



Mohamed Amer Meziane

CURRICULUM VITAE

May 10, 1987

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Continental Philosophy, Francophone Literature and Theory, Eco-criticism, History of 19th century Europe, North Africa

POSITIONS

2023 - present **Assistant Professor**, Brown University, Providence, USA
Department of French and Francophone Studies
Affiliated with the Center for Middle East Studies, Watson Institute

2022 - 2023 **Senior Research Fellow**, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany

2018 - 2022 **Lecturer and Research Fellow**, Columbia University, New York, USA

2013 - 2018 **Lecturer**, Paris 1, Panthéon Sorbonne University, Paris, France

ACADEMIC TRAINING

2018 - 2022 **Postdoctoral Research**, Columbia University, New York
Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life/Institute of African Studies

2017 **PhD, Philosophy**, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
Empire and secularism: Political Theologies of Orientalism from the Enlightenment to Marx

2011 **Agrégation de philosophie**

BOOKS

– *The States of the Earth. An Ecological and Racial History of Secularization*, London-New York, Verso Books, 2024, translated by Jonathan Adjemian

Original French title: *Des empires sous la terre. Histoire écologique et raciale de la sécularisation*, Paris, La Découverte, 2021, Winner of the Albertine Prize for Translation

– *Au bord des mondes. Vers une anthropologie métaphysique*, Bruxelles, Vues de l'esprit, 2023

BOOK AWARDS

– Winner of the Villa Albertine Translation Prize (non-fiction essays) for *Des empires sous la terre*, (La Découverte, 2021) / *The States of the Earth*, (Verso, 2024), January 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES (Forthcoming)

“Cosmos”, *Political Concepts Journal*, (forthcoming)

“The Tree of Non-Being: Vegetal Thinking from Deleuze to Ibn Arabi”, *Substances* (forthcoming)

“Algeria and the Decolonial Turn”, *Insaniyyat* (forthcoming)

“The Desert and the Subsoils. Extraction, Banks and Agriculture in 19th century Algeria and France”, *Yale French Studies* (forthcoming)

BOOK CHAPTERS (Forthcoming)

“Cosmopolitics of Disenchantment. The Environmental History of Orientalism and the Secularocene” in Prathama Banerjee, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Sanjay Seth and Lisa Wedeen (dir.), *Oxford Handbook of Cosmopolitanism*, Oxford University Press, 2024, (forthcoming, contract signed)

“How the Arab became the Muslim (Again)”, in Schirin Amir-Moazzami and Frank Peter (dir.), *Epistemes of Islamophobia. Race, Religion and Secularism*, Bielefeld University Press/Transcript Verlag, (forthcoming)

“Religion” in Laurent Jeanpierre et Jérôme Baschet (dir.), *Dictionnaire des mondes post-capitalistes*, Paris, La Découverte, (forthcoming)

“La forêt est une horde d'esprits. De Kopenawa à la Mohawk Warrior Society” in Jean-Louis Tornatore, *Résurgence autochtone et résonances en écologie politique*, Marseille, Wildproject Éditions, (forthcoming)

“Après l'impérialité du siècle”, in Pierre Dardot et Christian Laval (dir.) *Politiques des mondes, Actes du Colloque de Cerisy*, (forthcoming)

BOOK CHAPTERS (Published)

“Racialiser la religion, séculariser l'Empire en Algérie coloniale” (Racializing Religion, Secularizing the Empire in Colonial Algeria) in Myriam Giarga, Claire Vincent-Mori, Simona Tersigni et Marie-Claire Willems (dir.), *Marques indésirables. Le religieux au prisme de la racialisation et de l'ethnisation*, Paris, Éditions Pétra, 2019.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES (Peer-reviewed)

“Écologies de l'impérialité : Itinéraires”, *Raisons Politiques*, 2023/2, n°90, p. 49-59

“The Sexular State. Race, Gender and the Other ‘Woke Controversy’”, *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*, 27/2, 2023, p. 252-260.

“The Invention of North Africa: Hegel, Fanon, and the Racialization of Geography”, *Symposium: Canadian Journal of Continental Philosophy*, Vol. 25, Issue 1/2, 2022, p. 189-212.

Reflections on Race and Ethnicity in North Africa: Towards a Conceptual Critique of the Arab-Berber Divide”, *Review of Middle East Studies*, 2021.

“The Deafness of the State: Sovereignty, Secular Aesthetics, and the Untranslatability of the Qur’an”, *Political Theology*, March 2021, with a response by Talal Asad.

“Introduction”, *Political Theology*, March 2021.

“Empire, Race, Climat. Propositions sur le Sécularocène”, *Multitudes*, 2021/4, (n°85), p. 183-187

“How the Critique of Heaven Confines the Critique of the Earth”, *Qui Parle*, 2020.

