

EDITH A. SZANTO

Curriculum Vitae

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Manly Hall 209
(205) 348-5310

EDUCATION

- 2006 – 12 **PhD**, Religious Studies, University of Toronto
Dissertation title: “Following Sayyida Zaynab: Twelver Shi‘ism in Contemporary Syria”
Dissertation adviser: Amira Mittermaier
Comprehensive exam areas: Anthropology of Islam and Twelver Shi‘ism
- 2004 – 05 Visiting Student, University of Damascus, Jami‘a Abu Nūr and AMIDEAST
- 2002 – 04 **MA**, Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin
Thesis title: “Women’s Religious Groups in Cairo”
Thesis advisor: Kamran Aghaie
- 2002 Semester Abroad, American University in Cairo, Egypt
- 1999 – 02 **BA**, Summa cum Laude, Religious Studies, Arizona State University

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019 – present Assistant Professor, University of Alabama
- 2019 Associate Professor, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
- 2012 – 18 Assistant Professor, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
- 2011 – 12 Lecturer, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
- 2009 – 11 Instructor, University of Toronto

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- In progress “Transgressive Traditions: Violence, Healing, and Magic in Twelver Shi‘ism.”

Journal Articles

- 2018 “Mourning Halabja on Screen: Or Reading Kurdish Politics Through Anfal Films,” *Review of Middle East Studies* 51 (1): 135-146.
- 2018 “‘Zoroaster was a Kurd!’: Neo-Zoroastrianism among Iraqi Kurds,” *Iran and the Caucasus* 22 (1): 96-110.
This article was translated into Kurmanji Kurdish and published by Fahriye Adsay for the Kurdish online journal, *Zarema*.
- 2018 “Challenging Transnational Shi‘i Authority in Ba‘th Syria,” *British Journal of Middle East Studies* 45 (1): 95-110.

- 2016 “Depicting Victims, Heroines, and Pawns in the Syrian Uprising,” *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies* 12 (3): 306-322.
- 2013 “Beyond the Karbala Paradigm: Rethinking Revolution and Redemption in Twelver Shi‘a Mourning Rituals,” *Journal of Shi‘a Islamic Studies* 6 (1): 75-91.
- 2012 “Illustrating an Islamic Childhood in Syria: Pious Subjects and Religious Authority in Twelver Shi‘i Children’s Books,” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 32 (2): 361-373.
- 2012 “Sayyida Zaynab in the State of Exception: Shi‘i Sainthood as ‘Qualified Life’ in Contemporary Syria,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 44 (2): 285-299.
- 2009 “Pedagogies of Piety: Shi‘i Children’s Books, Ethics and the Emergence of the Pious Subject,” *Symposia: The Graduate Student Journal of the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto* 1 (1): 62-78.
- 2008 “Inter-Religious Dialogue in Syria: Politics, Ethics and Miscommunication,” *Political Theology* 9 (1): 93-113.

Chapters in Edited Books

- Forthcoming “Battered Love in Contemporary Syria: Shi‘i Spiritual Healing with Abu Ahmad,” in *Migration, Jinn, and Muslim Bodies*, edited by Annabelle Boettcher and Birgit Krawietz (London: Palgrave Macmillan).
- Forthcoming “The Widows of Karbala: On Studying Women in Contemporary Shi‘ism,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Islam and Gender*, edited Justine Howe (New York: Routledge).
- Forthcoming “Iraqi Necropolitics: Sovereignty, Violence, and the Question of Agency,” in *State of Exception in the Middle East*, edited by Simon Mabon and Sana Alsarghali (London: Routledge).
- Forthcoming “On the Trail of Tears: Hospitality, Community, and Sacred Space in Contemporary Iraqi Arba’in Practices,” in *Lamenting Karbala: Commemoration, Mourning, and Memory*, edited by Christian Funke (Leiden: Brill).
- Forthcoming “Shi‘a Islam,” in *Handbook of Contemporary Islam and Muslim Lives*, edited by Gabriele Marranci (New York: Springer).
- In progress “Kurdish Islam,” in *Handbook of Contemporary Islam and Muslim Lives*, edited by Mark Woodward (New York: Springer).
- 2019 “The ‘Alimahs of Sayyida Zaynab: Female Shi‘i Authority in a Syrian Sanctuary,” in *Female Religious Authority in Shi‘i Islam: A Comparative History*, edited by Mirjam Künkler and Devin Steward (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press), 307-322.
- 2019 “Economies of Piety at the Syrian Shrine of Sayyida Zaynab,” in *Muslim Pilgrimage*, edited by Babak Rahimi and Peyman Eshaghi (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press), 172-182.
- 2013 “Contesting Fragile Sainly Traditions: Miraculous Healing among Twelver Shi‘is in Contemporary Syria,” in *Politics of Worship in the Contemporary Middle East: Sainthood in Fragile States*, edited by Andreas Bandak and Mikkel Bille (Leiden: Brill), 33-52.

