

KECIA ALI

Boston University Department of Religion, 145 Bay State Rd., Boston, MA 02215

www.keciaali.com

ka@bu.edu

Ph.D. (2002) and M.A. (2000), Religion, Duke University

A.B., History, with distinction; Honors, Feminist Studies, Stanford University (1993)

EMPLOYMENT

2017-present	<i>Professor of Religion</i> , Boston University
2011-2017	<i>Associate Professor of Religion</i> , Boston University
2006-2011	<i>Assistant Professor of Religion</i> , Boston University
2004-2006	<i>Mellon/ Kay Fellow in Islamic Studies and Women's Studies</i> , Brandeis University
2003-2004	<i>Research Associate and Visiting Lecturer</i> , WSRP, Harvard Divinity School
2001-2003	<i>Senior Research Analyst</i> , Feminist Sexual Ethics Project, Brandeis University

BOOKS

Human in Death: Morality and Mortality in J.D. Robb's Novels. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2017.

Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur'an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence.

Expanded and revised edition, London: Oneworld, 2016.

Original edition, Oxford: Oneworld, 2006.

The Lives of Muhammad. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014.

Imam Shafi'i: Scholar and Saint. (Makers of Muslim History) Oxford: Oneworld, 2011.

Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010.

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

The Woman Question in Islamic Studies Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (under contract, in progress).

Women in Muslim Traditions. New York: New York University Press (under revision for resubmission).

CO-AUTHORED BOOKS

Islam: The Key Concepts. Kecia Ali and Oliver Leaman. London: Routledge, 2008.

Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Maryssa Navarro and Virginia Sanchez Korrol with Kecia Ali. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1999.

CO-EDITED BOOKS

A Guide for Women in Religion: Making Your Way from A-Z. Revised edition. Mary E. Hunt, Kecia Ali, and Monique Moultrie, eds. New York: Palgrave, 2014.

A Jihad for Justice: Honoring the Life and Work of Amina Wadud. Kecia Ali, Julianne Hammer, and Laury Silvers, eds. [Open access e-book](#), 2012.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Sacrifices, Sidekicks, and Scapegoats: Black Characters and White Stories in Nora Roberts’s Romances.” *Journal of Asia-Pacific Pop Culture*, 4:2, 2019, pp. 149-168.

“Destabilizing Gender, Reproducing Maternity: Mary in the Qur’an.” *Journal of the International Qur’anic Studies Association*, 2, 2017 [2019], pp. 89-109.

“Troubleshooting Post-9/11 America: Religion, Race, and Stereotypes in Suzanne Brockmann’s *Into the Night* and *Gone Too Far*.” *Journal of Popular Romance Studies*, 6, 2017 ([Online](#)) ([PDF](#)).

“Redeeming Slavery: The ‘Islamic State’ and the Quest for Islamic Morality.” *Mizan: Journal for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations*, 1:1, September 2016 ([Online](#)) ([PDF](#)).

“Muslims and Meat-Eating: Vegetarianism, Gender, and Identity.” *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 43:2, June 2015, pp. 267-87.

“The Disobedient Prophet in Muslim Thought: Exploring History and Ethics.” Introduction to Special Focus Issue on Hadith and Muslim Ethics, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 39:3, September 2011, pp. 391-98.

“‘The best of you will not strike’: Al-Shafi‘i on Qur’an, *Sunnah*, and Wife-Beating.” *Journal of Comparative Islamic Studies*, 2:2, 2006 [2008], pp. 143-55.

“‘A Beautiful Example’: The Prophet Muḥammad as a Model for Muslim Husbands.” *Islamic Studies*, 43:2, Summer 2004, pp. 273-91. Reprinted in Andreas Goerke, ed., *Muhammad: Critical Concepts in Religious Studies* (London: Routledge, 2015), vol. 4.

INVITED CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES

“Transgressing All Bounds: Gendering Authority and Engendering Orthodoxy.” In Christian Moe, Muhammad Khalid Masud, Kari Vogt, and Lena Larsen, eds., *Freedom of Expression in Islam: Challenging Apostasy and Blasphemy Laws*. London: I. B. Tauris, forthcoming.

“The Making of the ‘Lady Imam’: An Interview with amina wadud.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 35:1, 2019, pp. 67-79. ([Online](#))

“Muslims Are People; Islam Is Complicated.” In Courtney Dorroll, ed., *Teaching about Islam in the Age of ISIS, Islamophobia, and the Internet*. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2019, pp. 161-172.

“Muslim Feminism, Islamic Law, and the Quest for Gender Justice.” In *If this be Madness: An Anthology to Honour the Life and Courage of Shamima Shaikh*. Vanessa Rivera de la Fuente and Na’eem Jennah, eds. E-book. 2019, pp. 43-58.

