Asma Barlas

Email: abarlas@ ithaca.edu
Website: https://www.ithaca.edu/faculty/abarlas

Education

Ph.D. International Studies; Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS); now the Josef Korbel School, University of Denver, Colorado, 1990.
M.A. International Studies, GSIS, University of Denver, 1986.
M.A. Journalism; University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, 1971.
B.A. English Literature and Philosophy; Kinnaird College, Lahore, Pakistan, 1969.

Work History

Professor Emerita of Politics, Ithaca College, 2021.
Professor, Department of Politics, Ithaca College, August 2004-2020. Associate professor, 1997-2004; Chair, 1998-2004; Assistant professor, 1991-1997.
Director, Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, Ithaca College, June 2006-August 2015; founding director, 1999-2002.
Spinoza Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Spring, 2008.
Instructor, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver, 1988.
Research Assistant, Graduate School of International Studies, 1985-1990.
Assistant Editor and columnist, *The Muslim* (newspaper) Pakistan; 1982-1983.
Section Officer, (UNIII), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan; 1976-1982.

Summer Teaching

Faculty, SUNY- St. Petersburg University Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (Summer 2013-2017); Herzen Pedagogical University (Summer 2019), St. Petersburg, Russia. Via Zoom: Spring 2021; Summer 2023; Spring 2024.
Faculty, School on Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies; University of California Berkeley and the University of Granada (Summer 2013-14; 2017-18), Granada, Spain.

Awards, Honors, Fellowships

Ithaca College Faculty Excellence Award, 2019.
Ithaca College Summer Research Grants: 2018, 2005, 2003, 2001, 1997, 1995, 1993; Small Grants: 1995-2001; 1992-93.
State University of New York award to teach in the NY-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture, St. Petersburg, Russia, 2013.
Visiting Scholar, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, Theology and Religious Studies Department and Gender Studies. October 24-November 1, 2009.

Awards, Honors, Fellowships

Visiting Fellow, International Center for Islam and Pluralism (ICIP), Jakarta, Indonesia. June 16-July 3, 2005.
Believing Women in Islam nominated for the Grawemeyer Award, 2019; 2009; 2005.
Fellow, Salzburg Seminar, "Strengthening Democracy and Governance: Women and Political Power," Salzburg, Austria. 26 April- 3 May, 2004.
Woman of Distinction, New York State, District: John R. Kuhl, Jr., 2003.
American Institute of Pakistan Studies, Post-doctoral Fellowship, 1998-99.
Graduated with a GPA of 4.0. Dissertation nominated for the Gabriel Almond Award, American Political Science Association in Comparative Politics, 1990.
American Association of University Women International Fellowship for Ph.D., 1989.
Teaching Grant, Ford Foundation, University of Denver, 1988.
Ben Cherrington Fellowship, University of Denver, 1985-86.
Robert Anderson Fellowship, University of Denver, 1984.
Reham al-Farra Journalists Fellowship, United Nations, New York, 1983.
First Position, Seventh Foreign Service Officers Training Course in International Relations and Diplomacy, Administrative Staff College, Pakistan, 1976.
First Position, University of the Punjab, Pakistan, 1971; Department of Journalism Fellowship, Punjab, Pakistan, 1969-71.

Publications

Books

Believing Women in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, first edition, 2002; revised second edition, 2019). Saqi , U.K., 2019; *Cara Quran Membebaskan Perempuan* (Jakarta, Serambi, 2005).
Believing Women in Islam: A Brief Introduction, with David R. Finn. (Austin, TX: University of Texas press, 2019).
Re-Understanding Islam: A Double Critique, Spinoza Lectures, University of Amsterdam (Amsterdam: Van Gorcum, 2008).
Islam, Muslims, and the U.S.: Essays on Religion and Politics (New Delhi, India: Global Media Publications, 2004).
Democracy, Nationalism and Communalism: The Colonial Legacy in South Asia (Boulder, CO.: Westview Press, 1995; republished, Routledge, 2018).

