

CATHERINE BRONSON, PH.D.

Department of Classics, University of Notre Dame
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EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

A.M., Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, June 2012

Specialization: Early Islamic Religious and Intellectual Thought; the Qur'an

Dissertation Title: *Imagining Primal Woman: Islamic Selves of Eve*

Dissertation Committee: Wadad Kadi (NELC), Tahera Qutbuddin (NELC),

Orit Bashkin (NELC), and Michael Sells (Divinity School)

Coursework GPA: 3.99/4.00

University of Chicago

A.M., Center for Middle Eastern Studies, June 2003

Thesis: *Exegetical Survey of Surāt al-Nūr: 24:31 and Implications for Veiling*

Coursework GPA: 3.99/4.00

University of Damascus, Damascus, Syria

Diploma, Arabic Language and Literature, June 2000

Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL

B.A., History, Summa Cum Laude

GPA: 4.00/4.00; Class Rank 1/770

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago (Sept. 2010- Sept. 2011)

Martin Marty Divinity School Fellowship, Divinity School at the University of Chicago (Aug. 2008-June 2009)

American Institute of Iranian Studies Fellowship for Persian Studies, Tehran, Iran (2006-2007)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Sept. 2003-June 2006)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Summer, 2004)

University Unendowed Full Scholarship awarded for Ph.D. program, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago (Sept. 2003-Sept. 2007)

University Unendowed Scholarship awarded for the M.A. program, Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago (Sept. 2001-June 2003)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Arabic Pedagogy

Gender Studies in Islam
Early Islamic Intellectual Thought
Comparative Religious Studies
Classical Arabic Poetry
The Qur'an and its exegetical tradition
Religious Theory

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- July 2015 - **University of Notre Dame**
Assistant Teaching Professor of Arabic and Islam
Courses in Fall 2015
Arabic II
Arabic III (independent study)
- Fall 2014-Spring 2015 **University of Notre Dame**
Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of Arabic and Islam
Courses:
Elementary Arabic I
Advanced Arabic III
Gendered Bodies in the Islamic Tradition
- Fall 2012-Spring 2014 **Beloit College**
Joint appointment in the Departments of Modern Languages
and Religion
Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow
Courses:
Elementary Arabic 100 & 105
Independent Study: Intermediate Arabic 205
Introduction to Islamic Civilization
Gendered Bodies in the Islamic Tradition
Reading Said's Orientalism and Assorted Criticism
(Independent Study for Matej Jungwirth's B.A. thesis)
- Summer 2013 **University of Chicago**
The College
Instructor
Course:
Summer Intensive Arabic: 101, 102, 103
- Summer 2011- Summer 2012 **University of Illinois at Chicago**
Department of the Classics and Mediterranean Studies
Visiting Instructor of the Classics
Courses:
Elementary Arabic
Summer Intensive Arabic

Fall 2009- Spring 2010

University of Illinois at Chicago

History Department
Adjunct History Instructor

Courses:
Early Islamic Thought
The Middle East since 1258

Fall 2007-Summer 2012

Illinois Institute of Technology

Humanities Department
Adjunct Instructor

Courses:
The Age of Darwin
Elementary Arabic and Intermediate Arabic
Early Islamic Thought: 570-1200
Introduction to Islam
Late Medieval and Modern Islamic Thought: 1200-the present
Islamic Civilization and Culture: 600-the present
Portraits of Women: Prehistory-1500
The Origins on Sufism

Summer 2008- Summer 2010

University of Chicago

The College
Instructor

Course:
Hum Core: Identity and Displacement

Fall 2007- Spring 2009

DePaul University

History Department
Instructor

The Muslim World, 600-1200

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORSHIPS

2006-present

University of Chicago

NELC
Teaching Assistant
Intermediate Arabic, 201-202-203
Summer Intensive: Intermediate Arabic

2005-2008

University of Chicago

Graham School of Continuing Studies
Instructor
Intermediate Arabic, 201-202-203
Advanced Conversational Arabic, 301-302-303-304

CURRENT PROJECTS

Imagining Primal Woman: Islamic Selves of Eve [accepted for publication in the Routledge Studies in the Qur'an, expected completion, Summer 2015].

PUBLICATIONS

“Did Ḥafṣah bint ‘Umar Edit the Qur’an? A Response with Notes on the Codices of the Prophet’s Wives,” *Journal of the International Qur’anic Studies Association* 1.1 (forthcoming 2016)

“Eve in the Formative Period of Islamic Exegesis: Intertextual Boundaries and Hermeneutical Demarcations” in Johanna Pink and Andreas Goerke, eds., *Tafsīr and Islamic Intellectual History*, pages 27-61.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PAST AND UPCOMING)

“Indeed, God is Beautiful and Loves Beauty.” **Department of Theology at University of Notre Dame; Conference Title: Finding Beauty in the Other**, Notre Dame, IN (September 11, 2015).

Co-organizer **MAMEIS**, Louisville, KY (April 13, 2015).

Co-organizer and panelist at **MAMEIS**, Chicago, IL (April 12, 2014).

“The Morality of Clothing.” **The 224th Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society 224th Annual Meeting**, Phoenix, AZ (March 14, 2014).

“Why is Sacred History Important? Tricks, Ruses and Stratagems of Women.” **Faculty Forum at Beloit College**, Beloit, WI (January 29, 2014).

