

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, Weight Loss, and American Secularism  
Advisors: Dr. Jenna Supp-Montgomerie and Dr. Kristy Nabhan-Warren
- 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

### Article

“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.)

### Book Reviews

Review of *The Story of Radio Mind: A Missionary's Journey on Indigenous Land*, by Pamela E. Klassen. *Material Religion*. Forthcoming.

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

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 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
- 2018 Theta Alpha Kappa, The University of Iowa

2017	Alice Marguerite Blough Award, The University of Iowa
2016, 2018	Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant, The University of Iowa
2016, 2017, 2018	Department of Religious Studies 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
2009	Alpha Kappa Delta, Minnesota State University Moorhead
2008	Summa Cum Laude, Concordia College
2008	Religion Honors, Concordia College
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, *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**

2018-Present	Steering Committee Member of the Religion and Media Workshop of the American Academy of Religion
2017-Present	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 Participant, The University of Iowa
2015	Advanced Graduate Student Workshop Leader, The University of Iowa
2015-2018	Graduate Student Critical Theory Reading Group Leader, The University of Iowa
2015-Present	Religion Graduate Student Organization (RGSO), The University of Iowa Co-Coordinator, 2017-2018 Faculty Committee Representative, 2016-Present Graduate Student Mentor, 2016-2017 Social Event Chair, 2015-2016 Secretary/Treasurer, 2016
2015-Present	Iowa City Public Library Volunteer

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

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, Iowa City, Iowa

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture

## **LANGUAGE**

Arabic, Reading Proficient