

Tazim R. Kassam

Syracuse University
Department of Religion
501 Hall of Languages, Syracuse, NY 13210
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e-mail: tkassam@syr.edu

SPECIALIZATION

Discipline: History of Religions
Specialization: The Islamic Tradition
Area Focus: South Asia and the Middle East
Languages: English (fluent); Hindi-Urdu, Gujerati (speak & read)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., *summa cum laude*, 1993

Specialization: History of Religions
Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal

Areas of Concentration:

Islamic Civilization, Hinduism and Religions of South Asia

Dissertation: Songs of Wisdom and Circles of Dance: Hymns of the Satpanth Ismaili Muslim Saint, Pir Shams (adjudged "Excellent")

B.A. Joint Honors, *magna cum laude*, 1984

Joint Majors: Philosophy and Religion

Henry Birks Award for Highest G.P.A. of Graduating Class (3.9)
Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, Montreal

Hindustani Vocal Classical Music Diploma 1982

Department of Music
University of Bombay, India

AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Islamic Studies (History, Texts, Gender, Mysticism, Literature, Shi'ism)
Religions and Philosophies of India (Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism)
The Study of Religion (Theory and Critical Methods, Ritual, Aesthetics)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2006-08 Chair, Department of Religion, **Syracuse University**
Director, Muslim Cultures Program, **London Program, SU Abroad**
- 2000 Associate Professor, **Syracuse University**
Tenured appointment in Islamic Studies & Religion
- 2002-04 Director, Graduate Studies Program, Department of Religion
- 1999-00 Associate Professor, **Colorado College**
- 1997-99 Assistant Professor, **Colorado College**
Tenure-track appointment in Islam and South Asian Religions
- 1991-97 Assistant Professor, **Middlebury College**
Tenure-track appointment in Islamic Studies and Religion
- 1989-91 Instructor, **Central Michigan University**
Tenure-track appointment in Islamic Studies
- 1985-89 Teaching Assistant and Lecturer, **McGill University**

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

- Mellon Humanities Corridor Foundation Grant, Syracuse University, 2007-2009*
Core member of the "Religion and Culture" cluster to collaborate with Cornell and Rochester on the interaction of religions in a global framework.
- Luce Foundation Grant, Syracuse University, 2006-2009*
Co-investigator to develop curriculum on "Religion, Media and International Relations." Amount awarded to program: \$375,000
- Research Leave, Syracuse University, 2004-2005*
Conduct research Performance of Devotional Singing Rituals
- Visiting Fellow, Institute of Ismaili Studies, 2002*
Conduct research on Contemporary Muslim Thinkers
- Faculty Development Blocks, The Colorado College, 1999-00*
Release time to write on Oral Traditions of the Ismaili Muslims
- ASIANetwork Faculty Development Seminar, 1998-99, Ford Foundation*
Two-year Summer Seminar to integrate Southeast Asia in College curriculum
- Faculty Development Block, The Colorado College, 1998-99*
Designing Multimedia Presentations for courses on Islam
- Divisional Research Grant, The Colorado College, 1997*
Release time to research the Singing Rituals of Ismaili Muslims
- Mellon Foundation Grant, Jun-Aug 1996*
Intensive Summer Arabic, University of Chicago
- National Endowment for the Humanities, 1994-95*
College Teachers and Independent Scholars Fellowship
- American Academy of Religion/Lilly Endowment, 1993-94*
Teaching Workshop, Wellesley College

Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, 1992
Dean's Honor List for Ph.D Award of Excellence

Institute of Ismaili Studies Fellowship, 1990
Seminar on Muslims in the Contemporary World, Oxford

Social Science Research Council, 1988
Dissertation Workshop on the Study of Muslim Societies, Istanbul

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council, 1985-1988
McGill University, Doctoral Degree, Montreal: Renewed twice

Ford's F.C.A.C. Research Fellowship, Canada, 1985
McGill University: Declined in lieu of SSHRC, Canada

Institute of Ismaili Studies Scholarship, 1983-1985
McGill University, Thesis Research in London and Bombay

Henry Birks Award, 1984
McGill University, Highest GPA (3.9) in Graduating class

Shastri Indo-Canadian Fellowship (Performing Arts), 1979-1982
Bombay University, Hindustani Classical Vocal Music, Bombay

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Kassam, Tazim R. & Francoise Mallison, co-editors, Ginans: Texts and Contexts. Essays on Ismaili Hymns from South Asia in Honor of Zawahir Moir. New Delhi: Matrix Press, 2010. Reprint Ratna Sagar Press, 2011. Includes a CD of devotional hymns.

