

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Nancy Khalek  
Associate Professor  
Department of Religious Studies  
P.O. Box 1927  
Brown University  
Providence, RI 02912  
Tel. (401) 863-3104 Fax (401) 863-3109

### **Education:**

PhD Princeton University, 2006  
Field: Late Antiquity and Early Islam  
Dissertation Title: From Byzantium to Early Islam: Studies on Damascus in the Umayyad Era  
Dissertation Committee: Peter Brown, Michael Cook, William Chester Jordan (Princeton), Fred Donner (University of Chicago)

MA Princeton University, 2003  
Fields: Late Antique History, Early Islam, Byzantine Monastic Architecture  
Passed with Distinction

MA University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2001  
Field: Near Eastern Studies  
Thesis Title: The Institution of Mandatory Almsgiving in Early Islamic Mecca  
Thesis Supervisor: Michael Bonner

BA Princeton University, 1999. Major: History.  
Graduated with Honors

### **Academic Positions:**

2015- Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Brown University

2008-2015 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Brown University

2007-2008 Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies  
Research Associate, Department of History  
Franklin and Marshall College

2006-2007: Post-doctoral Fellow, Rutgers University Center for Historical Analysis/Lecturer, Rutgers University Department of History

### **Courtesy Affiliations:**

Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Center for the Study of Emotions, Berlin Germany. Guest Researcher January-July 2022; July-August 2023; January-June 2024.

### **Publications:**

#### **Monograph**

*Damascus after the Muslim Conquest: Text and Image in Early Islam* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011). [Top-Five Finalist, Best First Book in the History of Religion Award, American Academy of Religion.]

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

“Embodied Emotions: Sociological and Social Historical Perspectives,” with Esra Sarioglu in *Geschichte und Gesellschaft*, vol. 49, no. 1 (2023): 93-113.

“Al-Dāraqutnī’s (d. 385AH) *Faḍā’il al-Ṣaḥāba*: Mild Anger and the History of Emotions in Religious Merits Literature,” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, 83/3 (2020): 415-36.

“Some Notes on the Representation of Non-Muslim Officials in al-Ġahšiyārī’s (d. 331/942) *Kitāb al-wuzarā’ wa-l-kuttāb*,” *Arabica* 62 (2015): 503-20.

“Medieval Biographical Literature and the Companions of Muḥammad,” *Der Islam* 2014.2, 272-94.

“Early Islamic History Re-Imagined: The Biography of ‘Umar ibn ‘Abd al-‘Azīz in Ibn ‘Asākir’s *Tārīkh Madīnat Dimashq*,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 134.3 (2015):1-21.

“Patterns of Habitation in Post-Conquest Damascus and its Hinterland.” *Bibliothèque de l’Antiquité Tardive* (BAT 19) *Le Proche-Orient de Justinien aux Abbassides* *Peuplement et dynamiques spatiales* (2011): 137-145.

“Jerusalem in Medieval Islamic Tradition.” *Religion Compass*, 5/10 (2011):624-30.  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1749-8171.2011.00305.x/full>

"Methods of Instructing Syriac-Speaking Christians to Care for the Poor: A Brief Comparison of the Eighth Memre of the Book of Steps and the Story of the Man of God of Edessa," *Hugoye, Journal of Syriac Studies*, Volume 8, no. 1 (2005).  
<http://syrc.com.cua.edu/Hugoye/Vol8No1/HV8N1Khalek.html>

#### **Chapters in Books/Essays/pedia Entries (\* indicates Peer-Review)**

\*“Feeling” in *Critical Terms in Religious Studies*, second edition, (Chicago: University

of Chicago Press, chapter accepted, in press)

“Emotions from Late Antiquity to Early Islam,” and “Editor’s Introduction” in *A Cultural History of the Middle East and North Africa, 400-750*,” (Volume editor and chapter contributor), (London: Bloomsbury Press, under contract for 2024-5)

“Emotions” in *A Universe of Terms, The Immanent Frame*, 2020.

“Introduction to the 1995 Edition of the *Tarīkh Madīnat Dimashq*” in *New Perspectives on Ibn ‘Asākir Islamic Historiography* (Leiden: Brill, 2017)

“John the Baptist in Islamic Material Culture,” in entry on “John the Baptist”, *Encyclopedia of The Bible and its Reception* (Degruyter, 2017)

In entries on “Damascus,” and “Jerusalem,” for the *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd edition, edited by Richard C. Martin. (UK: Gale,) 2016

\*“Medieval Muslim Martyrs to the Plague: Venerating the Companions of Muḥammad in The Jordan Valley.” *Saints and Sacred Matter, The Cult of Relics in Byzantium and Beyond*, Eds. Holger Klein and Cynthia Hahn (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Nov. 2015) 83-97.