“Consent and Concubinage.” Roundtable: Locating Slavery in Middle Eastern and Islamic History. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 49, 2017, pp. 148-52. ([Online](#)) ([PDF](#))

- “On Critique and Careful Reading.” Roundtable: Feminism and Islam. *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 32:2, Fall 2016, pp. 121-26.
- “Muhammad and Khadija.” *Critical Muslim* 14, April 2015, pp. 53-63.
- “The Omnipresent Male Scholar.” *Critical Muslim* 8, September 2013, pp. 61-73.
- “Just Say Yes: Law, Consent, and Muslim Feminist Ethics.” In *A Jihad for Justice: Honoring the Life and Work of Amina Wadud*. Kecia Ali, Juliane Hammer, and Laury Silvers, eds. [E-book](#). 2012, pp. 121-34
- “Slavery and Sexual Ethics in Islam.” In *Beyond Slavery: Overcoming its Religious and Sexual Legacies*. Bernadette Brooten, ed., New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010, pp. 121-37.
- “Ideals, Realities, and Islam: Thoughts on the AIDS Pandemic.” In Farid Esack and Sarah Chiddy, eds., *HIV, AIDS & Islam – Between Scorn, Pity, and Justice*, Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2009, pp. 238-45.
- “Timeless Texts and Modern Morals: Challenges in Islamic Sexual Ethics.” In Kari Voight et. al, eds., *New Directions in Islamic Thought: Exploring Reform and Muslim Tradition*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2009, pp. 89-99. Reprinted in Roberta Sabbath, ed., *Sacred Tropes: Tanakh, New Testament, and Qur'an as Literature and Culture*. Leiden: Brill, 2009.
- “Marriage in Classical Islamic Jurisprudence: A Survey of Doctrines,” in Frank Vogel and Asifa Quraishi, eds., *The Islamic Marriage Contract*, Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press, 2009, pp. 11-45.
- “Progressive Muslim Sexual Ethics: Reflections on Academia and Activism” in Sue Sanders, ed., *Portraits of Women in Islam: Comparative Perspectives and Challenges* Conference Proceedings. Chicago: Saint Xavier University, 2009. (Also published separately under ISBN 978-0-9820446-0-5)
- “Marriage, Family, and Sexual Ethics,” in Andrew Rippin, ed., *The Islamic World*, London: Routledge, 2008, pp. 613-27.
- “Burqas and Bikinis: Islamic Dress in Newspaper Cartoons,” in Jennifer Heath, ed., *Veil: Women Writers on the History, Lore, and Politics of Head Covering*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008, pp. 281-9.
- “Progressive Muslims and Islamic Jurisprudence: The Necessity for Critical Engagement with Marriage and Divorce Law,” in Omid Safi, ed., *Progressive Muslims: On Justice, Gender, and Pluralism*, Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2003, pp. 163-89.

WORKING PAPERS

- “The Historiography of Women in Modern Latin America: An Overview and Bibliography of the Recent Literature.” Duke—UNC Chapel Hill Latin American Studies Consortium Working Paper Series. 1995.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- “Slavery.” *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, 2nd edition. Richard Martin, ed., Cengage, pp. 1063-64.
- “Slavery.” Revision. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women*. Natana DeLong-Bas, ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2013, vol. 2, pp. 249-50.
- “Love in Islamic Feminist Thought.” Yudit Greenberg, ed. *Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions*, ABC-CLIO, 2007, vol. 2, pp. 207-8.

“Codes of Law and Laws: Islamic Law” and “Khadijah.” Bonnie G. Smith, ed., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007, vol. 3, pp. 433-5 and 17-18.

“Marriage,” “Ummahat al-mu’minin (Mothers of the Believers),” “Lot’s Wife,” “‘Asiyya (Pharaoh’s wife),” “Moses’ mother and sister,” “Abraham’s wife,” “Mary’s mother,” “Polygamy,” “Polygyny,” and “Zulaykha.” Oliver Leaman, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Qur’an*, London and New York: Routledge, 2005, various.

“Obedience and Disobedience in Islamic Discourses.” Suad Joseph, ed., *Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Cultures*, Leiden: Brill, 2007, vol. 5, pp. 309-13.

BOOK REVIEWS

Concubines and Courtesans: Women and Slavery in Islamic History edited by Matthew S. Gordon and Kathryn Hain, *Al-‘Uṣūr al-Wuṣṭā* 26, 2018, pp. 252-257. ([Online](#)) ([PDF](#))

Race in Popular Fantasy Literature: Habits of Whiteness by Helen Young, *Journal of Popular Romance Studies* 7, 2018, pp. 1-4. ([Online](#)) ([PDF](#))

Shari’a in the Modern World: Muslim Minorities Jurisprudence by Iyad Zahalka, *Religious Studies Review*, 43:4, December 2017, p. 418.

Separate and Dominate: Feminism and Racism after the War on Terror by Christine Delphy, *SCITW Review*, February 11, 2016, pp. 1-3. ([PDF](#))

The Logic of Law Making in Islam by Behnam Sadeghi, *Islamic Law and Society*, November 2015, pp. 437-441.

A Companion to Muslim Ethics. Ed. Aryn Sajoo. *Journal of Church and State*, 55:3 (2013), pp. 1-3. ([PDF](#))

Women in Classical Islamic Law: A Survey of the Sources by Susan A. Spector, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 132:2 (2012), pp. 338-9.

Muslim Marriage in Western Courts: Lost in Transplantation by Pascale Fournier, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 33:2 (2012), pp. 249-50.

‘Off the Straight Path’: Illicit Sex, Law, and Community in Ottoman Aleppo by Elyse Semerdjian, *Oxford Journal of Islamic Studies* (2011), pp. 84-7.

Early Islamic Legal Theory: The Risāla of Muḥammad ibn Idrīs al-Shāfi‘ī by Joseph E. Lowry, *Review of Middle East Studies*, 44.2 (Winter 2010), pp. 247-49.

Women, Gender, and Family in Islamic Law by Judith Tucker, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 130:1 (2010), pp. 130-2.

Structural Interrelations of Theory and Practice in Islamic Law by Ahmad Atif Ahmad. *Journal of Law and Religion*, 25:1 (2009-10). ([PDF](#))

Authority, Conflict, and the Transmission of Diversity in Medieval Islamic Law by Kevin Jaques. *Journal of Law and Religion*, 24:1 (2008). ([PDF](#))

Islamic Family Law in the Contemporary World: A Global Resource Book, by Abdullahi A. An-Na'im. *Middle East Women's Studies Review*, 18:3-4 (Fall 2003/Winter 2004), p. 22.

