

Noah Salomon

Carleton College
Department of Religion
One North College St.
Northfield, MN 55057
nsalomon@carleton.edu

Education

University of Chicago, Divinity School, PhD (2010).

(Exchange Scholar at Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, 2007-9)

Dissertation title and committee: *In the Shadow of Salvation: Sufis, Salafis and the Project of Late Islamism in Contemporary Sudan* Supervised by Saba Mahmood (co-chair), Malika Zeghal (co-chair), Amy Hollywood, and Michael Sells.

Institut Français d'Études Arabes de Damas (IFEAD). Damascus, Syria. Summer 2002.

Intensive advanced Arabic language study.

Harvard University, Department of Anthropology and the Center for Middle East Studies. PhD coursework. 2001-2002.

Concentration: Islamic legal theory, anthropological theory and method, anthropology of religion, anthropological linguistics, anthropology of the Middle East.

University of Chicago, Divinity School, MA (2001).

Concentration: History of Religions with a focus in Islamic Studies.

Reed College, BA (1999). Phi Beta Kappa.

Major: Religious Studies.

Thesis: *Expanding the Boundaries of Normative Judaism in the Middle Ages: An Historical Study of the Magical Texts from the Cairo Geniza* (written under the supervision of Prof. Steven M. Wasserstrom)

American University in Cairo. Fall 1997.

Course work: Arabic language, Islam and Ancient Egyptian Religion.

Harvard University School of Divinity. Summer 1997

Course work: Biblical Hebrew.

Academic Positions

Carleton College

Assistant Professor of Religion. 2010-2016

Associate Professor of Religion. 2016-present.

Director of Middle East Studies. 2016-present.

Course list: Islamic Politics; Contemporary Islamic Renewal; Islamic Africa; Televangelists and Cyber-Shaykhs: Explorations in Religion and Media; Muslim Misfits: Islam and the Question of Orthodoxy; Introduction to Islam; Sufism; Religion, Law, Religious Law; Introduction to Religion.

Yale University

Postgraduate Associate, Council on Middle East Studies, The MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, 2009-10.

Responsibilities and activities: teaching a graduate seminar in Middle East Studies; organizing and moderating the Middle East weekly workshop series; writing, research and public speaking.

Hofstra University

Visiting Special Instructor, Department of Religion, Fall 2008.

Course list: Introduction to Islam; The Public Life of Religion.

University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2003.

Responsibilities: taught a weekly section of entering MA students at the Divinity School in the course "Religion and the Human Sciences."

Selected Fellowships, Awards and Research Grants

Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Science, Princeton, NJ. Member 2013-4, Visitor Fall 2014, Summer 2015.

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Grant, funding to participate in a collaborative research project entitled "Epistemological Foundations of Contemporary Divisions within Sunni Islam: Traditionalists, Reformists and Islamists in Africa," July-August 2013, August-December 2014.

Hewlett Mellon Fellowship and Smith Faculty Development Fund, Carleton College, Sabbatical year funding to complete a book manuscript entitled "*The People of Sudan Love You, oh Messenger of God: An Ethnography of the Islamic State.*"

Stanford Humanities Center, External Faculty Fellowship, 2013-4 (declined).

School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM. National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2013-4 (declined).

Writing across the Curriculum Grant, Carleton College, to work on devising and improving writing assignments in two introductory courses. Summer 2011.

Curriculum Development Fund Grants, Carleton College, summer funding to devise new courses. Summer 2011, 2014, 2015.

Islam Research Programme Grant, funded by the Government of Holland and administered by a consortium led by Leiden University. The grant was awarded to a team of researchers affiliated with Centre

d'Études et de Documentation Économique, Juridique et Sociale (CEDEJ), Khartoum and the University of Khartoum. I was appointed as “senior researcher” on this team and my project was entitled “Religion after the State: The Creation of a Muslim Minority in South Sudan.” April 2011-November 2012.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Fellowship, September 2007-August 2008.