"Freedom of Religion in the Contemporary Middle East: Unsatisfactory Answers to the Wrong Questions," *Perspectives on History*, the Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association. Summer 2015. <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/summer-2015/freedom-of-religion-in-the-contemporary-middle-east>

“The Syriac Church,” Metropolitan Museum of Art Catalog, *Byzantium and Islam*, edited by H. Evans with B. Ratliff (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012), 66-7.

\*“Dreams of Hagia Sophia: The Muslim Siege of Constantinople in 674 AD, Abū Ayyūb and the Medieval Islamic Imagination.” *The Islamic Scholarly Tradition: Studies in History, Law and Thought in Honor of Professor Michael Allan Cook*, Eds. Asad Q. Ahmed, Behnam Sadeghi and Michael Bonner. (Leiden: Brill, 2011) 131-46.

\*“He was Tall and Slender, and His Virtues Were Numerous: Byzantine Hagiographical *Topoi* and the Companions of Muhammad in Al-Azdī’s *Futūḥ al-Shām/Conquest of Syria*.” *Writing "True Stories": Historians and Hagiographers in the Late Antique and Medieval Near East, Collected Conference Proceedings*. Ed. Arietta Papaconstantinou. (Belgium: Brepols Press, 2010) 105-23.

"The Cult of John the Baptist amongst Muslims and Christians in Early Islamic Syria." *Routes of Faith in the Medieval Mediterranean: History, Monuments, People, Pilgrimage Perspectives: Proceedings of an International Symposium*. (Thessaloniki: EKBMM, 2007) 360-64.

“Notables,” in the *Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought* ed. Gerhard Böwering.

(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011) 42-3.

Multiple Entries in the *Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*: ‘Ā’isha bt. Abī Bakr; ‘Ā’isha bt. Ṭalḥā; ‘Abdallāh ibn ‘Umar; Abū Jahl; Abū Lahab; Almsgiving, Islamic, Asceticism, Islamic; Asma bt. Abī Bakr; ‘Ātika ibn Yazīd; Barīd; Bible, Interpretation and Commentary, Islamic; Companions of the Prophet; Fasting, Islamic; Fāṭima; Festivals and Calendars, Islamic; Ḥafsa bt. ‘Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb; Hind ibn ‘Utba; Khadija bt. Khuwaylid, Islamic; Magic and Divination, Arabian and Islamic; Mariya al-Qibtiyya; Pilgrimage, Islamic; Prayer, Islamic; Qibla; Ramadan; Sa‘d ibn Abī Waqqās; Ṭalḥa ibn ‘Ubaydallāh; Talḥa ibn al-Zubayr; Qibla; Uḥud, Battle of.

### **Book Reviews**

*Writing Egypt: Al-Maqrīzī and His Historical Project*, by Nasser Rabbat. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 2024.

*Life in An Egyptian Village in Late Antiquity: Aphrodito Before and After the Islamic Conquest*. By Giovanni Ruffini. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, vol. 80, no. 1, 2021, pp. 202-204.

*Piety and Patienthood in Medieval Islam* by Ahmed Ragab, *ISIS Journal of the History of Science Society* (2021)

*The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunnī Scholasticism: ‘Abdallāh b. al-Mubārak and the Formation of Sunnī Identity in the Second Islamic Century* by F. Salem in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 140.1, 2020, p. 268.

### **In Progress**

#### ***Monograph***

*Instilling Hope and inspiring fear, Exhortatory Ethics in Medieval Islam* (Book Project, 85K words)

#### ***Edited Volume***

*A Cultural History of the Middle East and North Africa, Volume I, 450-750*, Bloomsbury Press, (volume editor and chapter contributor)

### **Invited Lectures/Talks:**

“Discomforting Emotions: The Trope of ‘Muslim Rage’” Freie Universität Berlin, May 2024 (“Minor Affects” 2024 Lecture Series)

“Rhetoric, Emotion, and the Religious Education of ‘the Multitude’” Islamic Workshop Series, Columbia University, Nov. 9. 2023

“Medieval Islam and Ancient Theories of Emotions” NYU Center for Ancient Studies, Conference on Before Emotion: Conceptions of Affectivity in Pre-Modern Cultures, Online conference, Nov. 2022.

“The History of Emotion and the Critical Historiography of Islamic Studies” Max Planck Center for the Study of Emotion Internal Colloquium, Berlin, Germany, Mar. 2022.