Journal Articles and Conference Papers

"In Defense of an Ungendered Theology: An Outline," Adyan Foundation, Lebanon (forthcoming).
"Muslim Women in Europe: In/between Worlds," *Vienna Journal for Interdisciplinary Islamic Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2025).
"Classical Religious Authority, Qur'anic Exegesis, and Muslim Women," in Yasar Sarikaya (ed.), *Herausforderung Digitalisierung: Islamische Theologie im digitalen Zeitalter*, De Gruyter, Germany, 2025.

Journal Articles and Conference Papers

"When Gender is a Problem in Islamic Theology and Qur'anic Tafsir," *Forum: Islamic Theological Studies,* Vol. 2, Nomos, Austria, 2023.

"Developing a Dialogue between Muslim and Catholic Educators," *International Studies in Catholic Education,* Vol. 13, 2021 (published online June 29, 2021).

"Reading the Word in a Foreign Tongue: Islam's Scripture and non-Arab Muslims," *WORD*, International Linguistic Association, Vol. 65.1 (March, 2019).

"Secular and Feminist Critiques of the Qur'an: Anti-hermeneutics as Liberation?" for Roundtable: "Feminism and Islam: Exploring the Boundaries of Critique." And, "A Response" to my respondents, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion,* Vol. 32, No. 2; Fall, 2016.

"Uncrossed Bridges: Islam, Feminism, and Secular Democracy," *Philosophy and Social Criticism, Reset-Dialogues Istanbul Seminars 2012,* Vol. 39, No. 4/5, May 2013.

"Teaching Islam in the West," *Dialogue Australasia*, No. 28, November 2012.

"September 11, 2001: Remember Forgetting," *Journal of Political Theology*, Vol. 12, No. 5, October 2011.

"Abraham's Sacrifice in the Qur'an: Beyond the Body," in Tore Ahlback (ed.), *Religion and the Body*, Donner Institute for Research, Åbo, Finland, June, 2011.

"Still Quarrelling over the Qur'an: Five Interventions," *ISIM Review* (Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World), Autumn, 2007.

"Teaching about Islam and Women: on pedagogy and the personal," *Intercultural Education*, Vol. 18: 4, November 2007.

"Women in Islam: Facts and Perceptions," in Memoona Hasnain (ed.) *Patient-centered Health Care for Muslim Women in the United States*, conference proceedings, University of Illinois at Chicago Press, 2007.

"Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an: Beyond the binaries of tradition and modernity," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Vol. 24, No. 2, 2007.

"Text, Tradition, and Reason: Qur'anic Hermeneutics and Sexual Politics," *Cardozo Law Review,* Vol. 28, No. 1, October, 2006.

"The Excesses of Moderation," Colloquium on "Moderate Islam," University of Utah (February 21-22, 2004). *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2005.

"A Requiem for Voiceless-ness: Pakistanis and Muslims in the U.S." *Wagadu*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring, 2004. http://web.cortland.edu/wagadu/

"Jihad=Holy War=Terrorism: The Politics of Conflation and Denial," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences,* Vol. 20, No.1, Winter, 2003.

"Muslim Women and Sexual Oppression: Reading Liberation from the Quran," *Macalester International,* Vol. 10, Spring, 2001.

"The Qur'an and Hermeneutics: Reading the Qur'an's Opposition to Patriarchy," *The Journal of Quranic Studies*, University of London, Vol. III, No. 2, 2001.

Book Chapters

"Patriarchalism and the Qur'an," in Cesare Cuttica and Gaby Mahlberg (eds.), *Patriarchal Moments*, Bloomsbury Academic, U.K. (2015).

Book Chapters

"Islam," in Adrian Thatcher (ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Theology, Sexuality and Gender*, Oxford University Press (2014).

"Does the Qur'an Support Gender Equality?" in Marjo Buitelaar and Monique Bernards (eds.), *Negotiating Autonomy and Authority in Muslim Contexts* (Leuven, the Netherlands: Peeters, 2013).

"Embodying Islam and Muslims: Religious and Secular Inscriptions," in Marius Timmann Mjaaland, Ola Sigurdson and Sigridur Thorgeirsdottir (eds.), *The Body Unbound* (U.K.: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010).