Kassam, Tazim R., Songs of Wisdom and Circles of Dance: Hymns of the Satpanth Ismaili Saint, Pir Shams. New York: State University of New York Press, 1995.

Forthcoming:

Eliza F. Kent & Tazim R. Kassam, editors, Lines in Water: Religious Boundaries in South Asia, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, expected 2013.

CD & DVD:

"Daily Prayers of Ismaili Muslims." DVD of Recitations by Mukhi Rahim Kassam Jivraj. Produced and edited by Tazim Kassam. ExoMedia Productions, 2005.

"Mowla Mowla!" CD Recording of Ginans (Ismaili Hymns) by Rahim, Tazim and Al-Karim Kassam Jivraj. Jacket notes includes transliterations and translations by Tazim Kassam. DMS Productions, 2003.

Works In Progress:

The Ginan Singer: Devotional Music and Poetry of Ismaili Muslims. Under contract with OneWorld Press, Oxford. (Initial funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and research grants from Colorado College and Syracuse University).

Articles, Chapters & Notes (Academic Publications):

- “The Living Tradition of Ismaili Ginans: Negotiating Cultures in Poetry and Performance” in Lines in Water: Religious Boundaries in South Asia, Kassam & Kent, editors, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, forthcoming.
- “Reframing Ginanic Studies: Thoughts on Multiple Positions and Interpretive Tropes” Ginans: Texts and Contexts: Essays on Ismaili Hymns from South Asia in Honor of Zawahir Moir, edited by Tazim Kassam and Francoise Mallison. New Delhi: Matrix, 2010, 1-20.
- “Jamāt Khanas of the Ismaili Muslims in North America,” in the Encyclopedia of Muslim American History, Edward Curtis, editor. Facts on File, 2010.
- “Signifying Revelation in Islam,” Chapter 2 in Theorizing Scriptures: New Critical Orientations to a Cultural Phenomenon, edited by Vincent Wimbush. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2008, 29-40.
- Round table response to “Mapping Feminist Histories” by Margaret Miles in Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, Spring 2006, vol. 22, no. 1, 59-67.
- “Salat,” in Encyclopedia of Religion (2nd Edition, 15 vols.), editor-in-chief Lindsay Jones. New York, MacMillan Reference: 2005, 8054-8058.
- “Balancing Acts: Negotiating the Ethics of Scholarship and Identity,” Identity and the Politics of Scholarship in the Study of Religion, ed. Sheila Devaney & Jose Cabezon, New York: Routledge, 2004, 133-161.
- “On Being a Scholar of Islam: Risks and Responsibilities,” Progressive Muslims: on Gender, Justice and Pluralism, ed. Omid Safi, Oxford: OneWorld, 2003, 191-215.
- “The Aga Khan Development Network: An Ethic of Sustainable Development and Social Conscience,” Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust, eds. Richard Foltz, Frederick Denny, & Azizan Baharrudin, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003, 477-496.
- “Teaching and Learning in Religious Studies,” Teaching Islam in the Liberal Arts, ed. Brannon Wheeler, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003, 191-215.
- “The Daily Prayer (du'a) of the Ismaili Muslims,” The Religions of the United States in Practice, ed. Colleen McDannell, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001, vol. 2, 32-44.

“Shahid,” Harper's Dictionary of Religion, Gen. ed. Jonathan Z. Smith, American Academy of Religion, Harper & Row Publishers: 1995.

“Syncretism on the Model of Figure-Ground: A Study of Brahma Prakash,” Hermeneutical Paths to the Sacred Worlds of India, ed. Katherine Young, Scholars Press: 1994, 231-242.

Editor, Spotlight on Teaching:

“Teaching is an aspiration not an encumbrance,” Conversation with Spotlight on Teaching’s editor, Tazim Kassam. Religious Studies News, May 2009.

“Signifying (on) Scripture: Text(ures) and Orientations,” Guest editor Vincent L. Wimbush, Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 23, No. 3, May 2008.

“Diversifying Knowledge Production: The Other within Christianity,” Guest editor Zayn Kassam, Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 22, No.4, October 2007.

“Religion, Media, and Teaching Religion,” Guest editor Tazim Kassam, Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 22, No. 3, May 2007.

“Teaching Difficult Subjects,” Guest editor Cynthia Humes, Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 21, No.4, October 2006.