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, United States Department of Education, July 2006-July 2007.

Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Feb. 2005-June 2006.

Human Rights Internship Grant, Human Rights Program, University of Chicago. Awarded for a human rights internship at a legal aid organization in Khartoum, Sudan, Summer 2003.

Center for Middle East Studies Summer Research Grant, Harvard University. Awarded June 2002. Used for Arabic language study and to conduct a research project entitled, “‘ghurfa mukandisha:’ The Politics of English in Contemporary Damascus.”

Phi Beta Kappa. Awarded May 1999.

Rhodes Scholarship Finalist, December 1998.

Publications

Book

For Love of the Prophet: An Ethnography of Sudan's Islamic State. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 2016.

-Featured on the Social Science Research Council's *Immanent Frame* web forum <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/for-love-of-the-prophet/>.

-Featured on *New Books in Islamic Studies*: <http://newbooksnetwork.com/noah-salomon-for-love-of-the-prophet-an-ethnography-of-sudans-islamic-state-princeton-up-2016/>

-Reviewed in *Anthropology Review Database, Reading Religion*,

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Freeing Religion at the Birth of South Sudan,” in *Politics of Religious Freedom*, edited by Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Saba Mahmood, and Peter G. Danchin. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2015.

“Religion after the State: Secular Soteriologies at the Birth of South Sudan,” *Journal of Law and Religion* 29:3, Fall 2014.

“Evidence, Secrets, Truth: Debating Islamic Knowledge in Contemporary Sudan,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 81:3, September 2013.

“Religious Criticism, Secular Critique, and the ‘Critical Study of Religion’: Lessons from the Study of Islam” in *The Cambridge Companion to Religious Studies*, edited by Robert A. Orsi. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2012. (co-authored with Jeremy Walton).

“The Ruse of Law: Legal Equality and the Problem of Citizenship in a Multi-Religious Sudan,” in *After Secular Law*, edited by Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Robert A. Yelle, and Mateo Taussig-Rubbo. Stanford: Stanford University Press. 2011.

“The Salafi Critique of Islamism: Doctrine, Difference and the Problem of Islamic Political Action in Contemporary Sudan,” in *Global Salafism: Islam’s New Religious Movement*, edited by Roel Meijer. New York: Columbia University Press. 2009.

“Rethinking Scripturalism: Ethics, Knowledge and Textual Practice in Contemporary Sudanese Salafism,” committed to an edited collection on Islamic epistemologies, to be edited by Rüdiger Seesemann, Britta Frede and myself.

Magazine Articles, Academic Blogs, Encyclopedia Articles and other Miscellany

“For Love of the Prophet: A Reply,” The Social Science Research Council’s *Immanent Frame* web forum, <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2017/04/24/for-love-of-the-prophet-a-reply/>.

“For Love of the Prophet: An Introduction,” The Social Science Research Council’s *Immanent Frame* web forum, <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2017/03/16/for-love-of-the-prophet-introduction/>.

“Exceptional Americanism,” The Social Science Research Council’s *Immanent Frame* web forum, <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2017/03/01/ali-and-khomeini/#Salomon>.

“The New Global Politics of Religion: A View from the Other Side,” The Social Science Research Council’s *Immanent Frame* web forum, <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2016/04/26/the-new-global-politics-of-religion-a-view-from-the-other-side/>.

“Negotiating Pluralism: Religious Difference between the Secular and the Islamic State,” Northwestern University’s Equality, Development and Globalization Studies Working Papers Series, EDGS Working Paper No. 28. <http://www.edgs.northwestern.edu/papers/>

“Being Muslim in South Sudan,” *Anthropology Today*, 29:2, April 2013.

“Sudan,” in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, edited by Gerhard Bowering, Patricia Crone, Wadad Kadi, Devin J. Stewart and Muhammad Qasim Zaman. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 2013.