"'Holding Fast by the Best in the Precepts:' the Qur'an and method," in Kari Vogt et al. (eds.), *New Directions in Islamic Thought: Exploring Reform and Tradition* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2008).

"Qur'anic Hermeneutics and Women's Liberation;" published as "La hermeneutica coranica y la liberacion de la mujer," selected papers, First and Second International Congress on Islamic Feminism, *La Emergencia de Feminismo Islamico* (Spain, Oozebap, 2008).

"Engaging Islamic Feminism: Provincializing feminism as a master narrative," in Anitta Kynsilheto (ed.) *Islamic Feminism: Current Perspectives*, Occasional Papers, (Tampere Peace Research Institute, Finland, 2008).

"Women's Readings of the Qur'an," in Jane McAuliffe (ed.), *Cambridge Companion to the Qur'an* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).

"Reviving Islamic Universalism: East/s, West/s, and Coexistence," in Abdul Said et. al (eds.), *Contemporary Islam: Dynamic, Not Static* (Routledge, 2006).

"Globalizing Equality: Muslim Women, Theology, and Feminisms," in F. Simone (ed.), *On Shifting Ground: Muslim Women in the Global Era* (NY: Feminist Press, 2005).

"Amina Wadud's Hermeneutics of the Qur'an:," in Suha Taji-Faruqi (ed.), *Modern Muslim Intellectuals and the Qur'an* (Oxford University, 2004).

"Texts, Sex, and States: A Critique of North African Discourse on Islam," in K. Lacey & R. Coury (eds.), *The Arab-African and Islamic Worlds* (Peter Lang, 2000).

Book Reviews, Forewords, Miscellaneous

"Challenging Violence against Muslim Women," Foreword for Pamela Cross, *Violence Against Women:* Toronto, Canada, Canadian Council of Muslim Women, 2013.

"The Antinomies of 'Feminism' and 'Islam:' the Limits of a Marxist Analysis," review of *Feminism and Islamic Fundamentalism: The Limits of Postmodern Analysis,* Haideh Moghissi (London: Zed Books, 1999), in *Middle East Women's Studies Review,* Vol. xviii, Nos. 1-2, Spring/Summer, 2003.

"The Uses and Abuses of Muslim History in Explaining Islam," review of *Empire and Elites after the Muslim Conquest,* Chase F. Robinson (Cambridge University Press, 2002); in *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Vol. 20: 1, 2003.

"Islam and Equality;" review of *Islam and Equality: Debating the Future of Women's and Minority Rights in the Middle East*, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (eds.), Canada, 1999; in *Middle East Women's Studies Review,* Vol. xv, Nos. 1-2, Spring/Summer, 2000.

Popular

100+ articles, op-eds, short-stories, and poems (Pakistan, U.S., U.K., Australia).

Academic Keynotes and Presentations

2026

"Ungendering the Qur'an: Men's Authority Over Women," Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Arizona State University, March 24, 2026.

2025

"*Believing Women in Islam*: A Retrospect," Distinguished Lecture Series, Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi, India), September 6 (via Zoom).

"The Qur'an, Method, and Meaning: Reinterpreting Men's Authority over Women," Second International Conference on Qur'anic Studies; Al-Mahdi Institute (UK), April 14, 2025 (Virtual presentation).

2024

"Gender as a Problem in Islamic Theology and Qur'anic Exegesis," Keynote, International Workshop on "Women's Knowledge Production in Qur'anic Exegesis," Berlin Institute for Theology, Humboldt University, Germany, October 10, 2024 (via Zoom).

"Impiety and Misogyny as Religion," Iqbal Center, University of Leeds, Bradford City Library, Bradford, U.K., May 21, 2024.

"Qur'anic Hermeneutics as Ethics," international conference on "Introduction to Qur'anic Ethics (Chapter 4),' Shahid Beheshti University, Teheran, Iran, March 18, 2024 (Virtual presentation).