Power, Marginality, and the Body in Medieval Islam, by Fedwa Malti-Douglas. *MESA Bulletin*, Winter 2003, 37:2, pp. 257-59.

Women in Muslim Family Law, rev. ed., by John Esposito with Natana J. DeLong-Bas. *Islamic Studies*, Autumn 2003, 42:3, pp. 530-5.

SHORT ARTICLES AND ESSAYS (SELECTED)

“No Manthology is an Island.” *Feminist Studies in Religion @ The Table*, June 4, 2019. ([Online](#))

“The Politics of Citation.” *Gender Avenger*, May 31, 2019. ([Online](#))

“Romance Fiction in the Archives.” *Journal of Popular Romance Studies* 7, 2018, pp. 1-7. ([Online](#)) ([PDF](#))

Foreword to Joseph Lowry, translator, *Al-Shāfiʿi’s Epistle*. New York: Library of Arabic Literature/New York University Press, 2015, pp. xi-xiv.

“Failure to Thrive: Graduate Advising in Tough Times.” *Religious Studies News*. March 2012. ([Online](#))

“Belief-O-Matic and Me.” In *My Neighbor’s Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth and Transformation*, ed. Jennifer Peace, Or Rose, and Gregory Mobley. Maryknoll, PA: Orbis Press, 2012, pp. 83-85. ([Online](#))

“Virtue and Danger: Sexuality and Prophetic Norms in Muslim Life and Thought.” *The Journal of Inter-Religious Dialogue*. October 2009. ([PDF](#))

“Paradigms and Pragmatism in Muslim Women’s Reformist Thinking.” Woodrow Wilson Center Middle East Program Occasional Paper Series, Spring I 2009, pp. 26-7.

“Acting on a Frontier of Religious Ceremony: With Questions and Quiet Resolve, a Woman Officiates at a Muslim Wedding.” *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Fall/Winter 2004, 32:4, pp. 8-9.

“Veiled Meanings: Islamic Dress in Newspaper Comics.” *Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture*, 27, Winter 2005, pp. 11-12.

“Flogging, Stoning and Illicit Sex: A look at *hadd* punishments for adultery and fornication in Qur’an, *ahadith* and Islamic jurisprudence.” *Azīzah*, Fall 2003, 3:2, pp. 14-19.

“Sacred Stories: Mothers and Daughters?” (Kecia Ali, Elysee Goldstein, and Elaine Guillemin), *Vox Feminarum: The Canadian Journal of Feminist Spirituality*, Spring 2003, pp. 7-13.

“Rethinking Women’s Issues in Muslim Communities,” in Michael Wolfe and Beliefnet, eds., *Taking Back Islam: American Muslims Reclaim Their Faith*, Emmaus (PA): Rodale Press, 2002. Reprinted in Amy Kesselman et. al., eds., *Women: Images and Realities*, 4th ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006, pp. 295-8.

INVITED SCHOLARLY LECTURES

“Muslim Women: Unity and Diversity in a Global Tradition.” Connecticut College. February 2020.

“Muslim Women: Unity and Diversity in a Global Tradition.” LaSalle University. November 2019.

“Gender, Tradition, and Authority in American Islam.” Eleanor M. and Oscar M. Carlson Lecture; Honors Colloquium Religion in America. October 2019.

“Gender and Orientalism in Academic Islamic Studies or What We Talk About When We Talk About Lineage.” The Rosenthal Lecture. Yale University. October 2019.

“Gender and Curriculum in the Islamic Studies Classroom.” Islamic Studies Program. Harvard University. September 2019.

“Contesting Muhammad: Contemporary Controversies in Historical Perspective.” The Lester Lecture. Colorado University – Boulder. September 2018.

“Contesting Muhammad: Contemporary Controversies in Historical Perspective.” Lehigh University. March 2018.

“The Lives of Muhammad.” Wofford College. Spartanburg, SC. February 2018.

“Sex, Enslavement, and Consent in Islamic Law: Approaches, Aims, and Audiences.” Keynote lecture. Islamic Law and Sexuality Workshop. University of Exeter. January 2018.

“Muslim Scholars, Islamic Studies, and the Gendered Academy.” International Institute of Islamic Thought. Boston. November 2017.

“Sexuality, Lust, Eroticism, and God: Ethical Questions in Judaism and Islam.” With David Biale. Jewish-Islamic Dialogue Forum. Academy of the Jewish Museum. Berlin. May 2017.

“Sexual Ethics and Islam in the Twenty-First Century.” Alwaleed Centre for Islamic Studies. University of Edinburgh. March 2017. ([Video](#))

“Captivity, Concubinage, and Consent: Sex and Slavery in Early Islamic Law.” Early Islam in its Late Antique Context seminar series. Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh. March 2017.

“Contesting Muhammad.” Glasgow University and University of Aberdeen. March 2017.

“Consummation, Concubinage, and Consent in Early Islam.” Keynote lecture. Marriage, Family, Culture, and Religion in Pre-Islamic and Early Islamic Iran and the Middle East. New York University—Abu Dhabi. January 2017.

“Male Authority in Islamic Jurisprudence: An Overview of *Qiwama* and *Wilaya*.” Boston University. December 2016.