“Islam and the Study of Emotion,” For Faculty, by Faculty Lecture, Brown University, Nov. 2022

Workshop on “Islamic Art and Religion,” invited participant, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Jun. 2021

“‘Feelings’ as a Critical Term in Religious Studies,” University of Chicago Divinity School, Dec. 2020

“What Can the History of Emotions Do for the Study of Islamic History?” University of Texas, Austin, Fall 2020.

“Affective Dimensions of Medieval Islamic Piety,” University of Pennsylvania Religious Studies Colloquium, Feb. 2020.

“The History of Emotions in Arabic Islamic Pietistic Literature,” Princeton University Committee for the Study of Late Antiquity, Inaugural Session, Oct. 2019.

“Avoidance and Emotion in Memories of Conquest,” Conference on “Negotiation in Conquest: Wars, treaties and recollections of the rise of the Caliphate,” Al-Babtein Center, Leiden, Sept. 2019.

“Al-Dāraqūṭnī, Religious Merits, and the Transitional Būyid Period,” Columbia University, Feb. 2019.

Harvard University Divinity School, comment on Book Panel for Ahmed Ragab's *Piety and Patienthood in Medieval Islam*, Oct. 2019.

“Difficult Subjects in the Current Political Climate,” St. Lawrence University, Sept. 2017

“Islam, Islamophobia, and Teaching Difficult Subjects in the Age of Trumpism,” Brown University Provost’s Lecture Series on Reaffirming University Values, Apr. 2017.

“The Afterlife of John the Baptist in Medieval Islamic Theology,” International Symposium on Mediterranean Continuities: Material and Spiritual Paths,” Kavala, Greece, Apr. 2016

“*Faḍā’il* and Sectarianism in the Early Islamic Period,” University of California Santa Barbara, Apr. 2015

“*Faḍā’il al-Ṣaḥāba* as Hagiography,” Princeton University Hagiography Workshop,

Princeton University, Dec. 2014.

Workshop on “Muslim Exceptionalism: Islam, the Academy and the Global Public,”  
University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 2014

Sawyer Seminar Series in Visual Exegesis, “Companionate Shrines in Modern-Day  
Jordan,” Emory University, Feb. 2014.

Boston College History Workshop Seminar, “The Martyrs of Mu’ta: Sacred Landscapes  
and the Companions of Muḥammad,” Boston College, Feb. 2014.

International Workshop on Holy Places in Islam, coordinated by AHRC (UK), MIRI  
(Copenhagen) and CASAW (Edinburgh), Workshop #1 (part of a three-year project),  
University of Edinburgh, Dec. 2013.

Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar, “A Thing of the Past: Material Evidence and the Writing  
of Medieval England’s Past.” Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard  
University, May 2013

“The Image of John the Baptist in Medieval Islamic Syria,” Georgetown University, Nov.  
2012.

“Material Culture and the Reading of Medieval Texts,” University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst, Oct. 2012

“The Veneration of the Companions and the Formation of Islamic Orthodoxies,”  
University of Texas Late Antiquity Lecture Series, Austin, Oct. 2011

“Non-Muslim Administrators in Umayyad Damascus,” Symposium of Christians, Jews  
and Zoroastrians in the Umayyad State at the University of Chicago, Chicago, June 2011

“The Hagiography of ‘Umar II in Ibn ‘Asākir’s *Tārīkh Madīnat Dimashq*,” From  
Constantine to Charlemagne, A Conference in Honor of Peter Brown at Princeton  
University, Princeton, May 2011

“The Politics of Periodization: Toward a New Understanding of Late Antiquity and  
Early Islam,” Central European University Center for Hellenic Traditions, Budapest, Oct.  
2010

“Matter for Debate: Relics and Related Devotional Objects,” Presentation at the  
Workshop on Relics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, July 2010

“Conversion to Islam During the Lifetime of Muḥammad,” Oxford Mellon Sawyer  
Conference on Conversion in Late Antiquity and Islam, Oxford, July 2010

“Jerusalem in the Medieval Islamic Tradition” University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth,  
Nov. 2009

"Dreams of Hagia Sophia: The Muslim Siege of Constantinople in 674 AD, Abū Ayyūb al-Anṣārī and the Medieval Islamic Imagination" Medieval and Renaissance Interdisciplinary Lecture Series, Louisiana State University, Mar. 2008.

**Papers Read/Professional Meetings:**

“Ulamalogy and the Arabic Biographical Tradition,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (Commentator), New Orleans, Nov. 2019

“New Methods in Islamic Historiography,” Panel at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (Panel Organizer and Commentator), Washington D.C., Nov. 2016.

“Digital Humanities and Islamic Studies,” Panel at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference (Commentator), Washington D.C., Nov. 2016.