"Interpreting the Qur'an: Challenges and Opportunities," Third International Conference on "The Social Interpretation of the Qur'an." Tarbiat Modarres University, Tehran, Iran, February 28, 2024 (Virtual presentation).

2023

"On (Reading) the Qur'an," Department of Theology, Mofid University, Qom, Iran, December 4, 2023 (Virtual presentation).

"Out of Place: Reflections on Identity, Belonging, and Difference," Keynote, International conference, "To be or to Belong?" DIRS, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, June 22-24, 2023.

"The Qur'an, Patriarchies, and Women," Institute for Islamic Theology and Religious Education, University of Innsbruck, Austria, June 6, 2023.

Academic Keynotes and Presentations

2022

"Muslim Women in Europe: Living In/between Worlds," Conference on Europe's Muslim Women, Muslim Women in Europe? Sigmund Freud University, Vienna, November 26, 2022 (via Zoom).
"In Defense of an Ungendered Theology," Conference on Women, Religion and Human Rights (2002), Adyan Foundation, Lebanon, June 27, 2022 (via Zoom).
"Islam and Women: 1,400 Years Later," International conference on Islam and Women, organized by AyVakfi Foundation and Bahcesehir University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 27-28, 2022.

2021

"Classical Religious Authority, Qur'anic Exegesis, and Muslim Women: Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age." Keynote, Justus Liebig University, Germany, December 13, 2021. Via Zoom.
"The Qur'an's Sacrality, Authority and Normativity: Contrasting Approaches." International Conference on Qur'anic Norm Change. Friedrich-Alexander University, Erlangen-Nurnberg, Germany, October 14, 2021. Via Zoom.
"Navigating Religious Patriarchy," interfaith dialogue, Bradford Literature Festival, Bradford, U.K., July 6, 2019.
"Believing Women in Islam," The Iqbal Center for Critical Muslim Studies, University of Leeds, U.K., July 5.

2019

Lecture *Believing Women in Islam*, book launch, revised edition. Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations, Aga Khan University, London, U.K., July 4.
"Women, Sex, and Gender in the Qur'an," SUNY, Cortland, March 27, 1019.
"What Makes Qur'anic Exegesis Just or Unjust?" Keynote, conference on (Un)Just Religion: Building Identity and Community, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada, March 16, 2019.
"Reclaiming Religion, Unreading Patriarchy," Keynote, Multi-faith Center, University of Toronto, Canada, March 14, 2019.
"Sex and Scripture: What can the Qur'an tell us about Sexual Equality?" King Fahd Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arkansas, March 4, 2019.

2018

"Decoloniality and Internal Colonialism: The secular turn in Qur'anic Studies." Center for Intercultural Dialogues (Granada), and the University of California, Berkeley. Granada Spain, June 22, 2018.

Academic Keynotes and Presentations

2018

"Reading the Word in a Foreign Tongue: Islam's Scripture, the Qur'an, and Non-Arab Muslims." Plenary address, International Linguistic Association 63rd annual conference. St. John's University, New York, April 21, 2018.
"When Gender is a Problem in Qur'anic Exegesis." New York University Abu Dhabi Institute. Workshop on Gender and Tafsir Studies. Abu Dhabi, April 8, 2018.

2017

"Secularizing the Qur'an?" Center for Intercultural Dialogues (Granada), and the University of California, Berkeley. Summer school on Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies, Granada Spain, July 7, 2017.

2016

"Sex/Gender and Women in the Qur'an," panel, Human Rights, Gender, and Sexuality in the Islamic World, DISC/WCED Symposium, Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Laureate respondent. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, October 27, 2016.
"Muslim Women and the Qur'an" Marsico Scholar Lecture, Department of Religious Studies, University of Denver, October 13, 2016.

2014

"Qur'anic Hermeneutics as Ethics," Center for Intercultural Dialogues (Granada), and the University of California, Berkeley. Spain, June 10, 2014.
"Violence against Muslim Women," Keynote, International Women's Day, IMDI, Drammen, Norway, March 8, 2014.