“Tradition, Traditions, Traditioning: Writing on Women and Islam.” Gates Lecture. Grinnell College. October 2015

“Contesting Muhammad: Contemporary Controversies in Historical Perspective.” Scholars’ Convocation. Grinnell College. October 2015.

“Contesting Muhammad: Contemporary Controversies in Historical Perspective.” Second Annual Gitner Family Lecture, College of Arts and Sciences. Boston University. September 2015.

“Sex and the Specter of Shari‘a.” Plenary lecture. Sharia in the Asia-Pacific: Islam, Law and Politics symposium. Victoria University of Wellington. August 2015.

“Redeeming Slavery: ISIS and the Quest for Islamic Morality.” Keynote lecture. Global Halal: The Cultural Politics of the Permissible. Michigan State University. February 2015.

“Studying Islam, Studying Ethics.” Presidential plenary address. Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics/Society of Jewish Ethics/Society of Christian Ethics Annual Conference. Chicago. January 2015.

“The Lives of Muhammad: Marriage and Modernity.” Center for the Study of World Religions. Harvard University. November 2014.

“Muslim Feminism, Islamic Law, and the Quest for Gender Justice.” Inaugural Shamima Shaikh Memorial lecture. Johannesburg. September 2014. ([PDF](#))

“Heterosexual Culture, Companionate Marriage, and *Sirat al-Nabi*.” Plenary lecture, International Conference for the Empowerment of Women. Cape Town. September 2014.

“Muhammad as Ideal Husband: Modern Biographers Re-Envision the Prophet’s Marriages.” University of Paderborn. June 2014.

“Islamic Feminist Theology: Critical and Constructive Approaches.” University of Paderborn. June 2014.

“The Lives of Muhammad: Modern Biographies of the Prophet.” New York University. April 2014.

“The Lives of Muhammad.” Arnold Lowe Lecture (Department of Religion Annual Lecture). Macalester College. March 2014.

“Untying the Knot: Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam.” Keynote lecture. Third Sharia Project Workshop. Leiden University. November 2013.

“Behind the Curtain: Sex, Privacy, and the Study of Early Islamic Law.” Third Sharia Project Workshop. Leiden University. November 2013.

“Making Muhammad Modern: Love, Sex, and Death in Biographies of Islam’s Prophet.” The Martin Lecture (Department of Religion Annual Lecture). Wheaton College. September 2012.

“Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam: The Development of Islamic Law.” University of Oklahoma. March 2012.

“The Jurist and the Saint: Sayyida Nafisa, Biography, and the Construction of Muslim Women’s Authority.” Muslim Women and the Challenge of Authority lecture series. Boston University. February 2012.

“Reading and Writing Muhammad’s Life over the Centuries.” Creative Intelligence lecture series. Transylvania University. February 2012.

“Islam and Gender Justice.” Religion and Gender Justice lecture series. University of Johannesburg. May 2011.

“Dangerous Liaisons: Female Masters, Male Slaves, and the Making of Islamic Marriage Law.” University of Cape Town; University of Johannesburg. May 2011.

“Prophethood and Perversion: Shifting Discourses about Islam and Child Marriage.” University of Johannesburg. May 2011.

“Child Marriage, Prophetic Sunnah, and Muslim Apologetics.” University of Cape Town. May 2011.

“Muslim and non-Muslim Biographies of Muhammad over the Centuries.” Department of Religion Annual Lecture, Mount Holyoke College. April 2011.

“Representing Muhammad: Competing Visions of Islam’s Prophet.” The Orr Forum Lectures. Wilson College Chambersburg, PA. April 2011.

Lecture 1: “Muhammad through the Centuries”

Lecture 2: “Muhammad and His Wives: Marriage, Manliness, and Morality”

Lecture 3: “Muhammad, Jesus, and the Buddha: Rethinking Spiritual Leadership”

“Hybrid *Lives*: Modern Biographies of the Prophet Muhammad.” Islamic Studies Faculty Seminar, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University. April 2011.

“Personhood and Pluralism: Women, Marriage, and Divorce in Early Islamic Law.” Plenary lecture.

“Muslim Women: Through the Lens of History, Religion, Law, and Society,” Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture (CBEC), SIUT, Karachi. March 2011.

“Early Islamic Marriage Law: Sex, Slavery, and the Legal Subject.” Cornell University. March 2011.

“The Body is Politic: Religion, Ethics, and the Gendered Subject” (with Laurie Zoloth). Invited as Scholar-in-Residence for Religion and Ethics in America. Colgate University, Hamilton, NY. March 2011.

“Just Say Yes: Approaching Agency, Subjectivity, and Consent in Muslim Thought.” Keynote address. Duke-UNC Chapel Hill Graduate Student Conference on Islamic Studies. February 2010.

“Shifting Registers: Law and Authority in Muslim Contexts.” Rachel Adler and Kecia Ali, “(En)Gendering Legal Analysis: Feminist Approaches to Jewish and Islamic Legal Sources.” University of Toronto Law School. May 2009.

“A Jewish-Muslim Feminist Dialogue” (with Susannah Heschel). Brandeis University, March 2009.

“Language, Sex, and Violence: Reading Gender and Power in the Qur’an.” Central Michigan University. October 2008.

“Interpreting the Message through the Life of the Messenger: Muhammad and the Qur’an in al-Shafi’i’s Legal Methodology.” Luce Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts, Boston University. October 2007.

“Muslim Women Contracting Marriage from the Seventh Century to the Twenty-First Century.” Brandeis University. March 2007.

“Woman’s Body, God’s Word: Sex, Gender, and Discourse in the Qur’an.” Loyola University Chicago. March 2007.