“Reflections on a Teaching Career in Religion,” Guest editor Ed Mooney, Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 20, No. 4, October 2005.

“Embracing Disability in Teaching Religion,” Guest editor Kerry Wynn, Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2005.

“Teaching and Site Visits,” Tazim Kassam & Joyce Fluekinger, Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 19, No. 4, October 2004.

“Teaching about Religions, Medicines and Healing,” Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 19, No. 3, May 2004.

“Teaching about Religion and Violence,” Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 18, No. 4, October 2003.

“Teaching about Religion and Material Culture,” Spotlight on Teaching, Vol. 18, No. 3, May 2003.

“Teaching Religion and Music,” Spotlight on Teaching, Guest Editor, Tazim R. Kassam, Vol. 16, No. 3, May 2001.

Note: Spotlight on Teaching is a biannual supplement in Religious Studies News. It is published by the American Academy of Religion and mailed to its members (currently ~ 13,000).

Community Publications:

“Ethics and Aesthetics in Islamic Arts,” The Ismaili USA, March 21, 2006, 5-8.

“Andalusian Journal,” Ismaili USA, December 2003, pp. 10-12.

“Paradigmatic Women in the Ginan Literature of the Satpanth Ismailis,” *Hikmat*, vol. III:6 (July 1992) 23-29.

“American Muslims and Received Images of the Prophet,” *Hikmat*, III: 4 (July 1990), 15-23.

“Music and Dance Workshops: A Canadian Showcase,” *Bansuri*, vol.5 (1988), 32-36.

“The Great Mystical Philosopher Ibn al-Arabi's Metaphysics of Being,” *Ilim*, (Dec 1985), 11-23 [reprinted in *Hikmat*, (March 1986), 25-30.]

“A Study in the Nature of Prophecy and its Interpretation in Islam,” *Ilim*, (March 1979), 10-22.

PAPERS, GUEST LECTURES, INTERVIEWS, CONVENER

“Celebrating Pluralism in Muslim Literature and Thought,” Keynote Speech, *Milad an-Nabi Celebration of Prophet Muhammad's Birthday*, H. H. the Aga Khan Council for USA, Austin, Texas, April 5, 2009.

“Music Moves Religion: Islamic Cultures in the Indian Ocean,” Principal coordinator of an international conference funded by a three-year Mellon Corridor Grant supporting the Humanities, Syracuse University, April 18-21, 2008.

“Qu’ran as Icon: Scripting and Scripturalizing Revelation” *Ray Smith Symposium on Iconic Books*, Syracuse University, October 17-19, 2007.

“Trading Places: Cultural Imaginary, Civility and Citizenship,” Panel on Civil Society at Workshop on *Imagining Muslims/Imagining Others: South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Europe*, Cornell University, September 15-16, 2007.

“Religious Texts: Peace or Problem?” *Texts in Context: Literalism and Interpretation*, Chautauqua Institution, Chagrin Falls, July 31, 2007.

“Counter-narrative: Pitfalls of Activism in the Classroom,” *Teaching Scholars, Changing Models: Transformative Strategies for Feminist/Womanist Activism in Academic Institutions*, Union Theological Seminary, New York, May 24 - 27, 2007.

“In-between Places,” Welcome & Opening Remarks, *Feminism, Sexuality and the Return of Religion*, Ray Smith Symposium, Syracuse University, April 26-28, 2007.

“Humanities, Humanity, and Hope,” *Small World, Big Divides: Building Bridges in a World of Extremes*, International Summit on Peace, University Lectures, Syracuse University, October 18, 2006.

“The Kite Runner,” *Convocation speech*, class of 2010, Syracuse University, August 25, 2006.