2013

"Islamic Feminism, Secularism and (De)colonization," Critical Muslim Studies summer school, University of Berkley and University of Granada, Spain, June 11, 2013.
"Qur'anic Hermeneutics and Internal Colonialism in Muslim Societies," Center for Intercultural Dialogues (Granada), and the University of California, Berkeley. School on Critical Muslim Studies. Granada, Spain, June 17, 2013.

2012

"Thinking of Muslims in 'Morally Relevant Ways,'" Keynote, Faith and Culture conference. The Wheeler Center, Melbourne, Australia, June 16, 2012.
"Islamic Law, Scripture, and Women's Rights" IILAH Public Seminar, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, Australia, June 12, 2012.

Academic Keynotes and Presentations

2012

Uncrossed Bridges: Islam, Feminism, and Secular Democracy," Keynote, Istanbul Seminars: The Promises of Democracy in Troubled Times. Reset Doc and Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 21, 2012.

2011

"Encountering Islam: Women and Gender Equality," Keynote, Critical Issues Symposium. Hope College, Holland, Michigan, October 5, 2011.
"On Anti-Anti-Foundationalism: Nasr Abu Zayd's 'Rethinking' of the Qur'an," Conference on Islamic Newthinking: Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut of Essen and the University of Zurich, Essen, Germany, June 26-29, 2011.

2010

"Abraham in the Qur'an: the unbound body," Keynote, Conference on Religion and the Body. Donner Institute for Research in the History of Religion, Åbo Akademi University, Åbo (Turku), Finland, June 16-18, 2010.
"Women as Agents of Change in Muslim Majority Countries and the World," workshop. Italian Council of Social Sciences and Ethnobarometer; Rockefeller Center, Bellagio, Italy, March 13-14, 2010.

2009

"Islam and Politics of the Body: Religious and Secular Inscriptions," Lecture in Doing Gender, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, October 26, 2009.
"The Qur'an, Shari'a, and Women's Rights," Plenary Address, Re-imagining the Shari'a. University of Warwick, Venice, September 14, 2009.
"Islam and Body Politics: Inscribing (im)morality," Nordic Society for Philosophy of Religion conference, University of Iceland, Reykjavek, June 26, 2009.
"Muslim Women's Rights: Frameworks and Interpretations," Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Muslim Societies. (UNIFEM/ ICIP) Jakarta, Indonesia, March 11-12, 2009.
"Islamic Reform and Gender Equality: *Fiqh*, Feminism, or CEDAW?" Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Muslim Societies. (UNIFEM/ ICIP) Jakarta, Indonesia, March 11-12, 2009.

2008

"Globalizing Equality: revisiting the debate," Third International Congress on Islamic Feminism. Barcelona, Spain, October 25, 2008.

Academic Keynotes and Presentations

2008

"Would Spinoza Understand Me? Europe, Islam, and the Mirror of Difference." Spinoza Lecture. University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, June 5, 2008. (Also presented at the University of Nijmegen, June 17, 2008.)
"Believing Women in Islam: Between secular and religious politics and theology," Spinoza Lecture. University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, May 8, 2008.

2007

"Can We Speak of Women's Rights in Islam?" Human Rights, Human Responsibilities. Saginaw Valley State University, October 22, 2007.
"Engaging Islamic Feminism: Provincializing feminism as a master narrative," Workshop on Islamic Feminism. Tampere, Finland, August 31, 2007.
"Women and Islam," Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, August 24, 2007.
"Challenges of Reading/ Interpreting the Qur'an," Master Class, Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, Leiden, the Netherlands, June 25, 2007.
"Still Quarrelling over the Qur'an: Five theses on interpretation and authority." Conference on Redefining Boundaries. Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, Amsterdam, June 24, 2007.
"Lost in Translation: (Muslim) Women and (Films on) Islam," Women and Islam Series. National Film Board of Canada, Toronto, May 22, 2007.
"On Islamic and Muslim Feminisms." St. Mary's College, April 16, 2007.
"Gender, Islam, and the War on Terror," Bates College, March 14, 2007.
"Women in Islam: Between Oppression and (Self-) Empowerment," Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Cologne, Germany, March 9, 2007.
"A Collective Purpose: Crossing Cultural Boundaries," Emmie Baine Lecture. Southern Methodist University, Dallas, March 1, 2007.

