

**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; certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Boston University.
- 2017-18 Visiting Postgraduate Student in Islamic Studies, University of Edinburgh.
- 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.) (Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2023; listed in *Publishers Weekly* "New & Forthcoming Titles for a Diverse Market; reviewed in *Sociology of Religion*, *Gender & Society*, *ReOrient*, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Nova Religio*, *American Religion*, *The Maydan*, *Reading Religion*)

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

- 2024 "Representations of US Muslims in Hulu's *Ramy*: Islamophobia, Religiosity, and Dating," *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*. (accepted).
- 2024 "Embodied Experiences and Islamic Feminist Ethics: Gender Equality and Abortion in US Muslim Women's Interpretive Communities," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. (accepted)
- 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 2021, pp. 1434-1461.
- 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*, 2016, pp. 195-218.

**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, *Muslims on TV: Racism and Sexuality in Anglo-American Islam*. (in preparation)
- Journal Article, "Alternative Mosque Cultures and the Challenges of Inclusivity." (in preparation)
- Journal Article, "Embracing Muslim Otherness in Riz Ahmed's *The Long Goodbye*." (in preparation)

**Public Essays & Op-Eds**

- 2023 "[Author's Response: Forum on Tazeen Ali's \*The Women's Mosque of America: Authority & Community in US Islam\*](#), *The Maydan*, November 16.
- 2023 "[The Mosque as a Site of Inclusivity](#)," *Islamic Moral Theologies and the Future Project at The Maydan*, July 23.

- 2022 [“Literature Highlights: The Women’s Mosque of America,”](#) *Canopy Forum on the Interactions of Law & Religion*, November 25.
- 2022 [“A Mosque of Her Own,”](#) *Religion & Politics*, November 16.
- 2022 [“Roe v Wade: Why do Americans wrongly 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**

- 2024 Edward Curtis IV, *Muslims of the Heartland: How Syrian Immigrants Made a Home in the American Midwest*, in *American Journal of Islam and Society* (forthcoming).
- 2023 Mitra Rastegar, *Tolerance and Risk: How US Liberalism Racializes Muslims*, in *American Religion*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 192-195.
- 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**

- 2023 Research Grant Recipient – Islam on the Edges, Center for Islam in the Contemporary World, Shenandoah University.
- 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 LECTURES**

- 2024 Biennial Conference on Religion & American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN, June 13-15.
- 2024 Plenary Session: Perspectives on Religion, Ways of Being: Evolving Religion & America Symposium, Jamestown Settlement Museum, Williamsburg, VA, June 1.
- 2024 Muslim Women’s Religious Authority in the United States, Ways of Being: Evolving Religion & America Symposium, Jamestown Settlement Museum, Williamsburg, VA, June 1.
- 2023 Guest Lecturer, “The Women’s Mosque of America,” Department of Social Science, New York University Abu Dhabi, December 5.
- 2023 Public Book Talk on *The Women’s Mosque of America*, Center for Islam in the Contemporary World, Shenandoah University, November 7.
- 2023 Chastain-Johnson Middle Eastern Studies Lecture Series: The Women’s Mosque of America, Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature, Florida Atlantic University, October 25.
- 2023 Public Panel, *Women’s Mosques, Female Imams, and Muslim Debates: New Books Discussion*, King’s College, London, UK, October 11.

- 2023 Sciame Lecture Series: “Gender, Space, & National Belonging: The Women’s Mosque of America,” Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York, September 28.
- 2023 Public Book Talk on *The Women’s Mosque of America*, ACMCU, Georgetown University, September 26.
- 2023 Public Book Talk on *The Women’s Mosque of America*, Department of Religion Studies, Lehigh University, April 25-26.
- 2023 Guest lecturer, “The Women’s Mosque of America,” Religion Program, Centre College, May 3.
- 2022 Guest lecturer, “Reading the Qur’an at the Women’s Mosque of America,” Department of Religion, Williams College, 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, November 19.
- 2018 Guest lecturer, “Sunnis, Sunnism, and Mosques,” Department of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. October 23.
- 2017 Guest lecturer, “Authenticity, Authority, and American Mosque Culture,” Department of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. October 26.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- 2023 Guest, [New Books Network Religious Studies Podcast: The Women’s Mosque of America](#), May 28.
- 2023 “[How women have cultivated religious authority at LA’s Women’s Mosque of America](#),” Interview in *Religion News Service*. May 2.
- 2022 Guest host, [The Maydan: History Speaks Podcast](#), Muslims of the Heartland with Edward Curtis IV, Henry Luce Foundation, October 6.
- 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 PRESENTATIONS**

- 2024 “Narratives of Islamophobia on American and British TV: The Specter of the Violent Muslim Man in Hulu’s *Ramy* & Netflix’s *Man Like Mobeen*,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA. November 23-26.
- 2023 “Islamophobia & the Limits of Interreligious Dialogue at the Women’s Mosque of America,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX. November 19.
- 2023 Panelist in Roundtable on *Medina by the Bay*, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX. November 20.
- 2023 “Inclusivity in the Mosque,” Islamic Moral Theologies and the Future Conference, Sarajevo, Bosnia, October 7-9.
- 2023 “Embodied Authority: Muslim Women’s Experiences as Exegesis,” Pacific Northwest Regional Conference on Religion. Newburg, OR. May 19-21.
- 2022 “Sex, Masculinity, and American Islam in Hulu’s *Ramy*,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. November 19-22.
- 2022 “Beyond TV Terrorists: Politics, Sex, and American Islam in Hulu’s *Ramy*,” British Association of Islamic Studies, University of Edinburgh. June 6-7.
- 2022 “Addressing Gender Violence at the Women’s Mosque of America,” Pacificism and Nonviolence in Contemporary Islam, University of Manchester, May 17.
- 2022 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 Book panel: Ayesha S. Chaudhry’s *The Colour of God*, Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, January 5.
- 2021 “Beyond TV Terrorists: Hulu’s *Ramy* and Post-2016 Media Portrayals of Arab Muslims,” Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, Quebec. October 28-31.

- 2019 “Towards a Collective American Muslim Consciousness: Building Multiracial Community at the Women’s Mosque of America,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA. November 23–26.
- 2018 “Muslim Women’s Religious Authority and the Women’s Mosque of America: Beyond Islamic Legal Debates on Ritual Leadership,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. November 17-20.
- 2018 Contemporary Islam Unit, “Beyond Vulnerable Bodies: Sexual Violence in the US Muslim Context,” American Academy of Religion, 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 “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 Islamic Law and Sexuality Workshop, “Re-conceptualizing Sexual Violence in the American Muslim Context,” University of Exeter, UK, January 10.
- 2017 “Islamophobia & Anti-Semitism in America: Comparing Intersectional & Single- Issue Models of Interfaith Alliances,” American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA. November 20.
- 2017 Reformulations of Religious Authority in Diasporic Contexts Panel, “Gender, Race, and Scripture at the Women’s Mosque of America,” British Association for Islamic Studies, University of Chester, UK, April 13.
- 2016 “Rethinking Interpretative Authority: The Women’s Mosque of America,” 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 “The (Im)permissibility of Jihad and Hijrah: Western Muslims between Text and Context,” Global Halal Conference, Michigan State University, February 20.
- 2012 “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**

Islam Gender Women Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2023-2029  
 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)

American Studies Association (ASA)

British Association of Islamic Studies (BRAIS)

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME)

References upon request.