Book Reviews

- Forthcoming Review of Diane D'Souza, "Partners of Zaynab: A Gendered Perspective of Shia Muslim Faith," *Comparative Islamic Studies*.
- 2015 Review of Abbas Kadhim, "Reclaiming Iraq: The 1920 Revolution and the Foundation of the Modern State," *Arab Studies Journal* 23 no. 1 (2015): 368-372.
- 2015 Review of Faedah Totah, "Preserving the Old City of Damascus," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 47 no. 3 (2015): 632-634.
- 2014 Review of Thomas Pierret, "Religion and State in Syria: The Sunni Ulama from Coup to Revolution," *Politics and Religion* 7 (2): 1-3.
- 2013 Review of Sally K. Gallagher, "Making Do in Damascus: Navigating a Generation of Change in Family and Work," *The Middle East Journal* 67 (2): 323-324.
- 2012 Review of Liyakat Takim, "Shi'ism in America," *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 41 (2): 327-329.
- 2011 Review of Ingvild Flakerud, "Visualizing Belief and Piety in Iranian Shi'ism," *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 28 (4): 136-139.
- 2010 Review of Diane King, ed., "Middle Eastern Belongings," *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* 27 (3): 121-123.

Film Reviews

- 2017 *Film review of Julia Meltzer and Mustafa Rony Zeno, "Dalya's Other Country," Anthropology Review Database* (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/ARD/cgi/showme.cgi?keycode=7008>).
- 2013 *Film review of Julia Meltzer and Laura Nix, "Light in Her Eyes," Anthropology Review Database* (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/ARD/cgi/showme.cgi?keycode=5263>).

Academic News Articles and Field Reports

- 2014 "Sex and the Cemetery: Iranian Pilgrims, Shrine Visitation, and Consumer Piety in Damascus," *Syrian Studies Association Bulletin* 19 (2): 1-5. This article was translated into Arabic and published by the World Institute, Istanbul.
- 2012 "'Syria Love': Watching Syrian Propaganda in Iraq," *Syrian Studies Association Bulletin* 17 (2): 19-21. This article was translated into Arabic and published by the World Institute, Istanbul.
- 2008 "A Scholar of Popular Contemporary Islam on the Quest for 'Truth' in Damascus," *Syrian Studies Association Bulletin* 13 (2): 8-9, 15.
- 2008 "Performance, Power and the Possibility for Change: Shi'i Muharram Practices and the 1979 Iranian Revolution," *Centre for the Study of Religion Graduate Student Journal* 1: 42-48.
- 2007 "Muharram in and around Sayyeda Zaynab," *Syrian Studies Association Bulletin* 13 (1): 4-5.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2018	AUIS Faculty Research Award
2014	AUIS Scholar (course load reduction and research funding)
2011 – 13	Faculty Development Grant, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
2008 – 10	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, University of Toronto
2009	School of Graduate Studies Travel Grant, University of Toronto
2008	Harcourt Brown Fellowship, University of Toronto
2007 – 08	Less Commonly Taught Languages Study Elsewhere Award, University of Toronto
2004 – 05	US Fulbright Fellow, Syria
2003 – 04	Burton Continuing Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2003 – 04	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Arabic, University of Texas at Austin
2000 – 02	Dean’s Honor Roll, Arizona State University
1999 – 00	Freshman Achievement Scholarship, Arizona State University