2006

"Does the Qur'an Support Gender Equality?" University Lecture. University of Groningen, the Netherlands, November 23, 2006.
"Women's Self-Emancipation through the Qur'an." University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, November 21, 2006.
"Interpreting the Qur'an: Beyond the Tradition/Modernity Binary," Keynote, Regional Conference. Muslim Social Scientists, November 4, 2006, Toronto, Canada.
"Four Stages of Denial, or, My On-Again, Off-Again, Affair with Feminism: Response to Margot Badran," Discussion Series, Global Fury/ Global Fear: Engaging Muslims. Ithaca College, October 23, 2006.
"The Pleasure of Our Texts: reading the Qur'an," Women in Religion in the 21st Century Conference. Interchurch Center, New York, October 17-19, 2006.
"Reading the Qur'an: Challenges and Possibilities," Gender, Race, Islam and the War on Terror," Symposium, Simon Fraser University, Canada, May 11-13, 2006.

Academic Keynotes and Presentations

2006

"Believing Women in Islam." Swarthmore College, April 14, 2006.
"Women, Politics, and Islam," Middlebury College, April 6, 2006.
"Sacred Knowledge and Women's Rights in Islam." Columbia, March 29, 2006.
"Women in Islam: Rethinking texts, traditions, and reason," University Lecture. University of Oregon, March 2, 2006.
"Qur'anic Hermeneutics and Muslim Women's Liberation," International Congress on Islamic Feminism. Barcelona, Spain, October 29, 2005.

2005

"Women Encountering the Qur'an: Authority, Reading, Scripture," George Mason University, September 19, 2005.
"'Hold(ing) Fast by the Best in the Precepts:' The Qur'an and Method," Conference on the Changeable and Unchangeable in Islamic Thought and Practice, Sarajevo, May 7-9, 2005 (read in absentia, by Christian Moe).
"Media Reflections: Ignorance of a Hegemonic Imagination," Occupied Spaces Symposium. Ithaca College, April 8, 2005.
"Women's and Feminist Readings of the Qur'an." Center for Middle East Studies, Harvard University, March 22, 2005.
"Women in Islam: Facts and Perceptions," Keynote, Conference on Muslim Women's Health Needs, University of Illinois at Chicago, March 4, 2005.

2004

"Christian and Muslim Women in Conversation About Scripture." Hartford Seminary, Dec. 3, 2004.
"Gender Inequality and Scriptural Interpretation in Islam." Stanford University, November, 22, 2004.
"Teaching about Women and Islam," AMEWS Roundtable. Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 21, 2004.
"Text, Tradition, and Reason: The Qur'an and Sexual Politics." Cardozo Law School, Yeshiva University, October 10-14, 2004.
"Islam, Gender, and Reproductive Health." Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, D.C., October 4, 2004.
"Muslim Women, the Qur'an, and Male Power." Swarthmore, April 23, 2004.
"Globalizing Equality: Muslim Women, Theology, and Feminisms." Library of Congress, March 26, 2004.
"Women and Religion," Auburn University, Alabama, March 16, 2004.
"The Excesses of Moderation," Colloquium on Moderation in Islam. University of Utah, Salt Lake City, February 21-22, 2004.
"The Qur'an, Sexual Equality, and Feminism," Toronto University, January 12, 2004.

Academic Keynotes and Presentations

2003

"Reviving Islamic Universalism," Conference on Contemporary Islamic Synthesis, Alexandria, Egypt, October 3-5, 2003.
"A Requiem for Voicelessness: Pakistanis and Muslims in the US," Cornell University, April 12, 2003.
"Determining Islamic Authority in North America," Conference on Islam in America. Harvard Divinity School, March 8, 2003.