“Ninth-Century Arguments on a Woman’s Right to Divorce.” Princeton University. March 2007.

“‘Acting on her own behalf’: Women, Marriage, and Legal Personhood in Islamic Law.” Stanford University. October 2005.

“Sexual Ethics and Islam: New Directions for Feminist Inquiry.” Keynote address in the Women and the Sacred lecture series. Clemson University (SC). March 2005.

“Plurality of Opinion in Islamic Law: The Case of Divorce.” Occidental College. February 2005.

“Marriage in Early Muslim Law: The Consolidation of Male Authority.” Women’s Studies in Religion Program Spring Lecture Series, Harvard University Divinity School. February 2004.

“‘Their Wives and What their Right Hands Possess’: Gendered Understandings of Ownership in Early Islamic Jurisprudence.” Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University. January 2004.

“Western Muslims and the Gender Issue.” Seminar on Islam in the West, Harvard University. December 2003.

“Questioning ‘Women’s Status’: Contemporary Muslim Approaches to Gender Issues.” Brown University. November 2003.

“Promise and Peril: Progressive Muslim Approaches to Gender Justice.” Boston College. June 2003.

“Marriage and Divorce in Islamic Law: A Mini-Course.” Five-part lecture series, co-sponsored by the Muslim Students Association and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Brandeis University. March 2003.

“Marriage, Divorce, and Sexual Ethics in Islamic Law: An Agenda for Progressive Transformation.” Brandeis University. November 2002.

“Marriage and Divorce in Islamic Law: Contemporary Debates in Historical Perspective.” Women’s History Month Lecture Series, University of Missouri – Columbia. March 2002.

“Women’s ‘Status’ in Islam and Muslim Women’s Experiences: Beyond Apologetic and Polemic.” Brandeis University. December 2001.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

“Teaching about Islam and Muslims across the Curriculum.” Mellon Seminar presentation. Global Islamic Studies. Connecticut College. February 2020.

Panelist, “Manthologies,” Feminist Studies in Religion Forum. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego. November 2019.

Panelist, book panel, Mara Benjamin’s *The Obligated Self*. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego. November 2019.

“Publics and Perils: Expertise in Islamic Studies.” Symposium on Gender and Authenticity in the Islamic Past. Yale University. October 2019.

Response to Mahan Mirza, “Egalitarian Turn as Copernican Revolution: Theorizing Continuity and Change in Islamic Theology and Law.” Madrasa Discourses symposium. Notre Dame. June 2019.

“The Politics of Citation.” Madrasa Discourses symposium. Notre Dame. June 2019.

“Tradition and Authority in the Academic Study of Islam: The Woman Question.” Children of Abraham: Jewish and Islamic Studies in an Academic Context. Uppsala University. April 2019.

“Gender and the Politics of Citation in Islamic Studies.” Roundtable discussion. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Islam, Gender, Women Program Unit. November 2018.

Panelist, “Bias and Identity Politics in the Study of the Qur’an.” International Qur’anic Studies Association. November 2018.

“Writing While White: Black Martyrs as Magical Negroes in Nora Roberts’ Novels.” Popular Culture Association of Australia and New Zealand. Auckland. July 2018.

“Finding One’s Place, Making a Home in Nora Roberts’ *Divine Evil*, *The Obsession*, and *Shelter in Place*.” International Association for the Study of Popular Romance. Sydney. June 2018.

“Rangy and Rawboned: Embodied Masculinity in Nora Roberts’ Romances.” Popular Culture Association. Indianapolis. March 2018.

“Muslim Women ‘Scholar-Activists’ in the Twenty-First Century.” Women in Islam. Smith College. February 2018.

Panelist, “Muslims in the American Academy.” International Institute for Islamic Thought. Herndon, VA. December 2017.

Respondent, “Sexual Ethics in Medieval Muslim Thought.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Boston. November 2017.

Panelist, “Muslims, Refugees, Immigrants: Making Sense of the Administrations Controversial Executive Order.” Boston University. February 2017.

Panelist, “How Change Happens.” Northeastern University. December 2016.

“Making Feminist *Fitna*.” Making Feminist Fitna: Islamic Feminist Disruptions. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. October 2016.

“Triangulating Desire: Navigating Islamland, Arabiastan, and Romancelandia in Suzanne Brockmann’s *Into the Night*.” International Association for the Study of Popular Romance. Salt Lake City. June 2016.

“The Male is Not Like the Female: Queer Qur’anic Narratives of Mary.” Sacred Troubling Texts Seminar. American Comparative Literature Association. Cambridge, MA. March 2016.

“Redeeming Slavery, Rewriting History: The ‘Islamic State,’ Muslim Tradition, and Debates over Concubinage.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Atlanta. November 2015.

“Canon and Gender in the Study of the Muslim Tradition.” SORAAAD (Study of Religion as an Analytical Discipline) Workshop. Atlanta. November 2015.

Panelist, “Media Representations of ISIS/ISIL.” Public Understanding of Religion Committee. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. November 2015.

Panelist, “The Current State of Qur’anic Studies and Its Future.” International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta. November 2015.

“Imagining Slavery: Propaganda and Pragmatism in ‘Islamic State’ Writings on Concubinage.” Interdisciplinary Approaches to ISIS. Boston University, April 2015.

“Professional in Death: Gendered Mentoring and Human Flourishing in J.D. Robb’s Novels.” Popular Culture Association Annual Conference. New Orleans. April 2015.

Panelist, “The 2014 Vatican Synod on Marriage & Family: Preliminary Ethical Assessments.” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Conference. Chicago. January 2015.

