

TAZEEN M. ALI  
Curriculum vitae  
John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics  
Washington University in St. Louis  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 2013-19 Ph.D., Religious Studies, Boston University.
- 2017-18 Visiting Postgraduate Student in Islamic Studies, University of Edinburgh.
- 2017 Graduate Certificate, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Boston University.
- 2012 A.M., Islamic Studies, Washington University in Saint Louis.
- 2010 B.A., Religion Studies and Biology (double major), with honors, Lehigh University.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- 2019- Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics, The John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in Saint Louis.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

- 2022 *The Women's Mosque of America: Authority & Community in US Islam* (New York: NYU Press, November 1.)

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

- 2021 "Qur'anic Literacy as Women's Empowerment: Cultivating Interpretive Authority at the Women's Mosque of America," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, vol. 89, no. 4, December.
- 2016 "ISIL and the (Im)permissibility of Jihad and Hijrah: Western Muslims between Text and Context," with Evan Anhorn in *Mizan*, vol. 1, no. 1, *The Islamic State in Historical and Comparative Perspective*.

### **Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters**

- 2023 "Women in the Moorish Science Temple of America," in *Acts of Faith*, University of New Mexico Press, forthcoming.
- 2021 "Religion," *Keywords for Gender and Sexuality Studies*, New York: NYU Press, November.

### **Manuscripts in Progress**

- Book, *American Muslim Representations of Gender and Sexuality in US Popular Culture*. (in preparation)
- Journal Article, "Politics, Sex, and American Islam in Hulu's *Ramy*." (under review)

### **Public Essays & Op-Eds**

- 2022 "[Roe v Wade: Why do Americans link court ruling to Islam?](#)," *Middle East Eye*, July 18.
- 2022 "[American Muslim women are finding a unique religious space at a women-only mosque in Los Angeles](#)," *The Conversation*, April 30.
- 2021 "[The 20 Year Media Spectacle of Saving Afghan Women](#)," *Religion & Politics*, September 14.
- 2021 "[Islamophobia, Anti-Blackness, and the Challenges of Healing Muslim-Christian Relations in the United States](#)," *Berkley Forum*, May 24.
- 2021 "[Scholars of religion and politics respond to the Capitol insurrection](#)," *Religion & Politics*, January 15.
- 2020 "[Beyond Bernie: Where Do American Muslim Voters Go From Here?](#)" *Religion & Politics*, April 14.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2023 Mitra Rastegar, "Tolerance and Risk: How US Liberalism Racializes Muslims," in *American Religion*, forthcoming.
- 2020 Asma Uddin, "When Islam is Not a Religion," in *American Religion*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 211-213.
- 2015 Rachel Sturman, "The Government of Social Life in Colonial India: Liberalism, Religious Law and Women's Rights," in *Journal of Law and Religion*, vol. 30, no.1, pp. 170-72.

- 2014 Susan Spector, “Women in Classical Islamic Law: A Survey of the Sources,” in *Religion and Gender*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 40-42.

### **HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2020-22 Young Scholars in American Religion Program (Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis, Lilly Endowment Inc.)  
 2021 Faculty Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis (Fall)  
 2018-19 Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Women’s Studies Fellow  
 2018-19 American Association for University Women Dissertation Fellowship (declined)  
 2015 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Arabic in Rabat, Morocco  
 2014 US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) for Arabic in Amman, Jordan  
 2010 Theta Alpha Kappa National Honor Society for Religious Studies/Theology  
 2010 Lehigh University Religion Studies Departmental Honors

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2022 Guest lecturer, “Reading the Qur’an at the Women’s Mosque of America, ” Department of Religion, Williams College. Zoom, February 21.  
 2022 Respondent, Book talk on Aria Nakissa’s *The Anthropology of Islamic Law: Education, Ethics, and Legal Interpretation at Egypt’s Al-Azhar*, Jewish Islamic Middle East Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, January 26.  
 2020 Guest speaker, Rocky Mountain American Religion Seminar. Zoom, November 19.  
 2018 Guest lecturer, “Sunnis, Sunnism, and Mosques,” Department of Religious Studies at University of Colorado-Boulder. October 23.  
 2017 Guest lecturer, “Authenticity, Authority, and American Mosque Culture,” Department of Religious Studies at University of Colorado-Boulder. October 26.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- 2022-23 Scholar, “Religion and Racial Justice: Expanding the Moral Imaginary Through Film,” Union Theological Seminary, Henry Luce Foundation.  
 2022 Guest host, *The Maydan: History Speaks Podcast*, Muslims of the Heartland with Edward Curtis IV, Henry Luce Foundation, forthcoming.  
 2022 Guest host, *The Maydan: History Speaks Podcast*, The Anthropology of Islamic Law with Aria Nakissa, Henry Luce Foundation, April 5.  
 2021 Guest, *Reading Muslims Podcast*, “[Islamic Religious Authority and the Women’s Mosque of America](#).” University of Toronto, October 5.