“‘Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Waqi‘ Allah (al-Bura‘i)” in *The Historical Dictionary of Sudan*, edited by Robert S. Kramer, et al. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press. 2013.

“Freeing Religion at the Birth of South Sudan,” The Social Science Research Council’s *Immanent Frame* Web Forum, <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2012/04/12/freeing-religion-at-the-birth-of-south-sudan/>.

“Shaykh Muhammad Hashim al-Hadiyya (1910-2007): A Spiritual Biography,” in *Global Salafism: Islam’s New Religious Movement*, edited by Roel Meijer. New York: Columbia University Press. 2009

“‘Post-Islamism?’ Questioning the Question,” *The Social Science Research Council’s Making Sense of Darfur Blog*, (now hosted at *African Arguments*, in two parts: <http://africanarguments.org/2008/06/26/post-islamism-questioning-the-question/>; <http://africanarguments.org/2008/06/27/post-islamism-questioning-the-question-part-2/>)

“Undoing the Mahdiyya: British Colonialism as Religious Reform in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1898-1914,” The Religion and Culture Webforum, May 2004 (<http://divinity.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/imce/pdfs/webforum/052004/Salomon%20Undoing%20the%20Mahdiyya%20Posted%202013.pdf>).

“The Khartoum Dilemma: Religious Diversity and the Law in Contemporary Sudan,” *Criterion* 43:2, Spring 2004.

Book Reviews

“Review Article on *Questioning Secularism: Islam, Sovereignty and the Rule of Law in Modern Egypt* by Hussein Ali Agrama,” *Islamic Law and Society*, 22:3, 2015.

“Review Article on *Islam and Liberal Citizenship: The Search for an Overlapping Consensus* by Andrew March,” in *The Journal of Religion* 92:3, July 2012.

“Review Article on *Sufis and Saints Bodies: Mysticism, Corporeality and Sacred Power in Islam* by Scott Kugle,” in *The Journal of Religion*, 90:2, April 2010.

“Review Article on *Quest for Divinity: A Critical Examination of the Thought of Mahmud Mohammad Taha* by Mohammad A. Mahmoud,” in *The Journal of Religion*, 88:4, October 2008.

Selected Conference Papers and Invited Lectures

“When Home Becomes Abroad, and Abroad Becomes Home: On the Unstable Locations of our Fractured Age,” *At Home and Abroad, Henry Luce Foundation Workshop*, Geneva, IL, May 11, 2017.

“For Love of the Prophet: The Art of Islamic State-Making in Sudan,” Indiana University, Department of Religious Studies, October 27, 2016 (also delivered at the University of Florida, Center for African Studies, April 7, 2017, the International Institute of Islamic Thought, April 18, 2017, and the Sudan Studies Association Annual Meeting, May 26, 2017).

“Neither a Clash of Civilization nor Civil Islam: Islamic Politics Untranslated,” *Religious Studies in the Margins*, March 24, 2017, University of Cape Town.

“The Politics of Suffering in the Last Will and Testament of Imam Khomeini,” *Theologies of American Exceptionalism Workshop*, Indiana University, October 28, 2016.

“Rethinking Scripturalism: Ethics, Knowledge and Textual Practice in Contemporary Sudanese Salafism,” Northwestern University, Sacred Word Conference, April 22, 2016 (also delivered at African Studies Association of Germany, University of Bayreuth, June 14, 2014 and Harvard University on February 17, 2017).

“Escaping the Islamic State: Reflections on Sudan at a Crossroads,” Reed College, Department of Religion, November 30, 2015 (also delivered at Hamline University, November 6 2015).

“‘The Country that Prays upon the Prophet the Most:’ Poetry and Politics in Urban Sudan,” *Knowing Islam: An Interdisciplinary Seminar on Muslim Epistemology*, University of Michigan, Islamic Studies, September 1, 2015.

“Transcending the Taxonomical: New Models for the Study of Religion in the Sudans,” Sudan Studies Association Annual Meeting, University of Minnesota, May 24, 2015.