INVITED TALKS

2018	“The Widows of Karbala: Studying Women in Contemporary Shi‘ism,” presented at <i>LUCIS Annual Conference 2018: Approaching Shi‘i Islam in the Academy</i> , held at Leiden University, the Netherlands.
2018	“Iraqi Necropolitics,” a paper presented as part of a speaker series at the Department of Religious Studies at St. Mary’s University in Halifax, Canada.
2017	“Iraqi Necropolitics: Sovereignty, War Machines, and the Question of Agency,” a paper presented at <i>The Middle East in Danger: The State Of Exception</i> , a workshop held at Lancaster University.
2017	“Hiding the Truth in Plain Sight: Spiritual Healing and Jinn in Contemporary Syria,” a paper presented at <i>The Islamic Multiverse</i> , a conference held at New York University Abu Dhabi.
2017	“Mourning Halabja – or the Kurdish Holocaust Industry,” a paper presented at <i>History and Society on TV in the Middle East</i> , a conference held at the University of Maryland.
2016	“When Kurds doubt Islam,” a paper presented at <i>Doubt and Certitude in Islam</i> , an international research seminar held at Aarhus University, Denmark.
2016	“The Widows of Karbala,” a paper presented at the <i>Mainstream Muharram: Exploring Political, Religious, and Cultural Expressions of Shi‘a Islam</i> series at the University of Houston.
2016	“On the Trail of Tears: Pious Bodies, Affective Economies, and Sacred Space in Contemporary Iraqi Arba’īn Practices,” a paper presented at <i>Lamenting Karbala</i> , a conference held at the Warburg Institute by the Shi‘ah Institute.
2016	“Victims, Hero(in)es, and Pawns: Imagining the Syrian Uprising,” a paper presented as part of a lecture series entitled <i>The Crisis In Syria: Past, Present, and Future</i> held at NYU Abu Dhabi and sponsored by the Arab Crossroads Program.

- 2016 “The Never Ending Tragedy: Appropriations of Karbala Among Iraqi Shi‘is in Prerevolutionary Syria,” a paper presented at *Reimagining Muslim Pasts*, a workshop held at Sabanci University in Istanbul and sponsored by the Aga Khan University.
- 2015 “From Faith to Family: Religion and Tribes in Modern Kurdistan,” paper presented at *The Middle East and its Tribes: A useful resource or a troubling legacy?*, a workshop held at the Institut français du Proche-Orient in Erbil.
- 2015 “The Kurdish View of Shi‘i Politics in Iraq,” paper presented at *Shi‘i Political Theology and Mobilisation in Contemporary Iraq*, a workshop held at the University of Exeter.
- 2015 “Provincializing Shi‘ism in Modern Syria,” paper presented at *Arab Shi‘ism vs. Wilayat al-Faqih*, a workshop held at Oxford University.
- 2014 “Challenging Transnational Shi‘i Authority in Ba‘th Syria,” paper presented at *Center and Periphery in the Muslim World: De-Centering Traditional Religious Authority*, a workshop held at the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies.
- 2012 “Affecting ‘Ashura: Rethinking Revolution and Redemption in Contemporary Syrian Twelver Shi‘i Mourning Rituals,” paper presented at *The Shrines of the Ahl al-Bayt Conference*, NYU Abu Dhabi.
- 2011 “Mourning Hussayn in Contemporary Syria,” paper presented at the Max Planck Institut für Bildungsforschung in Berlin.
- 2005 “Material Culture around Damascene Mosques,” paper presented at the CEMAT Fulbright Conference, Tunisia.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Marriages in/as Safe Havens for Syrian Refugees: Muslim Marital Practices in Refugee Camps in Iraqi Kurdistan,” paper presented with Yalda Razmahang at “Different Worlds? Ethnography, Religion and Traveling Critique Between Europe and the MENA,” a workshop hosted by the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo.
- 2018 “Zoroaster was a Kurd!?: Neo-Zoroastrianism in Contemporary Iraqi Kurdistan,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2017 “Peons, FOBs, and Fat Cats: Class and the Study of Contemporary Islam,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2017 “On the Path of Sorrow: Materiality in Contemporary Iraqi Arba‘in Practices,” paper presented at the Deutsche Vereinigung der Religionswissenschaft Annual Meeting.
- 2016 “Learning Islam in Kurdistan,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2016 “Patronizing Shi‘i ‘Ulama in Contemporary Syria,” a paper presented at the 23rd Annual Congress of DAVO held at the University of Tübingen.
- 2016 Panel Organizer, “Patronizing Twelver Shi‘ism: Religious Authority and Worldly Powers,” at the 23rd Annual Congress of DAVO held at the University of Tübingen.
- 2016 “The Final Tear: Pious Bodies, Affective Economies, and Sacred Space in Contemporary Iraqi Arbaeen Practices,” a paper presented at *Migration, Change and Continuity: Kinship, Religion, Politics, Visual, in Retrospect*