2002

Presentation/ panelist, "Religious Authorities in Middle Eastern Islam." Institut fur Islam-wissenschaft, Free University of Berlin, Germany, December 5-8, 2002.
"Challenging Patriarchal Interpretations of Islam," Anderberg Lecture, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska, November 7, 2002.
"Islam, Feminism, and Women," Robert L. Bernstein Symposium on Fundamentalism and Modernity. Yale University, April 12-13, 2002.
"Jihad=Holy War=Terrorism: The Politics of Conflation and Denial," Conference on Pakistan. American University, April 8, 2002.
"Can African Women Learn from East and Southeast Asia?" Women and Higher Education in Africa, Cornell University, March 28-30, 2002.
"Will the 'Real' Islam Please Stand Up?" Master's Tea Presentation at Silliman College. Yale University, February 21, 2002.

2001-1998

"Jihad vs. Terrorism?" Jang Forum, Karachi, Pakistan, December 20-21, 2001.
"Globalization and Religion," discussant, International Studies Association, Chicago, February 24, 2001.
"Muslim Women and Sexual Oppression: Reading Liberation from the Qur'an," Macalester College Roundtable, Minnesota, October, 2000.
"Reading Scriptures, Constructing Meaning." Transylvania University, Kentucky, April, 2000.
"The Qur'an and Hermeneutics: Reading the Qur'an's Opposition to Patriarchy," Conference on Qur'an and Hermeneutics, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, October, 1999.
"The Qur'an and Women's Rights," Ithaca College, Discussion Series on Islam, 1999.
"Texts, Sex, and States: A Critique of North African Discourse on Islam," Conference on Contemporary North Africa, SUNY, Binghamton, April 3-5, 1998.

Selected Public Talks/ Presentations: U.S.

Introductory comments, "From Faith to Action: Transforming the Beijing Platform into Action," Republic of Indonesia, UN, New York, March 17, 2025.

Selected Public Talks/ Presentations: U.S.

"Islamic Feminism and Muslim Women," Lecture at the invitation of the Student Government Association, St. Olaf College, October 19, 2017.
"Muslim Women's Rights in the Shariah and Qur'an," Hobart and William Smith Colleges, April 24, 2013.
"Challenging Male Privileging Interpretations of the Qur'an." Wellesley College, March 14, 2012.
"A Balloon for Allah," commentary on documentary by Nefise Ozkal Lorentzen. Unspoken Film Festival, Utica, New York, October 14, 2011.
"Culture under Siege in Pakistan," panelist, Community Forum, on Caravanserai project. State University of New York, Oswego (held at Syracuse), New York, October 10, 2011.
"Women, Politics, and Islam." Wesleyan University, December 3, 2010.
"Hearing the Word, as a Muslim: Thirteen passages of the Qur'an and Religious Diversity," Vespers Service, Sage Chapel. Cornell, November 4, 2007.
"The Qur'an and Gender: Sexuality and Women's Status in Islam," St. Bartholomew's Church. New York City, April 24-25, 2006.
"Women and the Word," Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Los Angeles, November, 2005.
"Reading and Interpreting the Qur'an," and "Family and Marriage in Islam," Los Angeles Latino Muslim Association. California, April 16, 2005.
"Mainstreaming Extremism," Plenary Address, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Fourth Annual Convention. Long Beach, California, Dec. 18, 2004.
"Towards a Theory of Gender Democracy in Muslim Societies," Fifth Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy. Washington, D.C., May 29, 2004.
"Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an," Independent Muslim Women's Alliance. Detroit, Michigan, October 11, 2003.
"Muslims in the U.S." Strategic Research Forum, San Francisco, CA, May 24, 2003.
"Religion and our Response to Violence." Cornell, February 13, 2003.
"9/11, the Academy, and Renewal." Ithaca College, September 12, 2002.
"Re-contextualizing Martin Luther King, Jr." Ithaca College, January 21, 2002. "On Interpretation and Exceptionalism." Ithaca College, October 29, 2001.
"Why do They Hate Us? A Response to George W. Bush." Ithaca, September, 23, 2001.
"American Foreign Policy Towards the Muslim World," Concerned Citizens for Peace and Understanding. Elmira, October 17, 2000.
"Sex/Gender and Patriarchy in the Qur'an: Retheorizing Muslim Women's Rights," South Asia Seminar Series. Cornell University, 1999.
"Women and Muslim Law," Keynote, Women and the Law Conference, South Asian American Women's Association. Corning, NY, 1998.