“The Repentant Magician: Intimacy and the *jinn* in Contemporary Sudanese Salafism,” *Islamism and Intimacy Workshop*, New York University-Abu Dhabi, May 2, 2015.

“When the State is Everywhere: Rethinking the Islamic Public Sphere,” University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Anthropology, February 11, 2015 (a version of this talk was also delivered at Northwestern University, Department of Political Science, April 23, 2015).

“Negotiating Pluralism: Religious Difference between the Secular and the Islamic State,” University of Göttingen, Germany, CETREN Transregional Research Network, Siting Pluralism Workshop, January 31, 2015.

“Between Texts and Textual Practices: Initiating a Conversation between the Schools of Historical Studies and Social Science in the Study of Islam,” Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, NJ), Islamicists’ Seminar, October 29, 2014.

“When the State is Everywhere: Poetry and Public Criticism in Contemporary Sudan,” Stanford University, Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Beyond the Islamic Public Sphere in Africa Conference, April 4, 2014.

“Elusive States, Intractable Islams: On the Trail of Islamic Politics in Contemporary Sudan,” University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, December 4, 2013. (Also delivered at Bayreuth University, on June 4, 2014).

“Beyond Salvation? Secular Soteriologies at the Birth of South Sudan,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, Nov 25, 2013.

“Interrogating the Islam in the Islamic State: The Salafi Critique of Islamism in Sudan,” University of Oslo, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, August 23, 2013.

“Religion after the State: The Creation of a Muslim Minority in South Sudan,” International Sudan and South Sudan Studies Conference, Rheinische-Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, Germany, July 23-5, 2012. (A version of this paper was also presented at the University of Juba on November 7, 2012, at the Luce Foundation’s “Politics of Religious Freedom” workshop on January 9, 2013 in Cairo, at Hamline University on March 7, 2013, and at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ on October 10, 2013).

“‘The People of Sudan Love You, Oh Messenger of God:’ Sufi Pop and the Problem of Religious Pluralism in Pre-Partition Sudan,” The American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Nov 19-21, 2011.

“Beyond Mysticism: Sufism as a Theory of Islamic Knowledge,” Macalester College, Department of Religion. November 14, 2011.

“‘The Repentant Magician’: Sufi Conversions and Salafi Piety in Contemporary Sudan,” Religious Conversion in the Mediterranean World Conference, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, Italy. March 17-19, 2011.

“Beyond Charisma: Sufi Poetics and Political Reform in Contemporary Sudan,” Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, “Panel on Religious Authority in Contemporary Islam,” December 10, 2010.

“Sudan and the Problem of Secularism,” a workshop discussion of my article “The Ruse of Law,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ. December 8, 2010.

“Religious Criticism, Secular Critique, and the ‘Critical Study of Religion,’” Panel on *Theories and Methods in the Academic Study of Islam*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Nov 7, 2009.

“‘All of Sudan Loves You, Oh Prophet of God:’ New Muslim Pop Music and the Creation of National Islamic Auditory in Contemporary Sudan,” Yale University, Religious Revitalizations in Contemporary Africa Lecture Series, Oct 14, 2009.

“Candor and Respect: Applying the Lessons of an Islamic Ethics of Disagreement (*adab al-ikhtilaaf*) to Conversations across Religious Divides,” *Candor or Respect: Talking about the Religion of Others*, a conference at Columbia University Law School, February 26, 2009.

“An Ethnography of the Islamic Fact: Evidence, Secrets, and Truth in Contemporary Sudanese Sufism,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meetings, Chicago, IL. Nov 1-3, 2008 (A revised version of this paper was also presented at the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa’s conference on “Constituting Bodies of Islamic Knowledge,” Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Nov 16-18, 2008).

“Rethinking Islamic Politics in ‘Post-Peace’ Sudan: The Salafi Critique of Islamism,” Sudan Studies Association Annual Meeting, Tallahassee, Florida, May 18, 2008. (A revised version of this paper was given at Yale University as part of their Religion and Politics Colloquium, September 2009).

