

Brendan Newlon

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Religious Studies
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study American Muslim communities, Islam in China, the social identities of minorities, and traditional Islamic theology, ritual, and educational practices. My interdisciplinary approach to research blends historical ethnography, quantitative network science, discourse analysis, and translation studies. I have translated short Islamic texts and poems from Chinese and Arabic, and publish rhyming English translations of core Islamic teaching texts like Tahawi's (10th c.) *Creed* and Akhdari's (16th c.) *Concise Summary of Islam* as mnemonic learning aids in the style of traditional Islamic pedagogy.

EDUCATION

- 2017 PhD Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara
Dissertation: *American Muslim Networks and Neotraditionalism*
- 2013 MA Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara
Thesis: *Hui Muslims and the Minzu Paradigm: Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Islam in China*
- 2006 BA Religious Studies. University of California, Santa Barbara (minor in Chinese)

DOCTORAL RESEARCH & FIELD EXAMS

History of Religions

Islamic Law and Traditions

American Religions, with emphasis on Islam

East Asian Religions

EXAMINER(S)

Richard Hecht

Ahmad Atif Ahmad

Kathleen Moore, Rudy Busto

Dominic Steavu-Balint

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 Book *The Islamic Studies Notebook: A Student Manual of Islamic Traditions.* (Editor) (CreateSpace, 2017) <http://amzn.to/2F5dx2o>
- 2017 Review Mabry, Tristan James. *Nationalism, Language, and Muslim*

Exceptionalism. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015).
American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS). Vol 34, 3
Summer.

- 2017 Book *Reliable Creed for a Community in Need — Pocketbook*. Orient
Primers in Islamic Studies, Volume 2. (CreateSpace, 2017).
<http://amzn.to/2n8z8Q8>.
- 2016 Review Arjana, Sophia Rose. *Muslims in the Western Imagination*. (New York:
Oxford University Press, 2015). American Journal of Islamic Social
Sciences (AJISS) Vol 33, 1 Winter.
- 2016 Translation “The Primary Obligations of a Muslim: Prologue to Abd al-Rahman
al-Akhdari's (d. 1576) summary of Islamic worship
(مختصر الأخصري).” Arabic to English verse. Document URL:
<https://goo.gl/by7hNp>
- 2016 Translation “The Ten Essentials: Muhammad ibn Ali al-Sabban's (d. 1791)
pedagogical poem Al-Mabadi Al-Ashara (المبادئ العشرة).” Arabic verse to
English verse. Document URL: <https://goo.gl/16ry9L>
- 2015 Review “The Architecture and Spatial Components of Mosques in China: A
Review of The Traditional Chinese Style Mosque by Sadiq Javer
(2014).” Dissertation Reviews, October 27, 2015.
<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/12904>
- 2015 Translation “One Hundred Words of Praise: Ming Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang's Poem
about the Prophet Muhammad (百字讚).” Classical Chinese to English.
Document URL: <https://goo.gl/LG4PY4>
- 2012 Encyclopedia entries “Brunei Darussalam,” “Silk Road,” and “Taiping Rebellion.”
Encyclopedia of Global Religions, edited by Wade Clark Roof and Mark
Juergensmeyer. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. Pp 161-162;
1178-1181; p 1257.

WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

- Manuscript *Traditional Islam in Contemporary America*. (A revision of my doctoral
dissertation)
- Manuscript *Reliable Creed for a Community in Need*: an annotated translation of Shaykh
Salek bin Siddina's commentary on Tahawi's systematic theology.
- Article “Traditionalism and Orthodoxy in American Muslim identity discourse”
- Article “Introducing Islamic Law: A Guide for Teachers”

- Article "All Under Heaven: Reconsidering historiographies of majorities, minorities, and Muslims in China"
- Article "Praising the Prophet Muhammad in Chinese: A new translation and analysis of *Baizizan*, an ode popularly attributed to Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang"

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- 2018 Panelist Marginalized Identities and Development in China. Pomona College
- 2018 Guest Lecturer "Chinese History and Minority Narrative Identities" for Anthropology of Chinese Society (taught by Dru Gladney, Pomona College)
- 2015 Conference Presentation "Politics of Identity Construction: the case of Islam in China." Fifth Annual Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference. UC Santa Barbara
- 2014 Conference Paper "The Prophet Loved Green: Environmentalism in American Muslim Identity Discourse" (American Academy of Religions, National Conference, San Diego)
- 2012 Guest Lecturer "Islam in Everyday Life" for World Religions and Spirituality (Antioch University, Santa Barbara, CA)
- 2012 Guest Lecturer "Islam and Global Politics" for Third World Sociology (Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA)
- 2011 Guest Lecturer "Muslim American political diversity" for Multiculturalism in American Politics (Antioch University, Santa Barbara, CA)