- “Ismaili Jamatkhana: Negotiating Space, Ritual, and Identity since Aga Khan III,” co-authored with Rizwan Mawani, *From Cyber to the Grave: Islamic Spaces Beyond the Mosque*, Study of Islam Section, *American Academy of Religion*, Washington D.C., November 16-21, 2006.
- “Prayers and Rituals of the Shi’a Ismaili Tariqah,” *Prayer and Worship in Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Sikh Traditions*, Dharma Association of North America, Washington D.C., November 19, 2006.
- Moderator & Evaluator, Chautauqua Conference on Abrahamic Traditions & Civil Society, London, November 11-19, 2005.
- “Women in Muslim Societies” & “Devotional Ismaili Traditions in South Asia.” *Alumni Workshop Lectures*, Institute of Ismaili Studies, June 2005.
- Discussant, *Community and Civic Life: Ismaili Living Traditions in South Asia*, Institute of Ismaili Studies, December 4, 2004.
- “Envisioning New Directions in Islamic Studies,” Opening and Concluding Remarks, *2nd International Conference on Islamic Literature*, Suarashtra University, Rajkot, India, November 18-21, 2004.
- “Islamic Scripture as Living Tradition,” *Special Topics Forum: Ethnic and Minority Scholars and the Relation between the Study of Religion and the Study of Scripture*, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 19-22, 2004.
- “Signifying Revelation in Islam,” *Theorizing Scriptures*, Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, February 26-28, 2004.
- “A Third Space: The Creative Religious Encounter of Identity and Difference in the Ismaili Ginans,” *Ray Smith Symposium, Drawing a Line in Water: Religious Boundaries in South Asia*, Syracuse University, April 1-3, 2004.
- “Sufi Jokes for the Spiritual Path,” *Humor in Humanistic Discourse, Tolley Conference on Undergraduate Teaching*, Syracuse University, Minnowbrooke, May 14-16, 2004.
- “History, Historiography & a Survey of Scholarship on Islamic History,” (three lectures), *International Training Program for Teaching Religion*, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London August 10-15, 2002.
- “A Primer on Islam,” *Panelist on The University Forum: A Global Response to Terrorism, Some Origins of the Crisis*, Syracuse University, October 4, 2001.
- “Memory and Story-telling: Learning from Haroun,” *Respondent for panel on Bridging Times: Politics of Memory and Myth in North India*, Religions of South Asia Section, *American Academy of Religion*, Nashville, November 18-22, 2000.
- “Transgressing Boundaries, Reconfiguring Identities,” *Conference on Scholarship, Identity & the Study of Religion*, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, May 8-9, 2000.

- “Islam: Myths and Realities,” *Teachers as Scholars*, 2-day teaching workshop for K-12 Teachers, The Colorado College, April 20-21, 2000.
- “Poetry, Persecution and the Politics of Identity: Ismaili Muslim strategies for surviving religious marginalization and the loss of political power,” *Campus Interviews*, Syracuse University, December 5, 1999 & University of Florida, Gainesville, December 14th, 1999.
- “The Perils and Promises of Identity: Transformation of a Muslim Minority,” *Inaugural L. J. Kutten Lecture in Philosophy and Religion*, Athenaeum, Claremont McKenna College, March 29th, 1999.
- “Projections of Contemporary Ismaili Identity,” *Middle Eastern Studies Association*, Chicago, December 6, 1998.
- “Healing in Islam,” Comparative Studies Section, *American Academy of Religion*, Orlando, November 20-24, 1998.
- “Language and Reality: Some Problems with Teaching and Studying Islam as a Religion,” Perspectives in Islamic Studies, *Institute of Ismaili Studies*, London, United Kingdom, August 21-24, 1998 (by invitation only).
- “What is Islamic about Islamic Architecture?” *Southeast Asia Faculty Seminar*, Kenyon College, June 19, 1998.
- “The Aga Khan Development Network’s Ethic of Sustainable Development,” *Conference on Islam and Ecology*, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, May 7-10, 1998 (by invitation only).
- “Linguistic, Disciplinary and Cultural Conundrums of Teaching Islam,” *International Workshop on Integrating Islamic Studies into the Liberal Arts Curricula*, University of Washington, Seattle, March 5-7, 1998 (by invitation only).
- “Hidden Agendas: The Ascetic Impulse in Women’s Spirituality,” Asceticism Group, *American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco, November 22-25, 1997.
- “The Teacher’s Life and Vocation,” *AAR and Lilly Foundation Consultation on Teaching Religion and Theology*, Santa Fe, April 18-20, 1997 (invitation only).
- “The Rituals of Singing among the Satpanth Ismaili Muslims,” Study of Islam Section, *American Academy of Religion*, New Orleans, November 23-26, 1996.
- “The Devotional Hymns of the Shia Muslims in India,” *Study of Asia Series*, Marlboro College, Marlboro, April 28, 1995.
- “The Uses of Ambiguity in the Teachings of the Satpanth Ismaili Pirs,” *Shaping Indo-Muslim Identity in Pre-modern India Workshop*, Duke University, Durham, April 20-23, 1995 (by invitation only).