“The Ruse of Law: Legal Equality and the Problem of Citizenship in a Multi-Religious Sudan,” Re-Describing the Sacred/Secular Divide: The Legal Story, a workshop held at the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, University of Buffalo Law School, Buffalo, New York, March 29, 2008 (A revised version of this paper was also presented at Princeton University’s Department of Near Eastern Studies, “Panel on Civil War in the Arab World,” April 17, 2009).

“Colonialism, Sufism and Islamic Reform: A Partial History of Modern Religion in Contemporary Sudan,” Centre d’Études et de Documentation Économique, Juridique et Sociale (CEDEJ), Khartoum, Sudan. August 29, 2007.

“Revisiting the Semiotics of Religion: A Theory about a Sign in Khartoum,” Sudan Studies Association Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, CA, May 28-30, 2004. (A revised version of this paper was also presented at the Religion and the Democratic Prospect Conference on Oct 21, 2004, at the U. Chicago Divinity School).

“The Khartoum Dilemma: Religious Diversity and the Law in Contemporary Sudan,” University of Chicago Divinity School Wednesday Lunch Lecture Series, January 28, 2004.

“‘Ieysh inta mutnervaz?’ (‘Why are you Nervous?’): The Anglicization of Speech in Contemporary Damascus,” Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago, May 2003.

“Undoing the Mahdiyya: The ‘Indirect Da‘wa’ of the British Administration and the Imposition of Orthodoxy in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1898-1914,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Annual Meeting, Providence, RI. April 2003.

Professional Service

-Co-organizer for the Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges (AALAC) “Religious Studies at a Crossroads” workshop, May 30-June 2, 2017.

-Steering committee member for the Contemporary Islam Group at the American Academy of Religion (2014-present).

-Steering committee member for the Law, Religion and Culture Group at the American Academy of Religion (2014-2016).

-Peer review panelist for the *National Endowment for the Humanities’* Summer Stipends Program in Religious Studies (2013).

-*Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*-editorial advisory board member (2010-2014)

-Manuscript/book proposal reviews for *The Journal of Religion*, *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*, *Political Power and Social Theory*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, *Africa*, and Edinburgh University Press.

-Respondent and/or roundtable participant at panels at the American Academy of Religion, American Anthropological Association, the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, the Henry R. Luce Foundation, the Middle East Studies Association, African Studies Association and the Sudan Studies Association.

-Member of the American Academy of Religion, Middle East Studies Association, African Studies Association, and the American Anthropological Association.

Community Engagement

Teaching Staff Member, Rift Valley Institute, Sudan and South Sudan Field Course, Jinja, Uganda, July 6-12, 2013.

This course is directed at diplomats, aid and development workers, human rights activists, journalists and academics beginning work on Sudan or South Sudan.

Several Public Lectures, including:

“Understanding Crisis in South Sudan,” Institute for Advanced Study, Friends Lunch Forum, January 29, 2014 (A version of this talk was also delivered at University of California, Santa Cruz, Center for Emerging Worlds, Community Engagement Event, Feb 10, 2015)

“All About Darfur,” Yale University, April 14, 2010.

“Understanding Sudan and its Civil Wars,” Princeton University Department of Near Eastern Studies’ *Teachers’ Institute Series on Civil War in the Arab World*, April 18, 2009.

“Studying Religion in Iran,” Middle East Studies Faculty Lecture Series, November 10, 2016 (I gave a version of this talk at All Saints Church in Northfield on February 5, 2017).

Languages

- Modern Standard Arabic (fluent reading)
- Sudanese Arabic (fluent speaking, reading and writing)
- French (high-pass on Univ. of Chicago academic reading qualification exam)
- German (high-pass on Univ. of Chicago academic reading qualification exam)
- Biblical Hebrew (some reading).