“States of Violence. A Response to Etienne Balibar”, *Critical Times*, 2021.

“The Multiple Centralities of Africa: Geographies of Race, North African Perspectives and the Idea of a Decolonisation of Space”, *The MISR Review*, 2020.

“L’Europe et les Empires-fossiles” (Europe and Fossil-Empires), *Multitudes*, 74, 2019.

“Marx ou le fétichisme inversé. Comment l’anthropologie de la religion délimite la critique terrestre”, (Marx and Inverted Fetichism. How the Anthropology of Religion confines Earthly Critique), *Actuel Marx*, 64, 2018, p. 30-46.

“Justice et traditions”, (Justice and Traditions) *Multitudes*, 73, 2018, p. 131-145.

“Des nations sans l’Europe. La religion civile au nationalisme algérien” (Nations without Europe. Civil religion and Algerian Nationalism”, Pascale Pellerin (dir.), *Rousseau, les Lumières et le monde arabo-musulman. Du XVIII^e siècle aux révolutions arabes*, Paris, Classiques Garnier, 2017, p. 111-125.

“Un geste de la voix. Sons et mouvements chez Valeska Gert”, *Filigrane. Musique, esthétique, sciences, société*, « Gestes et mouvements à l’œuvre : une question danse-musique : XX^e-XXI^e siècles », 2016, online.

“Introduction”, *Multitudes*, 59, dossier « Décoloniser la laïcité ? », 59, 2015, p. 41- 44.

“Doit-on réformer l’islam ? Brève histoire d’une injonction”, *Multitudes*, 59, 2015, p. 53-60.

“République et pseudo-jihad”, *Multitudes*, 58, 2015, p. 9-14.

REVIEWS

“Is Orientalism Islamic?”, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, Duke University Press, June 2020.

Book: Shahab Ahmed, *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2015.

“Strategic Muslim worlds? Race, Reform, and the Dialectics of Essentialism”, *The Immanent Frame*, July 2017, online.

Book: Cemil Aydin, *The Idea of the Muslim World: A Global Intellectual History*, Harvard University Press, 2017.

Fatiha Kaoues, *Convertir le monde arabe. L'offensive évangélique*, Paris, CNRS Éditions, 2018, in *Bulletin critique des Annales islamologiques*, 2020 (online).

Talal Asad, Wendy Brown, Judith Butler, Saba Mahmood, *La Critique est-elle laïque ? Blasphème, offense et liberté d'expression*, Lyon, PUL, 2016.

Martha C. Nussbaum, *Les Religions face à l'intolérance. Vaincre la politique de la peur*, Paris, Climats, 2013, *Cités*, 65, 1/2016, p. 185-187.

SPECIAL ISSUES

Décoloniser la laïcité ? *Revue Multitudes*, 59, 2015.

The Secular States of Race, *Political Theology*, 2021

EDITORIAL WORK

Former Member of the governing board of the Research Network (Réseau Thématique Prioritaire) ICC/CNRS (« Islam et chercheurs dans la cité ») and co- director of the research unit on “Secularism and Religion in the Humanities”.

Member of the editorial board of the French Journal *Multitudes*.

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINAR (Organisation)

(with Timothy Mitchell) Heyman Center/Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, Columbia University, New York City

Workshop: *Is There a Secularocene? The Political Theologies of Empire and the Question of the Anthropocene*, May 6-7, 2024

Speakers: Elisabeth Povinelli, Matthew Engelke, Andreas Malm, Timothy Mitchell, Raphaella Taylor Seymour, Mohamed Amer Meziane, Thangam Ravindranathan, Jennifer Wenzel, Debashri Mukerjee, Zeynep Celik Alexander

Ecole d'art de Lausanne (ECAL)

Symposium/performance: *Thinking SWANA*, March 25, 2024

Speakers: Stephanie Saadé, Suktan Doughan, Anissa Touati, Mohamed Amer Meziane

Department of French and Francophone Studies, Brown University, Providence

Symposium: *Roseaux Pensants: Life, Thought, Ecology*, September 29, 2023

Speakers: Denetem Touam Bona, Dominique Brancher, Monique Allewaert, Jan Miernowski, Thangam Ravindranathan, Mohamed Amer Meziane

Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, Columbia University, New York Discussion with Etienne Balibar, “States of Violence. Race, Sovereignty and Capital in the COVID 19 Era”, October, 22, 2020

Speakers: Nadia Abou El Haj, Etienne Balibar, Mohamed Amer Meziane

Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, Columbia University, New York Workshop: “North Africa in Africa: The Decolonizing Centrality of Algeria”, October, 17, 2019

