

Curriculum Vitae

EMMA RIFAI

The University of Iowa | Department of Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

- In Progress **Ph.D., Religious Studies, The University of Iowa**
Title: Embodied Covenants: Women, Body Management, and American Secularism
Directors: Dr. Kristy Nabhan-Warren and Dr. Jenna Supp-Montgomerie
- 2017 **The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies**
- 2017 **The Graduate Certificate in College Teaching**
- 2018 **M.A., Religious Studies, The University of Iowa**
Comprehensive Exam Areas: American Religions; Critical Theory and Religion; and Religion, Food, and the Body
- 2011 **M.A., Middle East Studies, University of Washington**
Thesis: Fashioning Identities: New Relationships with Fashion and Modesty in Turkey
- 2009 **B.A., Sociology of Religion, Minnesota State University Moorhead**
Thesis: Unveiling New Orientalism: An Exploration in Images
- 2008 **B.M., Instrumental Music and Religious Studies, Concordia College**
Thesis: The Body’s Iron Cage and Its Relationship to the Protestant Ethic

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Weighty Matter(s): Religion, Secularism, and American Weight Loss Culture.” *Religion Compass*. (Accepted with revisions.)

“Networked Anorexia: Pro-Ana Communities, Secularism, and the Internet.” *Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture*. (Invited to resubmit with revisions.)

“Spreading the Religion of Thinness from California to Calcutta: A Critical Feminist Postcolonial Analysis” with Michelle Lelwica and Jenna McNallie. *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 24:1 (Spring 2009): 20-41. (Published under Emma Hoglund.)

Textbook Entries

“Evangelical Christianities in North America” and “Women and Christianity.” *Religion: Bloomsbury Religion in North America*. (Invited and submitted for review.)

Book Reviews

Review of *The Story of Radio Mind: A Missionary’s Journey on Indigenous Land*, by Pamela E. Klassen. *Material Religion* (July 2019).

Review of *Religious Affects: Animality, Evolution, and Power*, by Donovan O. Schaefer. *Material Religion* 12:4 (December 2016): 515-516.

PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

- 2018 “Uploading the Body; Embodying the Online: Bodies, Digital Space, and the Pro-Ana Movement,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado
- 2018 “Networked Anorexia: Pro-Ana Communities, Network Logic, and the Internet,” Conference of the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2018 “Pro-Ana: An Internet-Mediated ‘New Religious Movement’?” Craft Critique Culture Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, The University of Iowa
- 2017 “Disrupting Secular Space: Veiled Female Bodies in Turkish Shopping Malls,” Jakobsen Memorial Graduate Conference, The University of Iowa
- 2016 “Fashioning Identities: New Relationships with Fashion and Modesty in Turkey,” Doing the Body in the 21st Century Conference, University of Pittsburgh
- 2014 “Spreading the Religion of Thinness from California to Calcutta: A Critical Feminist Postcolonial Analysis,” Concordia College
- 2014 “Fashioning Identities: New Relationships with Fashion and Modesty in Turkey,” Minnesota State University Moorhead
- 2008 “The Body’s Iron Cage and Its Relationship to the Protestant Ethic,” Annual Upper Midwest Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, St. Paul, Minnesota
- 2007 “From California to Calcutta: Spreading the White-Western Devotion to Female Thinness - A Feminist Post-Colonial Analysis,” Annual Meeting

of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California

COMPETITIVE HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2019 President and Mrs. Eugene Gilmore Scholarship, The University of Iowa
- 2019 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dissertation Writing Fellowship, The University of Iowa
- 2019 Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship, The University of Iowa
- 2018 Rev. Louis Penningroth Award, The University of Iowa
- 2017 Alice Marguerite Blough Award, The University of Iowa
- 2016, 2018 Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant, The University of Iowa
- 2010-2011 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, University of Washington
- 2009-2010 Schwartz Fellowship, University of Washington
- 2006-2007 Centennial Scholars Grant, Concordia College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The University of Iowa, *Instructor*

Digital Media and Religion (RELS: 2930/COMM:2079), Spring 2018

The University of Iowa, *Teaching Assistant*

Medieval Religion and Culture (RELS:1225/HIST:1025), Fall 2018
Harry Potter: Mystery & Magic of Life (RELS:1997), Fall 2017
Digital Media and Religion (RELS:2930/COMM:2079), Spring 2017
Modern Religion and Culture (RELS:1250/HIST:1050), Spring 2017
Religion in America Today (RELS:1702), Fall 2015, Fall 2016
Religion and Sport in America (RELS:2877), Spring 2015, Spring 2016

The University of Iowa, *Teaching Practicum Participant*

Magic Machines: Technology and Social Change (COMM:4153), Fall 2015
Women and Power in U.S. History Through the Civil War (GWSS:3280/HIST:3280),
Fall 2016

The University of Iowa, *Research Assistant*

Jenna Supp-Montgomerie, Religious Studies Department, 2015-2016

Concordia College, Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Religion (REL 100), Fall 2013

Catholicism (REL 328), Spring 2013

Religion and the Body (REL 382), Spring 2013

Women's Religious History (REL 374), Fall 2012

Concordia College, Research Assistant

Michelle Lelwica, Religious Studies Department, 2006-2008

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| 2018-Present | Steering Committee Member of the Religion and Media Workshop of the American Academy of Religion |
| 2019 | Peer Reviewer for <i>Communication, Culture and Critique</i> |
| 2019 | Managing the Market Summer Professional Development Series Participant, The University of Iowa |
| 2017-2019 | Student Director of the Upper Midwest Region of the American Academy of Religion |
| 2018 | Summer Doctoral Seminar Participant at Wayne State University with Professor Bonnie Dow |
| 2018 | Peer Reviewer for <i>Contemporary Women's Writing</i> |
| 2018 | Dissertation Writing Summer Camp Participant, The University of Iowa |
| 2018 | Grant and Fellowship Writing Seminar Participant, The University of Iowa |
| 2016 | Iowa N.E.W. Leadership Institute Participant, The University of Iowa |
| 2016-2017 | UI Council on the Status of Women Member, The University of Iowa |
| 2015 | Advanced Graduate Student Workshop Leader, The University of Iowa |
| 2015-2018 | Graduate Student Critical Theory Reading Group Coordinator, The University of Iowa |
| 2015-2018 | Religion Graduate Student Organization (RGSO), The University of Iowa
Co-Coordinator, 2017-2018 |

Faculty Committee Representative, 2016-2018
Graduate Student Mentor, 2016-2017
Secretary/Treasurer, 2016
Social Event Chair, 2015-2016

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2019 “Islam and Veiling Practices” Workshop Host, Lutheran Campus
Ministries, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
- 2018 “Women and Islam” Workshop Host, JustChurch, Iowa City, Iowa
- 2018 “Women and Islam” Workshop Host, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Iowa
City, Iowa
- 2017 “Islam” Three-Part Workshop Co-Host, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Iowa
City, Iowa
- 2015 “Islam” Guest Discussion Leader, Lutheran Campus Ministries, The
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture
Theta Alpha Kappa
Alpha Kappa Delta

LANGUAGE

Arabic, Reading Proficient