

EMMA RIFAI

The University of Iowa
Department of Religious Studies
322 Gilmore Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1322
(218) 851-7112
emma-rifai@uiowa.edu

EDUCATION

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

HONORS AND AWARDS

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	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

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 “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

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2017-Present Student Director of the Upper Midwest Region of the American Academy of Religion
- 2018 Summer Doctoral Seminar at Wayne State University with Professor Bonnie Dow

- 2018 Peer Reviewer for *Contemporary Women's Writing*
- 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

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The University of Iowa, *Instructor*

Digital Media and Religion, Spring 2018

The University of Iowa, *Teaching Assistant*

Medieval Religion and Culture, Fall 2018

Harry Potter: Mystery & Magic of Life, Fall 2017

Digital Media and Religion, Spring 2017

Modern Religion and Culture, Spring 2017

Religion in America Today, Fall 2015, Fall 2016

Religion and Sport in America, 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, Fall 2013

Catholicism, Spring 2013

Religion and the Body, Spring 2013

Women and Religion, Fall 2012

Concordia College, *Research Assistant*

Michelle Lelwica, Religious Studies Department, 2006-2008

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2018 Host of a Workshop on Women and Islam, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,
Iowa City, Iowa

2017 Co-Host of a Three-Part Workshop on Islam, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,
Iowa City, Iowa

2015 Guest Discussion Leader on Islam, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Iowa
City, Iowa

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture

LANGUAGE

Arabic, Reading Proficient