Speakers: Daho Djerbal, Mamadou Diouf, Mahmood Mamdani

(with Souleymane Bachir Diagne) Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life,

Columbia University, New York

Workshop: “Time, Space, Memory” (Rethinking Public Religion in South Asia and Africa),
October, 3-4, 2019

Speakers: Ali Benmaklouf, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Prathama Banerjee, Irfan Ahmad,
Alex McKinley, Rajbir Singh Judge, Samia Henni

(with Philippe Büttgen) Seminar series “Secularism and Philosophy”, Institut des Sciences
Juridiques et Philosophiques de la Sorbonne (UMR 8103, CNRS/Université Paris 1
Panthéon Sorbonne)

(with Étienne Balibar) Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia
University, New York

Colloquium: « Beyond the Secular State? Empire, Secularism, Hegemony », November, 14,
2016. Speakers: Mohamed Amer Meziane, Talal Asad, Étienne Balibar

Round Table, Université de Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne “Secularism and democracy”,
January 7 2016

Speakers: Mohamed Amer Meziane, Étienne Balibar, Philippe Büttgen, Sandra Laugier

BOOK TALKS (Selection)

- MoMA PS1, New York City, May 12, 2024, in conversation with Andreas Malm
- Librairie Le Port de tête, Montreal, October 20, 2023
- L'École des impatiences Festival by Le peuple qui manque, July 2023, [Link to Video](#)
- Librairie L'Hydre, Marseille, June 22, 2023
- Librairie Météores, Brussels June 14, 2023
- Librairie Michele Firk, Montreuil, June 3, 2023
- Librairie La Petite Égypte, Paris, May 31, 2023
- L'Amicale du futur, Lyon, May 30, 2023
- Art Gallery Chert Lüdde, Berlin, May 6, 2023
- Librairie Terra Nova, Toulouse, April 15
- Librairie L'Atelier, Paris, April 6, 2023
- La Nuit des idées, Dakar, January 2023
- Librairie Meteores, Brussels, November, 22 2022
- Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Paris, November 3, 2022
- Harvard University, Cambridge, April 19, 2022
- Montreal, Centre Justice et foi, January 27, 2022. Conversation with Ghassan Hage
- Columbia University, January 20, 2022, Conversation with Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Ann Laura Stoler and Étienne Balibar, Moderated by Emmanuelle Saada, [Link to Video](#)
- La Parole Errante, Montreuil June 3, 2021, Conversation with Andreas Malm

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES (Selection)

- Oxford University, Saint Anthony's College, June 3, 2024
- Beaux-Arts de Paris, May 29, 2024
- LUMA, Arles, May 27, 2024
- Collège International de Philosophie, Paris, May 24, 2024
- Oxford University, Political Thought Seminar (online), April 24, 2024
- Brown University, CMES at the Watson Institute, January 31, 2024
- Sciences Po Paris, January 27, 2024
- Collège de France, January 16, 2024. *Dialogue with Philippe Descola*
- Musée d'art et d'histoire, Geneva, November 30, 2023
- École Normale Supérieure de Paris, rue d'Ulm, October 5, 2023
- École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, June 2023
- Sciences Po Paris, April 27, 2023
- Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, May 4, 2023, [Link to Video](#)
- University of Paris 8, February 17, 2023
- Sciences Po Paris, Black Elephant Lecture, January 2023, [Link to Video](#)
- KU, Katholische Universiteit Leuven, November, 21 2022
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, March 29, 2022
- City University of New York, CUNY Graduate Center, Middle East Studies Seminar, October 19, 2019: "From the Expedition to Egypt to the Colonization of Algeria"
- Columbia University, *Ifriqiyya Seminar*, October 10, 2019: "The Reform of Islam and the Making of Tribes. Facets of the Bifurcated State in Colonial Algeria"

- Columbia University, *Word, Sound, Image* workshop, April 4-5, 2019: “On Voice and Gesture”
- Villanova University, Philadelphia, February 27, 2019: “The Invention of (North) Africa”
- Columbia Global Center, Tunis, International Conference *Pluralism in Emergencies*, October 19-20, 2018: “Pluralism in North Africa: The Arab-Berber Divide”
- Kingston University, London, International Conference *Geopolitics of Philosophy*, May 4, 2018
- Berkeley University, California, International Conference, April 13, 2017, “Beyond the Secular State? Secularism, Empire, Hegemony”, Columbia University, November 14, 2016, *Discussion with Etienne Balibar and Talal Asad*
- Galatasaray University, Istanbul, April 13, 2015