“Reading and Unreading Mary: Approaches to the Qur’an.” Theorizing Islam and Gender. Pennsylvania State University, December 2014.

Panelist, “Islam and Feminism: Keynote Panel.” Theorizing Islam and Gender. Pennsylvania State University, December 2014.

“Teaching Islamic Law.” Rethinking Islamic Studies workshop. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego. November 2014.

Panelist, *The Crisis of Islamic Masculinities*. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego. November 2014.

Panelist, "Negotiating Disclosure." Special Topics Forum. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego. November 2014.

"Khadija the Grand and Her Ideal Husband: Modern Biographers Reenvision Muhammad's First Marriage." University of Cape Town. September 2014.

"Women's Empowerment and Islamic History through the Lens of Muslim Feminism." International Conference for the Empowerment of Women. Cape Town. September 2014.

"Contesting Dominant Muslim Sexuality Norms: An Intersectional Perspective." Mainstreaming Sexuality Strategies panel. Annual Islamic Retreat. Cape Town. September 2014.

"Transgressing All Bounds? Gendering Authority, Engendering Orthodoxy." Critical Perspectives on Apostasy and Blasphemy in the Islamic Tradition. Istanbul. August 2014.

"Read it Slant: Feminist Critical Approaches to Islamic Law and Legal Theory." Heterodox Approaches to Islamic Law. Institute for Global Law and Policy. Harvard Law School. June 2014.

"Mary, Maternity, and Muslim Readings." Conceiving Maternity and Motherhood in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Contexts. Fordham University. April 2014.

Panelist, "Hodgson at Forty." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, November 2013.

"Destabilizing Gender, Reproducing Maternity: Qur'anic Narratives of Mary." International Qur'anic Studies Association meeting. Baltimore, November 2013.

"Theologically Incorrect: Gender and Authority in Muslim Thought." Critical Perspectives on Apostasy and Blasphemy in the Islamic Tradition. Istanbul. September 2013.

"Gender, Orthodoxy, and Theological Error: A View from the Margins." Critical Perspectives on Apostasy and Blasphemy in the Islamic Tradition. Oslo. January 2013.

Panelist, "Apostasy and Blasphemy from Within." Norwegian Center for Human Rights. Oslo. January 2013.

"Muslims and Meat-Eating: Vegetarianism, Ethics, and Religious Identity." Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics Annual Meeting. Washington DC. January 2012.

"Speaking about Slavery." Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. San Francisco. November 2011.

Panelist, "Mentoring." Special Topics Forum, Status of Women in the Profession. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Francisco. November 2011.

"Reading Gender in Islamic Legal Texts." Rethinking Islamic Studies workshop. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Francisco. November 2011.

Book review panel, Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence from the Middle East to America*. Harvard Divinity School, November 2011. [\(Video\)](#)

"Reading in the Shadow of the Reformation: Muslim Perspectives on the Interpretation of Foundational Texts." Muslim-Jewish Scholars Conference. Temple Emanu-El, New York. October 2011

“American Muslims, Civil Law, and Religious Ethics: The Case of Dower.” Muslim-Jewish Scholars Conference. Temple Emanu-El, New York. October 2011.

“Love, Jealousy, and Desire in Modern Egyptian Biographies of Muhammad.” Gender Identity and Representation conference, Boston University. September 2011.

Co-facilitator, Rethinking Islamic Studies workshop. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. November 2010.

“A Consummation Devoutly to be Watched? Scrutinizing Sex in Early Islamic Law.” Carnal Knowledge conference, Boston University. April 2010.

Panelist, “Muslim Reform and Religious Authority.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Montreal. November 2009.

“Paradigms and Pragmatism in Muslim Women’s Reformist Thinking.” Reformist Women Thinkers in the Muslim World. Woodrow Wilson Center. Washington DC. May 2009.

“Sexual Ethics and Slavery in Islam.” Sexual Freedom: Overcoming Slavery’s Legacy in Judaism, Christianity and Islam panel. Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Boston. November 2008.

Panelist, “Interrogating Islamic Masculinities: A Preliminary Conversation.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago. November 2008.

Respondent, “The Disobedient Prophet.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago. November 2008.

Panelist, “Women’s Rights and Islamic Law.” Women’s Law Association conference, Boston University School of Law, March 2008.

“Closed Curtains and Locked Doors: Privacy and the Presumption of Intercourse in Early Islamic Legal Texts.” The Gaze and the Veil: Surveillance and the Legacies of Orientalism conference. Dartmouth College, February 2008.

“Islam, Feminism, and Love.” *Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions* panel. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego. November 2007.

“Maleness and Embodiment in the Qur’an: Thoughts on Gendered Interpretation.” Reconsidering “Islamic Feminism” Deconstruction or the Quest of Authenticity? Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin. April 2007.

“Textual Ethics: Muslim Feminist Scholarship and the Qur’an.” Re-Imagining Muslim Ethics colloquium. Duke University, April 2007.

“Islamic Law and Female Religious Authority in the United States.” Breaking Apart the Monolith: The Many Ways of Being a Muslim. Princeton University. March 2007.

“‘Shariah-mindedness’ in North American Islam: Women, Authority, and Authenticity.” Transnational Migrations of Identity: Jews, Muslims, and the Modernity Debate. Dartmouth College, February 2007.

“Timeless Texts and Modern Morals: Challenges in Islamic Sexual Ethics.” Changeable and Unchangeable in Islamic Thought. Istanbul. January 2007.

