

CATHERINE BRONSON, PH.D.

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Assistant Teaching Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies  
Department of Classics & The Program of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Notre Dame  
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## EDUCATION

**University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

A.M., Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages & 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 2001

**Saint Xavier University**, Chicago, IL

B.A., History, Summa Cum Laude

GPA: 4.00/4.00; Class Rank 1/770

**Professional Qur'an Recitation Training School for Girls and Women, Halboni, Damascus**  
(*Tajwid*)

Oral Examination by Shaykh Abu al-Hasan al-Kurdi, August, 2002

## CURRENT PROJECTS

*Imagining Primal Woman: Islamic Selves of Eve* [accepted for publication in the Routledge Studies in the Qur'an, expected completion, Summer 2019].

Translator: Ghada Bualuan's novel *A Sky Filled with Stars* (سماء مليئة بالنجوم).

## 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 (2016): 93-125.

“Eve in the Formative Period of Islamic Exegesis: Intertextual Boundaries and Hermeneutical Demarcations” in Johanna Pink and Andreas Görke, eds., *Tafsīr and Islamic Intellectual History: Exploring the Boundaries of a Genre* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 27-61.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

July 2015 – Jan 2022

**University of Notre Dame**

*Assistant Teaching Professor of Arabic and Islam*

*Concurrent Appointment: Moreau First Year Experience Instructor*

*Affiliate: Gender Studies Program at Notre Dame*

Courses:

Arabic I

Arabic II

Arabic III

Gendered Bodies in the Islamic Tradition

Gender and Sexuality in Islam

First Year of Studies

Summer 2020 & 2021

University of Notre Dame

Instructor: Classical Qur'an Arabic 1 & 2

Summer 2018

**Middlebury Interactive Language; Summer Academy**

Instructor: Intensive Arabic III

Spring 2016 – present

**University of Notre Dame**

*Supervisor for Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant*

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

**University of Notre Dame**

Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of Arabic and Islam

Courses:

Arabic I

Arabic III

Gendered Bodies in the Islamic Tradition

Fall 2012-Spring 2014

**Beloit College**

Mellon Post-Doctoral Teacher-Scholar Fellow

Joint appointment in the Departments of Modern Languages and Religion

Courses:

Elementary Arabic 100 & 105

Intermediate Arabic 205

Introduction to Islamic Civilization

Gender in the Islamic Tradition

Reading Said's *Orientalism*

Summer 2013

**University of Chicago**

The College

*Instructor*

	<p>Course: Summer Intensive Arabic: 101, 102, 103</p>
Summer 2011- Summer 2012	<p><b>University of Illinois at Chicago</b> Department of the Classics and Mediterranean Studies <i>Visiting Instructor of the Classics</i> Courses: Elementary Arabic Summer Intensive Arabic</p>
Fall 2009- Spring 2010	<p><b>University of Illinois at Chicago</b> History Department <i>Adjunct History Instructor</i> Courses: Islamic Thought Islamic History</p>
Fall 2007-Summer 2014	<p><b>Illinois Institute of Technology</b> Humanities Department <i>Adjunct Instructor</i> Courses: The Age of Darwin Elementary Arabic and Intermediate Arabic 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</p>
Fall 2000 – 2001	<p><b>Aqsa Islamic School</b> High School Teacher Courses: Islam History</p>

## ACADEMIC SERVICE, DEPARTMENT CITIZENSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### a. Departmental Service

#### i. Supervisor for Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (AY 2016-17 - present)

Select, mentor, and supervise FLTA scholar-teachers; report quarterly to the Fulbright program via progress reports

Fulbright Scholar-Teachers supervised:

- Eman AlWardany (AY 2016 - 17)
- Raghdaa Abou-Serie (AY 2017 - 18)
- Hussain Laghaby (AY 2018 – 19)

#### ii. Academic Liaison for Arabic tutors at the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures (CSLC)

iii. Academic Language Coordinator (Arabic) for the Center for the Study of Language and Cultures (assess ACTFL compliance)

Oversee tutor-tutee meetings, review all documentation, and screen and approve those eligible for services

iv. Faculty Advisor: Arabic Club (Spring 2016 - present)

v. Faculty Advisor: Pros at Prose (Fall 2014 - present)

Advise clubs and sign off on all SAO360 workflow and requests

vi. Conductor for the website of The Program in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies

vii. participated in and drafted parts of the external departmental audit for The Program in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies (Fall 2017)

viii. Director of MELC at the University of Notre Dame

#### **b. University Service**

i. Appointed as a Moreau First Year of Studies Instructor (23 out of 90 applicants were granted appointments)

ii. Faculty Marshal at commencement Mass and graduation (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018)

iii. Volunteer Interviewer for Fulbright Candidates for the Graduate School Office of Grants & Fellowships and CUSE

#### **c. External Service**

i. Co-editor for the *Review of Qur'anic Research (RQR)* for the International Qur'anic Studies Association (2014 – 2017)

ii. Conducted a site evaluation for the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)'s Arabic program in Amman, Jordan. Aided in writing a sixty-page formal audit (October, 2016)

### **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 (2007 - declined because of Visa restrictions)

**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)

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“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, 2015).

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Hiding Femininity.” **The 223<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society**, Portland, OR (March, 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 (November, 2013).

“Biblical Precedence for the Islamic Eve.” **American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature**, Chicago, IL (November, 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 (October, 2012).

“The Sartorial Implications of Qur’an 24:31.” **The 27<sup>th</sup> 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 zīnatahunna illā mā zahara minhā*.” **The Second Annual Islamic Studies Conference at UCSB**, Santa Barbara, California (February, 2012).

“Qur’anic Mantic Voice: *sawt al-ilāhi* and *sawt al-rāwī*.” **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 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle East History and Theory Workshop, University of Chicago (March, 2011).**

**"The Eve of Islamic Exegesis." The 221<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, IL (March, 2011).**

**"Eve Narratives." The 44<sup>th</sup> 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**

*Invited Speaker, "Reflections on my Ramadans in Syria." The Annual Muslim Dinner (sponsored by the Muslim Student Association at the University of Notre Dame (September, 2018).*

*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 Islamophobia (September, 2014).*

*Invited Speaker, "Reflections on the Pilgrimage to Mecca." The First Annual Islamic Arts Festival (sponsored by NEH), Illinois Institute of Technology (November, 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).*

*Invited Speaker, "Syria in Conflict." Presentation given to the Beloit College campus and surrounding community (September, 2012).*

*Invited Speaker, "The Graco-Arabic Translation Movement in Early 'Abbasid Baghdad." The First Annual Islam and Science Conference, Illinois Institute of Technology (November, 2011).*

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

*Faculty Sponsor*, Arabic Conversational Table, Beloit College (September 2012 - 2014).

#### **ACADEMIC SERVICES, DEPARTMENT CITIZENSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Faculty Advisor, Arabic Club at the University of Notre Dame, Spring 2016 - present.

Faculty supervisor for the yearly Fulbright Teaching Assistant (AY 2016 - present).

Arabic Website Developer in conjunction with Kate Garry (Spring 2016).

Faculty Advisor, Book Club, University of Notre Dame (Fall 2014 - present)

Co-Editor (Review of Qur'anic Research) at the *Journal of the International Qur'an Studies (JIQS)*, November 2013 - November 2017.

*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. 20<sup>th</sup>21<sup>st</sup>, 2013; April 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013; Sept. 21-22<sup>nd</sup>, 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

American Council on Teaching Foreign Language

Modern Language Association