### **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

- 2022 Presenter, “Sex, Masculinity, and American Islam in Hulu’s *Ramy*,” American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, CO. November 19-22.  
 2022 Presenter, “Beyond TV Terrorists: Politics, Sex, and American Islam in Hulu’s *Ramy*,” British Association of Islamic Studies, University of Edinburgh. June 6-7.  
 2022 Presenter, “Addressing Gender Violence at the Women’s Mosque of America,” Pacificism and Nonviolence in Contemporary Islam, University of Manchester, May 17.  
 2022 Presenter, Race and Islam: Global Histories, Contemporary Legacies, “Politics, Sex, and American Islam in Hulu’s *Ramy*: Beyond Racialized and Gendered Islamophobia in US Popular Media,” Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University, March 24.  
 2022 Presenter, Book panel on Ayesha S. Chaudhry’s *The Colour of God*, Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME), Zoom, January 5.  
 2021 Presenter, “Beyond TV Terrorists: Hulu’s *Ramy* and Post-2016 Media Portrayals of Arab Muslims,” Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Montreal, Quebec. October 28-31.  
 2019 Presenter, Religion and Politics Unit, “Towards a Collective American Muslim Consciousness: Building Multiracial Community at the Women’s Mosque of America,” American Academy of Religion (AAR), San Diego, CA. November 23–26.

- 2018 Presenter, Women and Religion Unit, “Muslim Women’s Religious Authority and the Women’s Mosque of America: Beyond Islamic Legal Debates on Ritual Leadership,” American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, CO. November 17-20.
- 2018 Presenter, Contemporary Islam Unit, “Beyond Vulnerable Bodies: Sexual Violence in the US Muslim Context,” American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, CO. November 17-20.
- 2018 Co-Organizer, International Conference on Muslim Women’s Religious Leadership and Authority in Europe and North America, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, September 13-14.
- 2018 Presenter, “Female Religious Authority and the Women’s Mosque of America,” Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Tacoma, WA, May 12.
- 2018 Presenter, Islamic Law and Sexuality Workshop, “Re-conceptualizing Sexual Violence in the American Muslim Context,” University of Exeter, UK, January 10.
- 2017 Presenter, Interreligious and Interfaith Studies Unit, “Islamophobia & Anti-Semitism in America: Comparing Intersectional & Single- Issue Models of Interfaith Alliances,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA. November 20.
- 2017 Presenter, Reformulations of Religious Authority in Diasporic Contexts Panel, “Gender, Race, and Scripture at the Women’s Mosque of America,” British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS), University of Chester, UK, April 13.
- 2016 Presenter, Women of Color, Scholarship, and Activism Group, “Rethinking Interpretative Authority: The Women’s Mosque of America,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 19.
- 2015 Panel Chair, Islamic Studies Panel, New England & Canadian Maritime Regional American Academy of Religion, Boston College, April 2.
- 2015 Co-Presenter, “The (Im)permissibility of Jihad and Hijrah: Western Muslims between Text and Context,” Global Halal Conference, Michigan State University, February 20.
- 2012 Presenter, “The Status of Women in the Hadith,” IIIT Summer Scholars Conference, July 16.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Washington University in Saint Louis**

- 2021 Muslims in the Media and Popular Culture (Spring)
- 2021 Between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.: Race, Religion, and the Politics of Freedom (Spring, co-taught with Lerone Martin)
- 2020 Islam, Gender, Sexuality (Fall)
- 2020 Islamophobia and US Politics (Fall)
- 2020 Islam in America (Spring)
- 2020 Religion and Race in the United States (Spring)
- 2011 Introduction to Religious Traditions: Judaism Christianity Islam, Teaching Fellow (Fall)
- 2010 Introduction to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Teaching Fellow (Fall)

### **Boston University**

- 2016 Western Religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Teaching Fellow (Spring)
- 2015 Women and Religion, Teaching Fellow (Fall)
- 2014-15 Writing Center, Graduate Writing Consultant and ESL Tutor (Fall and Spring)

## **LANGUAGES**

Arabic (Advanced), French (Proficient reading), Bengali (Fluent speaking)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Religious Studies Advisory Board, Washington University in St. Louis, 2020-  
 Institute on Teaching and Learning Interfaith Excellence, Washington University in St. Louis, 2020-2022.  
 (Grant from the Institute for Interfaith Excellence and Interfaith Youth Core)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)  
British Association of Islamic Studies (BRAIS)  
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)  
Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME)

References available upon request.