- and Beyond*, a conference held by the IUAES Commission of Anthropology of the Middle East at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.
- 2016 “Zoroaster was a Kurd!?”: On the Rise of Neo-Zoroastrianism in Contemporary Kurdistan,” paper presented at *Conflict and Living Heritage in the Middle East: Researching the Politics of Cultural Heritage and Identities in Times of War and Displacement*, a conference held at AUIS and sponsored by the Institut Français du Proche-Orient in Erbil.
- 2016 “Learning Piety in Sayyida Zaynab: Women’s Hawza Education in Syria,” a paper presented at *The Acquisition and Transmission of Knowledge: The Role of Shi‘i Institutions of Learning in the Spread and Defense of a Tradition*, a conference held at the University of Chicago.
- 2015 “Beyond Victims and Heroines: Gender, Religion, and the Syrian Conflict,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2015 “Depicting Gender in the Syrian Conflict,” paper presented at *Syria: Moving Beyond the Stalemate*, a conference held at St Andrews University.
- 2014 “Contesting Charismatic Authority: Qadiri Sufism in Iraqi Kurdistan,” paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting.
- 2014 “Women and the Anthropology of Islam: The State of the Field,” round table discussion at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2014 “The End of Mourning: Pious Bodies, Affective Economies, and Sacred Space in Contemporary Iraqi Arbaeen Practices,” paper presented at the Fourth World Congress for Middle East Studies.
- 2014 “Sex and the Cemetery: Iranian Pilgrims, Shrine Visitation, and Consumer Piety in Damascus,” paper presented at the Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference.
- 2014 “Being an ‘Ālima in Sayyida Zaynab: Female Shi‘i Religious Authority in a Syrian Seminary,” paper presented at *Of ‘Ālimahs, Muhaddithahs, and Mujtahidahs: The Past and Present of Female Religious Authority in Shi‘i Islam*, a workshop held at Princeton University.
- 2013 “Qadiri Sufism in Kurdistan: Ritual Transgressions and Gendered Norms,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2013 “Economies of Piety,” paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting.
- 2013 “Challenging Transnational Shi‘i Authority in Ba‘th Syria,” paper presented at *De-Centering Shi‘ism*, a workshop held at Princeton University.
- 2013 “Preaching Piety in Sulaimani,” paper presented at *Kurdistan – Between Past and Future*, a conference sponsored by Soran University and Lund University.
- 2012 “Discourses on Barbarism in the Contemporary Middle East,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2012 “Preaching Piety in Sulaimani,” poster presentation at 2nd World Kurdish Scientific Congress.
- 2011 “‘That Which Your Right Hands Possess’: Liberation, Otherness, and Religion in a Syrian Soap Opera,” paper presented (in absentia) at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting.
- 2011 “Healing Shi‘i Bodies: Cupping, Flagellation and Sainly Intercession in Contemporary Syria,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.