“‘I wanted one thing and God wanted another.’ Al-Shafi‘i’s attempt to reconcile Qur’an and *sunnah* on the subject of striking wives.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington DC. November 2006.

Panelist, “Sexual Ethics/Sexual Justice: Feminist/Womanist Perspectives in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington DC. November 2006.

“Progressive Muslim Sexual Ethics: Reflections on Academia and Activism.” Portraits of Women in Islam: Comparative Perspectives and Challenges. Center for Religion and Public Discourse, Saint Xavier University, Chicago. November 2006.

“Slavery and Sexual Ethics in Islam.” Beyond Slavery: Overcoming its Religious and Sexual Legacy, Feminist Sexual Ethics Project. Brandeis University. October 2006. ([Video](#))

“Islamic Jurisprudence: The Necessity for Critical Engagement with Marriage and Divorce Law.” Trends in Family Law Reform in Muslim Countries, Sisters in Islam, Kuala Lumpur, March 2006

“Consent and Mutuality in Muslim Thought on Sex: A Tradition in Change.” Muslim Ethics and Culture: Translation and the Public Sphere colloquium, Center for Muslim Networks, Duke University, April 2005.

“Agency and Authority: Challenges for Contemporary Muslim Women.” Muslim Women in the 21st Century conference. Boston University. April 2005.

“‘I was a girl of nine’: Online Controversies over the Prophet’s Marriage to ‘A’ishah.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio. November 2004.

“The Centrality of Sexuality to Muslim Discourses on Women and Gender.” Panel: “On Authority: Revisiting Tradition in Islam through the Discourse of Gender.” Co-sponsored by SHURUQ, Women’s Herstory Month, et. al. New York University. March 2004.

“Sex, Virginity, and Honor in Islamic Law.” University of Texas Law School Symposium “Islam and the Law: The Question of Sexism.” Austin (TX). February 2004.

“The Muslim Marriage Contract: An Introduction to the Issues.” University of Texas Law School Symposium “Islam and the Law: The Question of Sexism.” Austin (TX). February 2004.

Panelist, “Teaching Gender and Islam.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta. November 2003.

Panelist, “Progressive Islam.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta. November 2003.

“Married Female Slaves in Early Islamic Law,” Feminist Sexual Ethics Project colloquium, Brandeis University. May 2003.

“‘A Beautiful Example’? The Prophet Muhammad as a Model for Muslim Husbands.” Critical Islamic Reflections Conference, Yale University. April 2003.

Panelist, “Slavery, Religion, and Women.” Brandeis University. March 2003.

“Prohibited Acts and Forbidden Partners: The Consequences of Unlawful Sexual Activity in Ninth-Century Sunni Legal Texts.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto. November 2002.

Panelist, “The Future of the Feminist Past,” 8th Annual Tillie K. Lubin Symposium, Brandeis University. March 2002.

“Teaching about Women, Gender, and Islamic Law: Resources and Strategies.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver. November 2001. ([PDF](#))

“‘And men have a degree over them’: Asymmetrical Reciprocity in Islamic Marriage Law.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston. November 1999.

PRESENTATIONS FOR EDUCATORS AND GENERAL AUDIENCES (SELECTED)

“Zakat: The Central Pillar of Islam.” Islamic Center of Boston—Wayland. June 2018.

“Muslims and Islam in America.” Brooksby Village, Peabody, MA. April 2018

“Straight Talk about Muslims in America.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. June 2017.

“Islam, Race, and Racism: An Urgent Conversation.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. June 2017.

“Many Muhammads.” Abrahamic Trialogue: Founders. Common Street Spiritual Center, Natick, MA. December 2016.

“Bridging Differences: Muslims in America.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. July 2016.

“Muslim Perspectives on Peace and Its Opposites.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. October 2015.

“Moses and Muhammad.” With Michael Zank. Boston University. May 2015.

“Faces of Islam.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. November 2014.

“The *Lives* of Muhammad.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. November 2014.

“Doing Research for Your Writing.” Arlington Book Festival. November 2014.

“Mary and her Kin.” Hungry Hearts lecture series. Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. July 2014.

“Muslims in America, Past and Present.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. July 2014.

“Islam and Muslims in America.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. October 2013.

“Recite! The Qur’an in Muslim Life.” Voices of the Qur’an, in conjunction with Sacred Pages: Conversations about the Qur’an. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. October 2013.

“The Prophet Muhammad: An Introduction.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. August 2013.

“Unexpected Paths” and “Children of the Path.” Light Our Path lecture series. Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. July 2013.

“Gender, Justice, and Authority: A Perspective from Religious Studies.” ShaykhaFest. Jamesburg, NJ. June 2012.

“Imam Shāfiʿī: Scholar and Saint.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. March 2012.

“Women, Law, and Ethics in Islam.” Guyana Islamic Trust Secretariat. Georgetown, Guyana. December 2011.

“Revered and Reviled: Competing Images of Muhammad.” Arlington Community Education. October 2011.

“Sexual Ethics and Chaplaincy.” Muslim Chaplains’ retreat. Hartford Seminary. June 2011.

“Revisiting *Sexual Ethics and Islam*.” Women’s Studies Brown Bag lunch. Colgate University. March 2011.

Islam and Authors, *Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam*, Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, December 2010.

“Morality, Sexuality, and Gender in Muslim Texts and Contexts.” Muslim Students Association, Brandeis University. November 2010.

“Islam and LGBTQ Issues.” LGBT & Islam: A Day of Dialogue. MIT, Cambridge, MA. October 2009.