- “The Electronic Journal: A Gateway to the Foreign,” Academic Study & Teaching of Religion Section, *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago, November 19-22, 1994.
- “Technology-Assisted Tolerance,” *Interface 1993: 18th Humanities and Technology Annual Conference*, Atlanta, October 21-23, 1993.
- “Symbols and Metaphors of the Spiritual Quest in Islam,” Guest Lecture, Department of Religion, *University of Vermont*, Burlington, April 29, 1993.
- “The Oral-Textual Interface in Popular Islamic Narratives and Ritual Performances,” Study of Islam Section, *American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco, November 21-24, 1992.
- “Paradigmatic Women in the Indian Vernacular Literature of the Satpanth Ismailis,” Study of Islam Section, *American Academy of Religion*, Kansas City, November 23-26, 1991.
- “Freedoms at the Fringe: Ismaili Strategies for Surviving Religious Marginality,” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Pittsburgh, November 7-9, 1991.
- “Prophet Muhammad and the Transformation of Pre-Islamic Arabia,” Guest Speaker/Interview, *Middlebury College*, February 15, 1991.
- “The Legacy of *futuwwah* clubs and Nizari Ismaili norms to Islamic Civilization,” Guest Speaker/ Interview, *Duke University*, January 24, 1991.
- “Agents of Religious Change in South Asian Islam: The Enigmatic Pir Shams—Holy Man or Wholly Myth?” Study of Islam Section, *American Academy of Religion*, New Orleans, November 17-21, 1990.
- “Hindu-Muslim Syncretism: The Figure-Ground of Textual Meaning,” Round Table Session, *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago, November 19-22, 1988.
- “Syncretism or Synthesis: The Narrative Ginans of Pir Shams,” Study of Islam Section, *American Academy of Religion*, Boston, December 5-7, 1987.
- “Syncretism on the Model of Figure-Ground: A Study of Brahma Prakash,” *Conference on Hindu Syncretism*, Carleton University, Ottawa, November 29-December 1, 1985.
- “The Ginan Tradition of the Shia Imami Ismaili Nizari Khoja Muslims,” *International Seminar on Islam's Contribution to World Culture*, New Delhi, Dec. 11-14, 1981.

Public Scholarship, Community Lectures & Interviews

- “Splendid sons and sons,” Introduce Khaled Hosseini, award-winning author of The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns, The Rosamond Gifford Lecture Series at the Civic Center, Syracuse, October 6, 2009.

Television Interview by Brian Taffe on *Capital Tonight* on President Obama's speech "On a New Beginning" delivered at Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt, on June 4, 2009.

"On a New Beginning," President Obama's Speech, "Pluralism of Thought and Practice in Islam," Women Transcending Boundaries, Syracuse, February 10, 2008.

"Afghani Music and Dance," Introduction to Noor Woodjuatt Ensemble, Syracuse University Symposium on the Imagination, August 27, 2006.

"Understanding Religious Diversity in Islam," United Methodist Church Adult Forum, Syracuse, May 7 and 14, 2006.

"Islam: An Abrahamic Tradition," OASIS Institute, Learning for Mature Adults Forum Adults, October 7, 2006.

"Islamophobia," Diversity and Democratic Culture Group, Chancellor Nancy Cantor's ad hoc committee, May 1, 2006

"Journeys in Spiritual Islam," *Journey into Openness Lecture Series*, Inter-Religious Council of Central New York, Syracuse, February 12, 2004.

"Gender in the Islamic World: Multiple Perspectives," *University Neighbors Lecture Series*, Wescott Community Center, Syracuse, October 26, 2003.

Interview by Dr. Deepak Mehta in November 2004 at 2nd International Congress on Ginans held at Saurashtra University, Rajkot, India. Interview published in Mumbai Samachar, Bombay, December 2, 2004 (in Gujarati),

Interview by Rajkot Gujarati Newspaper, November 2004 at 2nd International Congress on Ginans at Saurashtra University, Rajkot, India.

"Urgent Measures: Making the Islamic World Comprehensible," Keynote Address, *Conference of Ismaili Leadership*, Calgary, June 28, 2002.

"Contexts of Faith: Muslim Minorities in North America," Ismaili Tariqah & Religious Education Board, Ottawa, June 23-25, 2000.

"The Language of Devotion: Gesture, Metaphor and Sentiment in Indian Religious Life," Ismaili Religious Education Board, Bombay, February 4, 1995.