- 2011 “Beyond the Karbala Paradigm: Affect in Syrian Twelver Shi‘i Mourning Rituals,” paper presented at the Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago.
- 2010 “Heterodoxy on the Periphery: Magic and Twelver Shi‘ism in Contemporary Syria,” paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting.
- 2010 “Beyond Carnival and Spectacle: Contemporary Twelver Shi‘i Muharram Rituals in Syria,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2010 “Sayyida Zaynab: A Saint and Her Followers in States of Exception,” paper presented at *Sainthood in Fragile States*, a conference sponsored by the Danish Institute of Damascus and the University of Copenhagen.
- 2008 “Pious Sensations in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction: Basim al-Karbala’i and Mourning Rituals among Twelver Shi‘is,” paper present at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2008 “Self-Flagellation and the Cultivation of Piety: Tradition, Connection and Ethics,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Eastern International Regional Meeting.
- 2007 “Shi‘i Children’s Books: The Formation of Twelver Shi‘i Identity, Community and Practice,” paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting.
- 2007 “Performance, Power and the Possibilities of Change in Islamic Practice,” paper presented at *Evolution Devolution Revolution*, the Graduate Symposium of the Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto.
- 2006 “Muslim/Christian Dialogue in Syria,” paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting.
- 2005 “Fulla: An Arab Muslim Doll for Arab Muslim Girls,” paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting.
- 2004 “Sacred Space and Privacy: Sufi Orders and Questions of Control,” paper presented at the American Research Center for Egypt Annual Conference.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2013 “Sectarianism and the Syrian Uprising,” paper presented at the Sulaimani Forum, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani.
- 2012 “Material Piety in Syria and Iraq,” paper presented at the Second Annual AUIS Conference on the Middle East, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani.
- 2012 “Rethinking Revolution and Redemption in Contemporary Syrian Twelver Shi‘i Mourning Rituals,” Brown Bag Lecture, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani.
- 2012 “Iraq,” participated in a thematic conversation on CIUT, the University of Toronto radio station.
- 2012 “History of Tattooing in the Middle East,” guest lecture, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani.
- 2011 “Religion and Refugees,” participated in a thematic conversation on CIUT, the University of Toronto radio station.
- 2011 “El-Tawhid Juma Circle,” participated in a thematic conversation on CIUT, the University of Toronto radio station.

- 2011 “Following Sayyida Zaynab: Shi‘i Female Sainthood, Contested Authority and Possibilities for Healing in States of Exception,” paper presented at the JHI Islamic Studies Workshop, University of Toronto.
- 2010 “Carnivalizing Piety: ‘Ashura in Sayyida Zaynab,” paper presented as part of the Centre and Department for the Study of Religion’s *Colloquia* series.
- 2007 “Women in Islam,” guest lecture, University of Toronto Mississauga.
- 2004 “Women’s Religious Groups in Cairo,” paper presented at the Graduate Student Symposium, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas at Austin.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

At the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

- REL 202 “Comparative World Religions”
- HST 321 “Islamic Religious Traditions”
- HST 421 “Religion in Iraq”
- REL 422 “Gender in Islam”
- POL 400 “Independent Study: The History of Islamic Political Thought” (one section)
- BUS 401 “Business Ethics”
- CIV 101 “Civilization 1 – Ancient World”
- CIV 102 “Civilization 2 – Medieval World”
- CIV 203 “Civilization 3 – Humanities of the Ancient World”
- CIV 204 “Civilization 4 – Modern World”
- HST 101 “World and European History I”
- HST 202 “History of the Middle East”

At the University of Toronto

- RLG 355 “Anthropology of Islam”
- RLG 204 “Introduction to Islam”
- RLG 251 “Women in Islam”

RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

- 2014 – 17 Fieldwork on Zoroastrianism, Sulaimani, Iraq
- 2011 – 19 Fieldwork on Qadiri Sufism, Sulaimani governorate, Iraq
- 2011 – 19 Fieldwork on Shi‘ism, Sulaimani, Iraq
- 2006 – 10 Fieldwork on Shi‘ism, Sayyida Zaynab, Syria
- 2006 – 11 Research Assistant to Prof. Mohammed Fadel, University of Toronto

CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – 16 Co-Investigator, Female Genital Mutilation Baseline Survey for Heartland Alliance and UNICEF, Iraq
- 2012 Co-Principal Investigator, Social Impact Assessment Project for Western Zagros (Oil Company), Iraq (17,000 USD)

2006 UNV Human Development Advocate at UNDP Damascus
2006 Intern at UNHCR Damascus

SERVICE

To the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

2017 – 18 Chair, Faculty Handbook Committee
2016 Chair, Hiring Committee for the Social Sciences Department
2015 – 16 Faculty Adviser, German Club
2014 – 17 Chair, Curriculum Review Committee
2013 Member, Curriculum Review Committee
2013 – 14 Member, Provost Search Committee
2013 – 16 Faculty Advisor, Manga Club
2012 – 16 Organiser, Brown Bag Lecture Series
2012 – 13 Faculty Advisor, FirstStage (volunteer teachers for children from the Qalawa Refugee Camp)
2012 Organiser, the Second Annual AUIS Conference on the Middle East
2012 Member, Core Review Committee
2012 Faculty Volunteer, Film Club

To academia at large

2018 Peer Reviewer, *Review of International Studies*
2017 – present Editor, *Syrian Studies Association Bulletin*
2017 Peer Reviewer, *Ethos: Journal for the Society of Psychological Anthropology*
2016 Peer Reviewer, *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*
2015 – present Member, Class, Theology and Religion Group Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion
2015 Peer Reviewer, *Middle East Critique*
2015 Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*
2015 Peer Reviewer, *Critical Research on Religion*
2014 – 18 Field Adviser and External Doctoral Committee Member to a PhD student from Kennesaw State University working on art and identity in Kurdistan
2013 Peer Reviewer, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*
2010 – 16 Member, Contemporary Islam Group Steering Committee, American Academy of Religion
2008 – 11 Review Editor for *Symposia*, University of Toronto

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

2018 “Islamic Law: What is it?” lecture given at the Prescott Public Library in Arizona
2018 “Religious and Social Change in the Middle East,” participated in a panel organized by the Center for Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University

- 2018 “Making a Difference in Iraqi Kurdistan,” presentation at Pecha Kucha Night organized by Women4Women Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott
- 2014 “Context of IS Attack on Yazidis,” Episode 1 of the Podcast Series: Engaging the World, Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto (<https://multifaith.utoronto.ca/Engaging-the-World-Podcast.htm>)
- 2014 “Displacement and Suffering: From Anfal to ISIS,” organized and participated in a public panel held at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
- 2012 “Iraq,” participated in a thematic conversation on CIUT, the University of Toronto’s radio station
- 2011 “Religion and Refugees,” participated in a thematic conversation on CIUT, the University of Toronto’s radio station
- 2011 “El-Tawhid Juma Circle,” participated in a thematic conversation on CIUT, the University of Toronto’s radio station
- 2002 – 04 Individually led outreach events by visiting Middle Schools and High Schools in Austin, TX as part of the K-12 Outreach Program, University of Texas at Austin

LANGUAGES

Native speaker of English, German, and Hungarian
 Fluent in reading, writing and speaking in Arabic (Modern Standard Arabic, Syrian and Iraqi dialects)
 Advanced reading ability in French and Spanish
 Basic knowledge of Hindi, Farsi, and Sorani Kurdish

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
 Shi‘ah Institute
 Association for Middle East Women’s Studies
 Association for Iranian Studies
 Middle East Studies Association
 Syrian Studies Association
 The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq

REFERENCES

Prof. Elizabeth Campbell, former Chair of the Social Science Department, American University of Iraq, Sulaimani, ecampbell@daemen.edu

Prof. Amira Mittermaier, Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, amira.mittermaier@utoronto.ca

Prof. Walid Saleh, Associate Professor at the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, walid.saleh@utoronto.ca

Prof. Karen Ruffle, Assistant Professor at the Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, karen.ruffle@utoronto.ca

Prof. Juan Cole, Professor at the Department of History and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, jrcole@umich.edu