Selected Public Talks/ Presentations: International

"Qur'anic Interpretation and Women," Conference, "Women Forced to be Shadows," Istanbul, Turkey, May 12, 2024.

Selected Public Talks/ Presentations: International

"Pakistan: Protest, Solidarity, Democracy," panel hosted by the South Asian Centre, London School of Economics, February 24, 2022. Via Zoom.
"Islamophobia: The Long History of a Violent Past," Noor Cultural Center, Toronto, Canada, June 17, 2021. Via Zoom.
Believing Women in Islam, revised edition, book launch, Council for Arab British Understanding, London, U.K., July 3, 2019.
Workshop on Qur'anic exegesis, New Horizons in British Islam, London, U.K., July 2, 2019.
"Women and Islam," public interview with Viviana Mazza, Corriere della Sera, Milan, Italy, October 1, 2015.
"Why is it so Hard to Speak about Islam?" NYI-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture, Russia, July 24, 2014.
"Challenging Violence against Women and Girls: An Islamic perspective," Canadian Council of Muslim Women Awards Bruch, Toronto, Canada, October 6, 2013.
"Finding our Voices as Muslim Women," celebration of Islamic History Month, Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization. Canada, October 30, 2010.
"Islam and Religious Diversity: towards pluralism and recognition," Keynote, Festival of Friendship, Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization. Canada, April 25, 2010.
"Reflections on "Globalizing Feminism," Al-Nisa, Dutch Muslim Women's Organization. Utrecht, the Netherlands, October 28, 2009.
"Re-understanding Islam: A double critique," Islamic Community of Lisbon; with the President of Portugal Cavaco Silva attending. Portugal, June 22, 2008.
"Muslims in the West," debate with Tariq Ramadan. Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, June 13, 2008.
"Believing Women" in Islam, interview/discussion, Dutch Muslim Broadcasting Network (NMO). Hilversum, the Netherlands, June 25, 2006.
"One Father, Three Dysfunctional Families: On the 'Problematic' Aspects of Monotheism," Snowstar Institute. Toronto, Canada, June 4, 2006.
"Istanbul II: Empowering Women in Public Life in Middle East and North Africa," conference. Istanbul, Turkey, February 6-7, 2006.
Lecture Series on Islam, Visiting Fellow, Center for Islam and Pluralism. Jakarta, Indonesia, June-July, 2005.
"Tradition and Modern Life: the Changing Role of Women," via digital video. US Embassy, New Delhi, India, August 13, 2002.

College Service and Committees

Coordinator, Associate to Professor Initiative (H&S Dean's Office and Center for Faculty Excellence; Spring 2018; Spring 2019).
Member, President's Advisory Committee on Diversity, PAC-D (2007-2010)
Chair, Discussion Series Committee, CSCRE (2006-2015).
Chair, Tenure and Promotion Committees of CSCRE Faculty (2006-2015).
Chair, Steering Committee for B.A. in International Studies Major (2000-2006).
Chair, Steering Committee for the establishment of CSCRE (1999-2000).

College Service and Committees

Chair, H&S Dean's Committee on Ethnic Studies(1998-1999).
Faculty Advisor, African-Latino Society (2001-2002); Asia Society (1994-2002); and Muslim Students Association (1999-2000; 2002).

Professional Memberships

Academic Advisory Board, *Religion and Gender*, the Netherlands (2011-2026).
American Association of Higher Education (AAHE).
American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS).
American Political Science Association (APSA).
Association of Middle Eastern Women's Studies (AMEWS).
Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS).
Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, Board of Directors (2003-06).
Editorial Board, *Journal of Middle Eastern and North African Intellectual and Cultural Studies.* Binghamton University, New York.
Editorial Board, *Millah: Journal of Religion Studies*, Islamic University of Indonesia.
International Voluntary Services, Board of Directors (IVS) (1993-98).