“Atavistic Women in Monotheistic Traditions.” **The Theology Colloquium at Valparaiso University**, Valparaiso, IN (November 20, 2013).

“Discursive Style in the Eve-Pericopes.” **Contemplating the Qur’an (Tadabbur al-Qur’an)**, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington D.C. (March 24-25, 2013).

“Hiding Femininity.” **The 223rd Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Portland, OR (March 16, 2013).

“Eve.” Invited participant at Angelika Neuwirth’s workshop, **Qur’anic Studies Today**, The Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative at the University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago, IL (Nov 9, 2013).

“Biblical Precedence for the Islamic Eve.” **American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature**, Chicago, IL (Nov., 2013).

“Disentangling Voice in the Qur’an: Discursive Constellation or Narrative Continuity?” **Middle East History and Theory Workshop**, University of Chicago (May, 2012).

“Bodies and Orthopraxy.” **The Humanities Colloquium**, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago IL (Oct., 2012).

“The Sartorial Implications of Qur’an 24:31.” **The 27th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference**, University of Chicago (May, 2012).

“The Qur’an and its Tradition.” **The Philosophy Colloquium**, Illinois Institute of Technology (April, 2012).

“Locating the Shari‘a in Surat al-Nūr 24:31: *wa lā yubdīna ḫānatabunna illā mā ḡahara minhā*.” **The Second Annual Islamic Studies Conference at UCSB**, Santa Barbara, California (Feb., 2012).

“Qur’anic Mantic Voice: *sawt al-ilāhi* and *sawt al-rānī*.” **Middle East History and Theory**, University of Chicago (May, 2011).

“The genesis of Eve is not the Eve of Genesis.” **The First Annual Islamic Studies Conference at UCSB: A Graduate Student Gathering**, Santa Barbara, California (April, 2011).

“First Woman in Formative Tafsīr.” **The 26th Annual Middle East History and Theory Workshop**, University of Chicago (March, 2011).

“The Eve of Islamic Exegesis.” **The 221st Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Chicago, IL (March, 2011).

“Eve Narratives.” **The 44th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association**, San Diego, CA (November, 2010).

“Hawwā’ in the Formative Period of Islamic Exegesis.” Invited speaker at the **Institut für Islamwissenschaft: The Genesis of Early tafsīr**, Berlin, Germany (September, 2010).

“Rewriting Women into History.” **Keynote Speaker at the Society of Women Engineer’s Annual Celebration Tea and Conference**, Illinois Institute of Technology. (March, 2010).

“Mythology Turned Ideology: The Islamic Eve and Paradigms.” **The Center for Gender Studies**, University of Chicago (February, 2010).

“Inter-textuality in Religious Discourse.” Designated Fellow Speaker at **The Board of Directors Meeting for the Martin Marty Center**, Divinity School at the University of Chicago (April, 2009).

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (PAST AND UPCOMING)

Participant, Mindfulness and Spirituality Club on Beloit College Campus. In conjunction with other faculty, we will hold workshops and seminars on the role of religion on campus and in the wider public. At the initial workshop, I will focus on Islamaphobia.

Invited Speaker, “Reflections on the Pilgrimage to Mecca.” The First Annual Islamic Arts Festival (sponsored by NEH), Illinois Institute of Technology (Nov., 2013).

Invited Speaker, “Commonalities between Judaism, Christianity and Islam” Presentation Given at the United Church of Beloit (May, 2013).

Invited Mini-Course Instructor, “Introduction to Islam.” Senior Learning Unlimited (SLU), Beloit, Wisconsin (April, 2013).

“Syria in Conflict.” Presentation given to the Beloit College campus and surrounding community. (Sept., 2012).

Invited Speaker, “The Graco-Arabic Translation Movement in Early ‘Abbasid Baghdad.” The First Annual Islam and Science Conference, Illinois Institute of Technology (Nov., 2011).

Invited Speaker, “Muslim Contributions to Civilization.” Islamic Awareness Week, Illinois Institute of Technology (April, 2011).

Faculty Sponsor, Arabic Conversational Table, Beloit College (Sept., 2012-present).

Qur’an Recitation Instructor: Chicago Area (references available on request)

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Co-Editor (Review of Qur’anic Research) at the *Journal of the International Qur’an Studies (JIQS)*, November 2013 – present.

Participant, Museum Development Group: “Increasing the Incorporation of Material Artifacts into the Classroom Setting”(Academic Year 2013-14 at Beloit College).

Participant, Advising Retreat organized by Beloit College: “Second Annual Retreat at Lake Geneva on Advising Students in the Liberal Arts” (August, 2013).

Participant, ACM Conference on Assessments and Initiatives in Pedagogy (Sept. 20th-21st, 2013; April 21st-22nd, 2013; Sept. 21-22nd, 2012).

Participant, Pedagogical Approaches to Language Instruction (June 23-25, 2009).

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Oriental Society

Middle East Studies Association

Society of Biblical Literature

International Society of Qur'anic Studies

REFERENCES

Wadad Kadi: w-kadi@uchicago.edu (academic)

Tahera Qutbuddin: btq@uchicago.edu (academic)

Orit Bashkin: oritb@uchicago.edu (academic)

Kay Heikkinen kheikkin@uchicago.edu (teaching)

Greg Pulliam: pulliam@iit.edu (teaching)