“Modalities of Historical Writing in the Early Islamic Period” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Nov. 2016 (Panel Organizer and Commentator)

“Hagiography, Biography, and Sectarianism,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., Nov. 2014 (Panel Organizer and Commentator)

“Martyrdom and Material Culture in Medieval Bilād al-Shām,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 2013

“Rediscovering the Ṣaḥāba in the Age of the Crusades,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, Nov. 2012

“Piety and Grandeur: ‘Umar II and Maslama ibn ‘Abd al-Malik in the Biographical Tradition,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 2010

“Modalities of Piety in Early Islam,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, Nov. 2010 (Panel Organizer and Commentator)

“The Fate of Rural Christian Monasteries in Early Islamic Syria,” Medieval Congress Annual Meeting, Kalamazoo, May 2010

“Religious Merits Literature of Damascus: Sources Used by Ibn ‘Asākir in the *Tārīkh Madīnat Dimashq*,” Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, Boston, Nov. 2009

“Veneration of the Companions in the *Tārīkh Dārayyā/History of Dārayyā*,” Seminar on Culture and Religion in the Ancient Mediterranean, Brown University, Mar. 2009.

“Hagiography and Historiography in Early Islam,” American Historical Association annual meeting, New York, Jan. 2009.

“Pilgrimage Among Muslims and Christians to the Great Mosque of Damascus,” Conference on Routes of Faith in the Medieval Mediterranean: Monuments, People, Pilgrimage, Prospects, Thessaloniki, Oct. 2007.

“Residential Settlement in Damascus and its Hinterland,” Conference on Patterns of Settlement in the Near East from the Byzantine to the ‘Abbāsīd Period, Paris, Oct. 2007.

“The Cult of the Saints and the Cult of the Companions in the Medieval Islamic World,” Seminar on Magic and Miracles in the Lands of Islam, Princeton University, Apr. 2007

“The Byzantine Imprint on the Cult of John the Baptist in Early Islam,” Center for Historical Analysis, Seminar on The Question of the West, Rutgers University, Jan. 2007.

“Byzantine Hagiographical Tropes in Early Islamic Conquest Literature,” 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Byzantine Studies, London, Jan. 2006

“Identity and Conflict in Early Islamic Syria: Dispute Texts in Syriac and Arabic” Conference on Patristics, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Villanova University, Oct. 2005.

“Damascus: The Making of an Islamic Capital City” Conference on Writing the City into History, Princeton University, Apr. 2005.

“Damascus from Byzantium to Early Islam,” Workshop at the Princeton Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, Apr. 2005.

“Monks, Towers, and the Destruction of the Church of Saint John the Baptist: An Incident in the Topographical History of Late Antique and Early Islamic Damascus,” Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, Apr. 2004.

**Service:**

- i. **Brown University**
  - Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Fall 2022-
  - Tenure committee chair, Fall 2022
  - Co-director, Faculty of Color Network, Fall 2015-
  - Middle East Studies post-doc in Iranian Studies search committee, Fall 2022
  - Remote/Online/Hybrid Instruction sub-committee (Summer/Fall 2020)
  - FEC Faculty Working Group, Summer/Fall 2020
  - BCSC co-chair of search for Center Director
  - First-year advisor, 2019-20
  - Executive Committee member, Center for Middle East Studies, 2019-
  - Faculty Advisory Board, CSREA, 2019-20
  - Sheridan center Liaison for Middle East Studies, Spring 2018-



- Graduate Coordinator, Dept. of Religious Studies track in Islam, Society, and Culture, Spring 2017-
- Faculty Advisor for BCSC SWANA Heritage Group, Fall 2017-
- Faculty Advisor for the BGRIPS graduate student group, Fall 2017-18
- Departmental Search Committee, Fall 2017
- Interim Director, Brown Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Spring 2016
- Provost's Committee on the Diverse Perspectives in Liberal Learning, Spring 2016
- Middle East Studies search committee (senior Islamicist search), 2015-16
- Religious Studies search committee (New Testament), 2014-15
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies, 2014-15
- Humanities Teaching and Research Initiative funded week-long residential visit to Brown of Fred Donner, March 10-14, 2014
- Middle East Studies, Ad hoc Steering and Curriculum Committees, 2012-Spring 2016
- Agha Khan Visiting Professorship Search Committee, 2013-14
- RS Graduate Student Workshop, Spring 2013
- Committee for the Cogut Center Mellon International Post-Doc, Spring 2012
- Senior Thesis Prize Committee, 2008-2011
- Senior Advisor, Department of Religious Studies, 2010-2011
- Committee on International Studies, Fall 2010
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious studies, January 2009-July 2010
- Sub-committee on the Program in Ancient Studies 2008-2009
- Middle East Studies Executive Committee: Mission Statement, 2009
- Middle East Studies: Executive Committee: Curriculum Development
- Medieval Studies: Programming Committee
- Faculty Advisor to student organization at Brown, the Open Arms Initiative (OAI)

