focus on mosques' underlying connections—sometimes harmonious but sometimes in conflict—within the modern Muslim world in particular, but also the world at large. Rizvi will collect primary documentary evidence and conduct interviews. Her findings will result in a book that fills a significant gap in the historical study of architecture and religious ideology in the contemporary Middle East. She will also disseminate her work through a website of photographic and architectural documents for practitioners, students and scholars in the Middle East and the United States.

George Saliba

Professor

Columbia University

New York, New York

Title: *The Encounter between Modern European Science and Islamic Societies*

George Saliba's project explores the conundrum of why science in the Islamic world, after contributing to the rejuvenation of science in Europe during the Renaissance and subsequently giving rise to modern science, did not continue to flourish in modern times. The Columbia University historian's research into the emergence of modern science in Europe—and its failure to catalyze similar developments in the Islamic world—will focus on the effects of established legal monopolistic systems like patents and grants which tied science directly to investment and eventually a source of capital production. Saliba will also analyze the impact of science-promotion institutions as well as scientific competitions, which balanced the mercantile nature of science with that of developing new knowledge. Saliba's findings will be drawn together in a monograph aimed not only at historians of science but also at science decision makers in governments, investors and the general public. His findings will be shared in articles, opinion pieces and the popular media.

Samer Shehata

Assistant Professor

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

Title: *Islamist Electoral and Parliamentary Participation: Egypt, Morocco and Kuwait*

Samer Shehata, a specialist in Arab politics, will examine why Islamists parties par-

ticipate in elections in semi-authoritarian regimes, the reasons behind their electoral success, as well as the particular policies they adopt once they enter parliament. Through ethnography, interviewing and close analysis of official records, the Georgetown University professor will also illustrate the degree to which participation in electoral politics has an effect on the character of legislative institutions in these regimes. What will be the consequences, asks Shehata, of Islamist electoral and parliamentary activity on Middle East politics? The resulting monograph will contribute to the fields of regional studies and political science, and Shehata's work will also help inform United States' foreign policy in the region.

Abdulkader Sinno

Assistant Professor

Indiana University, Bloomington

Bloomington, Indiana

Title: *Muslims in Western Parliaments*

Abdulkader Sinno, a political scientist, will examine the dynamics of Muslim representation in North American and West European parliaments; a phenomenon that current social and demographic trends suggest will become more important over the next 20-30 years. His research sets forth a series of questions including the nature of political platforms adopted by elected Muslims, their support of assimilation—or protection of their minority identities—and their roles in civil rights debates. These and other questions will illustrate how—and if—Muslim representatives in Western parliaments are different cross-nationally and from their non-Muslim counterparts. Sinno's work could play a constructive role in conflict resolution and preemption. And, by bolstering the rights of Western Muslim minorities, his work may contribute to greater stability of the Western liberal democracies in which they reside. In addition to a book, Sinno will write articles for academic journals as well as more accessible pieces for informing policy debates.

Denise Spellberg

Associate Professor

University of Texas at Austin

Austin, Texas

Title: *Thomas Jefferson's Qur'an: Islam and the Founders*

Historian Denise Spellberg's project will reveal the little known story of how Thomas Jefferson and several other "founding fathers," including George Washington and

Richard Henry Lee, opposed dominant negative views of Islam as a threat to the ideals underlying the new state they envisioned. Her work will bring to light how the rights of Muslims were part of broader national debates about religious freedom and the separation of church and state. The rights of Muslims in early America were then debated only in theory; today, they are tested daily in practice. Spellberg intends for her research—drawing on American political, religious and legal history—to recast/reframe the current discussion of the relationship of American democracy, tolerance, rights and pluralism to include Muslim communities. The University of Texas historian hopes that the book project will challenge false dichotomies about Islam in America as un-American. And instead, lead to wide understanding that the rights of Muslim citizens were at the heart of our founding history and part of our most cherished founding American ideals.

Shirin Tahir-Kheli

Independent Scholar

Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

Title: *Foreign Policy in an Age of Madness: America and the Muslim World after 9/11*

Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, an international relations specialist, served three Republican administrations in senior positions in the White House and State Department, including during the George W. Bush administration. Combining an insider perspective with her foreign policy background and her scholarship on engagement with the Muslim world, Tahir-Kheli will analyze the formulation of U.S. foreign policy in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The U.S. government's use, during this period, of democracy promotion as a means of undercutting support for terrorism has been widely discussed and critiqued. However, most of this discussion has occurred in the absence of information about the tensions and issues that shaped the decision processes. Tahir-Kheli will offer nuanced details drawing on interviews, documents and personal experiences to describe the terms by which these issues were debated within the administration. In addition to examining the interplay between the war on terror and outreach to the Muslim world, Tahir-Kheli will assess America's ability—via changes in its current and projected role—to influence international political development, including bridging the divide between government policy and the messages it conveys to the Muslim world.

Mark Tessler

Professor

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Title: *Popular Conceptions and Preferences Relating to the Place of Islam in Political Life: Insights from Cross-National and Longitudinal Survey Research in the Arab World*

Drawing upon 22 representative national surveys conducted in eleven Arab countries since 2002, political scientist Mark Tessler will explore the preferences of ordinary Arab citizens relating to the place of Islam in political life, building on earlier work that suggests citizens in many Arab countries are not content with their relative lack of democracy. These surveys, designed and conducted with participation by scholars in the region, have yielded data on political attitudes and behaviors, including factors explaining why different individuals come to different conclusions about how their countries should be governed. These data fill a missing dimension in political science research in and about the Arab world. Tessler will merge the data from the different surveys, build the conceptual measures, analyze the survey data, and disseminate his findings in a monograph and articles for use by scholars, the public and policymakers in the United States, the Arab world and elsewhere. Along with the monograph, the merged data set will be placed in the public domain for use by others.

Malika Zeghal

Associate Professor

University of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

Title: *Sacred Politics: The Contemporary Arab State, Secularity and Islam*

Malika Zeghal, a social scientist, is challenging the conventional interpretation of secularity as a Western phenomenon—one that is closely associated with democratic practices—in a comparative analysis of the role of Islam in Middle Eastern modern authoritarian states and in France’s secular democracy. Through in-depth examination of Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, and Tunisia, and their relationship to Islam, she will also shed new light on the emergence of Islamist movements in these countries. The University of Chicago professor’s work will explore the important affinities between Islamist political movements and Muslim theologians, or *ulama*. Across the Middle East both of these groups are advocating for Islam’s role as a political and ethical force in society. In the project’s resulting

publications, Zeghal will demonstrate to what extent Islamist movements are a byproduct of state theologies and state regulation of religion, an articulation that will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the use of religious concepts in protest against state power.

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