“Why Shari’a Matters in the Struggle for Gender Equality in Islam.” Noor Cultural Centre, Toronto. May 2009.

“Religion, Authority, and Change.” IDEAS Boston, October 2007.

“Qur’an and Sunnah in Islamic Thought.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. September 2007.

“Women in Islam.” Undergraduate Religion Association, Boston University. October 2006.

“Considering the Pope’s Remarks about Muhammad and Islam.” Islamic Center of Boston – Wayland. September 2006.

“Women in the Modern Middle East.” Teachers’ workshop on the Modern Middle East. Primary Source, Watertown (MA). August 2006.

“Women, Marriage, and Plurality of Opinion in Islamic Law.” Al-Hamra Academy, Shrewsbury (MA). June 2006.

“Sex and Sexuality in Islam.” Three-part lecture series. Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland (MA) Sunday School. April-May 2006.

“Understanding the Qur’an: An Introduction to Classical and Contemporary *Tafsir*.” New Mexico Muslim Women’s Association Annual Meeting. Abiquiu (NM). September 2004.

“Law and Ethics,” and “Women and Islam.” Ismaili Institute Summer Programme on Islam. Cambridge, UK. August 2004; August 2005.

Panelist, “The Search for Progressive Islam.” Religion Newswriters of America Annual Meeting. Seattle. September 2003.

“The Islamic View of Gender Relations” and “The Definition and Development of Shari’ah.” Dar al-Islam Training Institute for Teachers. Abiquiu (NM). July 2003.

“Muhammad and the Qur’an” and “Women, Gender, and Islam.” Lectures in the Understanding Islam series sponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. Boston, Holbrook, Medford, and Wakefield Public Libraries. October 2002-February 2003.

“Women in Islam and Muslim Societies: Common Themes, Diverse Experiences.” Lecture in the seminar series for public school educators on Islam and America, sponsored by Primary Source and the Newton (MA) Public Schools. March 2002.

“Women’s Rights in Islam.” Lecture at Palomar College. San Diego (CA). April 2000.

“Women, Gender, and Islam.” Lecture at Teaching about Islam and Muslims curriculum workshop for secondary educators. Cedar Rapids (IA). April 1995.

TEACHING

Courses taught include: Islam; The Qur’an; Islamic Law; Women, Gender, and Islam (seminar); Islam and the West; Modern Islam; Religions of the World – Western; Representing Muhammad (seminar); Moses and Muhammad (First-Year Seminar, Kilachand Honors College, co-taught), Islamophobia and Antisemitism (co-taught), Reading for Pleasure (First-Year Experience course). Selected syllabi available at www.keciaali.com/teaching/

GRADUATE ADVISING

Information about PhD dissertations and MA theses supervised available upon request.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SERVICE (SELECTED)

Department of Religion

Chair, 2019-

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2011-2013, 2015-2016

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2006-2008

Search Committees: Islamic Studies 2008-2009; Philosophy of Religion 2007-2008; Religions of the African Diaspora (Chair) 2017-2018.

Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations

Member, Advisory Board, Mizan Project, 2015-2018

Member, Executive Committee, 2006-2015

Organizer, Muslim Studies faculty lunch speaker series, 2010-2013

Member, Ad-hoc Committee on Creation of a Minor, 2009-2010

Boston University Center for the Humanities, Member, Executive Committee, 2009-2012

AWARDS (SELECTED)

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellow, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2018

Popular Culture Association—Marshall Fishwick Travel Grant, 2018

Popular Culture Association—Bowling Green State University Summer Research Institute, 2017

Summer course development grant (Muslims in America), Boston University, 2016

Merlin Swartz Award for Muslim Studies, Boston University, 2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

New Directions in Islamic Thought 4 (Oslo Coalition project), Organizing Committee member, 2020-

February 2020

American Academy of Religion

Board of Directors service:

Status Committee Director, 2016-2018

Program Unit leadership:

Islam, Gender, Women Group: founding co-chair, 2014-2016

Study of Islam Section: co-chair, 2009-2012; steering committee member 2003-2009

Consultation on Religion and Sexuality: steering committee member, 2004-2010

Other service:

Mentor, Status Committee mentoring program, 2016-2018, 2019-

Professional Conduct Task Force, member 2016-2018

Co-organizer, annual professional development session for scholars of Islam/Muslims, 2015-2016

Membership Task Force member, 2014-2016

Mentor, Annual Women's Mentoring Lunch, 2013-2017

Status of Women in the Profession committee member, 2010-2013

Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics

President, 2014-2016

Advisory Board and Program Committee member, 2012-2014

Advisory Board member, Duke Islamic Studies Center, 2005-2014

Editorial Board member, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 2015-present

Editorial Board member, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 2013-2019

Advisory Board member, *Islamic Law and Society*, 2012-present

Co-organizer, Muslim Women and the Challenge of Authority lecture series and conference, BU, 2011-12

Participant, Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning Seminar, University of Toronto, 2009-2011

Co-organizer, Muslim 'Feminist' Ethics workshop, George Mason University, 2010

Manuscript peer reviewer for journals including *Islamic Law and Society*, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Comparative Islamic Studies*, *Journal of Popular Romance Studies*, *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies*, and *International Feminist Journal of Politics*.

Manuscript peer reviewer for presses including Ashgate, Brill, Columbia University Press, Harvard University Press, Oneworld Publications, Oxford University Press, Routledge, State University of New York Press, University Press of Florida, and University of North Carolina Press.

OTHER ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

Blogging: Links to selected blogs at www.keciaali.com/otherwriting

Member, Leadership Council, Oxfam America, 2013-present