## **ii. Service to Profession**

- Program committee member, Middle East Studies Association, 2022-3
- Middle East Studies Book Prize committee, MESA, 2020
- Article referee, *JAOS*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of Arabic Literature*, *Arabica*
- Manuscript referee for University of Pennsylvania Press, Columbia University Press, Harvard University Press, University of California Press, Oxford Oneworld Press, Brill IHC Series
- Executive Board Member, Middle East Medievalists, 2010-2013
- Co-Editor of *Al-'Uşūr al-Wusta (The Middle Ages*, MEMS Journal), 2012-13

## **Fieldwork**

- Shuqayra al-Gharbiyya, Excavation of an early Islamic palace/administrative complex near Mu'tah, Jordan, Summer 2012 and 2013; Square Supervisor.
- Brown University Petra Archaeological Project, Summer 2011; Topographical survey and ethnographic work, historical consultation.

### **iii. Service to Community**

-Teacher training on Late Antiquity and ancient west Asia, Boston Public Schools, 2019-2022

-Lecture and consultation for Rhode Island School of Design's exhibit on Islamic Clothing, 2009

-Consultant for Providence Pictures Documentary on Muḥammad and the Qur'ān

### **Awards and Distinctions:**

2019	Karen T. Romer Prize for Excellence in Advising
2016	Fellow, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University (non-teaching sabbatical fellowship)
2014	John Rowe Workman Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching in the Humanities, Brown University
2013	Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, Brown University
2012	Top-Five Finalist, Best First Book in the History of Religion Award, AAR
Fall 2012	Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship, Brown University
Fall 2011	Fellow, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Brown University (reduced teaching fellowship)
2011-2010-11	Named Chair: William A. Dyer Jr. Assistant Professor of the Humanities Faculty Development Fund, Brown University
2009-	Faculty Affiliate, Political Theory Project, Brown University
2005-06	Mrs. Giles C. Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities
2004-05	Fellow of the Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion
2003-04	J.F. Coustopoulos Prize, Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University
2002-03	Stanley J. Seeger Prize, Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University
2001-02	J.F. Coustopoulos Prize, Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University
1999-2001	Regents Fellow, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

### **Professional Associations/Memberships:**

-Middle East Studies Association

### **Dissertation Committees:**

#### **At Brown University-**

#### **Current Students:**

-Mariam Aboukathir, Religious Studies (Committee Member, prelim examiner)

-Aseel Azab-Osman, Religious Studies (Primary Supervisor)

-Muntazir Ali, Religious Studies (Committee member)

-Tara Dhaliwal, Religious Studies (Committee member, prelim examiner)

-Carolina Mendoza, religious Studies (Committee member, prelim examiner)

-Sunshine Wu, Religious Studies (Committee member)

**Completed:**

-Cyril J. Uy, Religious Studies, *Lost in a Sea of Letters: Sa‘d al-Dīn Ḥamūya (d. 1252) and the Plurality of Sufi Knowledge*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Reader) Completed 2021

-Tanvir Ahmed, Religious Studies, *Radical Shadoes of God: Islam and Sociopolitical Dissent 1240-1600* (2<sup>nd</sup> Reader) Completed 2021

-Michael Payne, *Kalām as a Way of Life: al-Jāhiz, Natural Philosophy, and the Ontology of Human Difference* (1<sup>st</sup> Reader) Completed 2020

-Reyhan Durmaz, Religious Studies (2<sup>nd</sup> Reader). Completed 2019  
Thesis title: *Stories, Saints, and Sanctity between Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages*

-Megan McBride, Religious Studies (3<sup>rd</sup> Reader). Completed 2017  
Proposed area of research: Religion and contemporary terrorism

-Elizabeth Cecil, Religious Studies (3<sup>rd</sup> Reader). Completed 2016  
Thesis title: *Mapping a Contested Landscape: Religion, Politics, and Place in the Making of Pāśupata Identity*

**External Reader**

-Skyler Anderson, History, Princeton University. *Challenging received Wisdom: Isrā‘īliyyāt and counter-culture in the early Islamic World* (2020)

-John Zaleski, History of Christianity, Harvard University. *Christianity, Islam, and the Religious Culture of Late Antiquity: A Study of Asceticism in Iraq and Northern Mesopotamia* (2019)