ARTICLES IN ART REVIEWS OR EXHIBITION CATALOGUES

- “The Circle and the Tempest” in *The Circle: Bouchra Khalili*, London, Book Works, forthcoming (under contract)
- “A Descent to Heaven: On Anti-Mimetic Afro-Perspectivism” in *Kader Attia*, forthcoming (under contract)
- “Notes sur l’invisible”, *Magma*, Art Review of the Musée d’art et d’histoire de Genève
- “Divination in the Gaps” *Flash Art* (with Anissa Touati)
- “Fitna ? Quadrilogue pour une pensée autre”, *Makan*

TEACHING (Selection)

- *Brown University* Seminars: “Fanon”, “A Global History of the 19th century”, “The Non-Human Turn”, “Africa in Theory: Beyond the Divide between North and Sub-Saharan Africa”, “Philosophizing the Maghreb”
- *Columbia University* Seminars: “On African Theory”, “Islam and the Secular in Europe and the Middle East”, “Dialectics”, “Empire and Decolonization in North Africa”
- *Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne* Seminars: “The Ethics of Art”, “The Essence of Christianity by Ludwig Feuerbach”, “Secularism and the State in Western Political Philosophy”

INTERVIEWS

Newspapers and Journals

- Al Akhbar, Interview in an Arabic Lebanese Newspaper, forthcoming
- Le Monde, Interview, January 2024
- Contre-Ciel, Interview, January 2024
- Le Monde, Interview, September 28, 2022
- Le Journal des anthropologues, Interview, September 2022
- Orient XXI, Interview, March 2022
- Mediapart, Interview, October 2021
- Usbek et Rica, Interview, September 2021

Television

- Arte TV Channel, Les Idées Grandes, June 2024
- Le Media TV, December 2023 ([Link](#) to Video)
- Lundi Matin, May 2023 ([Link](#) to Video)

- Lundi Matin, October 2021 ([Link](#) to Video)
- Hors-Série, May 2021 ([Link](#) to Video)

Podcasts and Radio

- The Chris Voss Show, July, 2024.
- The Acid Horizon, June 10, 2024
- Keen On: The Literary Hub podcast, April 19, 2024
- France Culture, January 20, 2024
- Kiff ta Race, March 2022 ([Link](#) to Video)
- The Funambulist Podcast, February 2022 ([Link](#) to Video)

PRESS REVIEWS

- Los Angeles Review of Books, Review of *The States of the Earth*
- La Vie des Idées, Review of *Au bord des mondes*
- Lundi Matin, Review of *Au bord des mondes*
- Diakritik, Review of *Des empires sous la terre* by Étienne Balibar
- The New York Times, Mention of *Des empires sous la terre*
- La Vie des Idées, Review of *Des empires sous la terre* by Jean Baubérot
- En Attendant Nadeau, Review of *Des empires sous la terre* by Sylvain Piron
- Le Monde, Review of *Des empires sous la terre*
- Lundi Matin, Review of *Des empires sous la terre*
- Philosophie Magazine, Review of *Des empires sous la terre*

PERFORMATIVE LECTURES

– *Brown University, Providence, USA, October 27, 2022*

I gave a voice to visual archives of Algerian dancers and musicians playing the *Bendir* by using the sound of the instrument itself and sound archives of contemporary protests in Algeria

– *CIVA Architecture, Brussels, Belgium, June 14, 2022*

I was invited by Algerian Architect (founder of the New South agency) Meriem Chabani to perform under a *Muqarnas* to open for a conversation on the Sacred in Architecture, featuring Curators and Architects.

– *The Brooklyn Public Library, New York, USA, May 21, 2022, Night of Ideas*

I gave my first performative lecture on underground empires and disenchantment. As I was presenting the idea of the Secularocene, I started improvising with the *Bendir*. Blurring the boundaries of speech, my talk eventually became a concert, metamorphosing the voice by permanently operating on the edge of singing.

PERFORMANCES (Selection)

– RECESS, Chez Bushwick, Brooklyn, New York, March 14, 2021.

(I was invited by choreographer and former Merce Cunningham Dancer Jonah Bokaer to perform in his studio Chez Bushwick).

– CHAHUTS, Festival des arts de la parole, Bordeaux, June 15, 2017. *With Fanny de Chaillé*

(I was invited by the *L'Amicale de production* to perform alongside Fanny De Chaillé at a festival of performing arts).

- LE VOLAPÜK, Tours, November 25, 2016. *With Rubin Steiner*
(I was invited by theater director Alexis Armengol to perform alongside noted electronic musician Rubin Steiner).
 - LE RECYLCART, Brussels, March 10, 2016, invited by Dirk Seghers
 - LA GÉNÉRALE, Paris, December 14, 2014: [Live Video](#) of the Performance
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LANGUAGES

- English: bilingual
- French: bilingual
- German: fluent
- Arabic (Algerian): oral proficiency
- Greek: basic reading proficiency