CAMPUS TALKS AND ACTIVITY

- 2016 Guest Lecturer "Islamic Traditions and Popular Culture Adaptations" for Global Religions (taught by Mark Juergensmeyer and Kathleen Moore)
- 2016 Guest Lecturer "Modern Muslims and Zakat: Online Charitable Giving" for Islam in America (taught by Kathleen Moore)
- 2016 Guest Lecturer "Chinese Muslim Identities as Ethnicity, Nationality, and/or Religion" for Introduction to Middle East Studies (taught by Munther Al-Sabagh)
- 2015 Presenter "Why my students volunteer to do homework" for UCSB Religious Studies Departmental Graduate Student Pedagogy Workshop

2015	Guest Lecturer	“Islam and Modernity - Representations of Muslims” for Islamic Traditions (taught by Rohit Singh)
2014	Workshop Contributor	The California Pluralism Project, hosted by UCSB and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
2014	Panelist	“Global Islam and Muslim Experience” for Global Religions (taught by Mark Juergensmeyer)
2010	Guest Lecturer	“Business Ethics in Islam” for Ethics in Business and Enterprise (taught by Arthur Gross-Schaefer)
2010	Guest Lecturer	“American Muslims” for Islam in America (taught by Elliott Bazzano)
2010	Panelist	“Discussion Forum on Islam” for Global Religion (taught by Mark Juergensmeyer)
2009	Guest Lecturer	“Buddhist monastic life in Taiwan” for Religion in Chinese Culture (taught by William Powell)
2009	Panelist	Experiences of Muslims in America (UCSB Multicultural Center)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017	Instructor	Islamic Traditions. UC Santa Barbara. Summer
2015 - 2016	Teaching Assistant	Introduction to Middle East Studies. UC Santa Barbara. Fall
2015	Teaching Assistant	Religious Approaches to Death. UC Santa Barbara. Winter
2014	Reader	Politics and Religion in the City: Jerusalem. UC Santa Barbara. Winter
2013	Reader	Judaism. UC Santa Barbara. Fall
2011	Teaching Assistant	Introduction to the Study of Religion. UC Santa Barbara. Spring
2010	Reader	Taoist Traditions. UC Santa Barbara. Winter
2009	Reader	Chinese Buddhism. UC Santa Barbara. Fall
2006 - 2007	Instructor	Buddhist Monasticism. Woodenfish Summer Travel Study, Taiwan

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016 - Participants
2017 Coordinator Jewish-Muslim Student Dialogue Series. Herman P. and Sophia Taubman Endowed Symposia in Jewish Studies
- 2016 Conference
 Organizer “Memory, Identity, and Diaspora.” Sixth Annual Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference. UC Santa Barbara. May 20-22, 2016
- 2014 - Instructional
2017 Design Technology Support for Online Learning. UC Santa Barbara
 Assistant
- 2011 - Pedagogy
2014 Specialist Technology for Foreign Language Instruction. UC Santa Barbara Letters and Sciences Instructional Technology
- 2010 - Tutor
2011 Writing Tutor. Cartwright Learning Resources Center, Santa Barbara City College
- 2007 Translator Simultaneous 2-way (English-Chinese) translation for published Interviews at Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Monastery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 2004 - Editor
2007 Summer publications editor for International Buddhist Progress Society, Taiwan

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2017 Professor Charles Wendell Memorial Award in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. Presented by the Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- 2008 - US Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)
2010 Fellowship for advanced Mandarin Chinese. Summers awarded: 2009 (in Shanghai) and 2010 (in Beijing). Academic years awarded: 2008 and 2009 (at UCSB)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2012 - Present American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- 2011 - 2015 Society for the Study of Chinese Religions (SSCR)

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

- 2015 - Coordinator “Islamic Traditions,” student reading & discussion group at UCSB
2016
- 2014 - Co-Founder Santa Barbara Young Adult Interfaith Dialogue Group
2016

2013 - 2016	Graduate Advisor	UCSB Muslim Student Association (MSA)
2012 - 2015	Executive Board Member	Islamic Society of Santa Barbara (ISSB)
2012	Founder	“Scholars of Islam in China” academic Facebook group
2011 - Present	Consultant & Contributor	Islam in China Blog (https://islaminchina.wordpress.com)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English	Native speaker
French	Intermediate mid-level score on ACTFL Exam, Spring 2000 Reading - 3/5, Writing - 2/5, Listening - 3/5, Speaking - 2/5
Spanish	Two years study, with two years living in Puerto Rico WebCAPE score: 501 (third year placement) Reading - 3/5, Writing - 2/5, Listening - 3/5, Speaking - 2/5
Chinese (Mandarin)	Four years study, with cumulatively one year of study in China Reading - 3/5, Typing - 3/5, Listening - 4/5, Speaking - 4/5
Arabic (Standard / Classical)	Advanced intermediate, including technical vocabulary for Islamic Studies Reading - 3/5, Writing - 2/5, Listening - 3/5, Speaking - 2/5

REFERENCES

Available upon request.