"Women in Islam," and "Living as Ismaili Women," Lifestyles and Values Series, Ismaili Religious Education Board, Toronto, April 30 - May 1, 1993.

"Gender Identity in Islam," Gender Issues: Together in Partnership Series, Ismaili Muslim Council, Vancouver, Mar 19, 1993.

"A Thinking Islam: Intellectual Inquiry as the Basis for Religious Adaptation," Keynote Address, Ismaili Religious Education Board, Calgary, May 15-16, 1992.

“Creating Intellectual Freedom to deal with Religious Issues in North America,” Keynote Speech, Ismaili Religious Education Board, Vancouver, October 6-8, 1990.

“Articulating a Role for Women in Contemporary Ismaili Leadership,” Plenary Address, Ismaili Muslim Council for Canada, Toronto, September 2, 1990.

“The Tradition of Leadership in the Ismaili Tariqah,” Keynote Speech, Ismaili Religious Education Board Canada, Vancouver, July 14, 1990.

“Teaching the Ethics of Islam,” Keynote Speech, Ismaili Religious Education Board Canada, Vancouver, Nov. 14, 1989.

“American Muslims and Received Images of their Prophet,” Ismaili Muslim Council, Celebration of Prophet’s Birthday (Mawlid), Montreal, October 15, 1989.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2000- Syracuse University

- Courses:*
- Introduction to Islam
 - Gender in Muslim Societies
 - Muslim Rituals & Performances
 - Islamic Literatures
 - Islamic Arts and Aesthetics
 - Religious Auto/Biography
 - Pluralism in Islam
 - Religion, Ritual and Music in South Asia

1997-00 Colorado College

- Courses:*
- Introduction to Religion
 - The Islamic Tradition
 - The Hindu Tradition
 - Sufism: The Mystical Tradition of Islam*
 - Women, Religion and Society (cross-cultural)
 - In the Service of God: Religious Music in Judaism and Islam (co-taught with Ofer Ben-Amots, Music Department)
 - Women and Gender in Islam
 - Devotion Divine: Sants and Bhakti Poetry, Drama and Music in India
 - Senior Thesis Seminar: Majors in Asian Studies Program
 - Senior Capstone Seminar: Minors in Asian Studies Program
 - Arts, Religion and Culture of Bali (Summer Session in Bali)

1991-97 Middlebury College

- Courses:*
- Introduction to Religious Meaning
 - The Islamic Tradition

- The Hindu Tradition
- Women in Islam
- Sufism: The Mystical Tradition of Islam
- Shi'ism: Esoteric Islam
- Islam in America
- Islam in Local Contexts
- For the Love of God: Islamic Arts, Music and Architecture

1989-91 Central Michigan University

- Courses:*
- Islam
 - Introduction to Religion
 - Religions of India

1985-89 McGill University

- Courses:*
- Hinduism and Buddhism (TA)
 - Religions of the Far East and Islam

TEACHING WORKSHOPS & COURSES

- *Project Big Chalk*, Faculty Media & Computing Services, Syracuse University, 2006
- *Internet for Educators*, School of Education, Syracuse University, 2005
- *William P. Tolley Teaching Workshop*, Syracuse University, 2001 - 2005
- *Teaching & Learning Center Workshop*, The Colorado College, 1998
- *Enhancing Teaching with Technology Mini-Conference*, The Colorado College, 1997
- *AAR - Lilly Foundation Workshop on Teaching*, Wellesley College, 1993
- *Learning Technologies for Educators*, Cornell University, 1992
- *Learning to Teach and Teaching to Learn*, Middlebury College, 1992
- *High Tech for Higher Education*, Central Michigan University, 1990

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, ADVISORY BOARDS & APPOINTMENTS

Nominations for Awards, Invitations, & Solicitations for Job Applications

- *Dean of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences*, Denver University. Invited to apply and shortlisted. Interviewed on January 7, 2008. Short-listed for on-campus interview but I declined.
- *Dean of the College of Liberal Arts*, University of Minnesota. Invited to apply but declined. December 2007.
- *Nominated for Chancellor's Citation for the Excellence Award for Engaging the World*, May 2007.
- *Nominated by Chancellor Cantor for the Carnegie Foundation Scholars Program on the Muslim World*, August 2006.
- *Noor Chair in Islamic Studies*, York University, Toronto. Invited to apply but declined. February 2007.

- *First Endowed Chair in Islamic Studies in Canada*, University of Alberta, Edmonton. Invited to apply and short-listed. Interviewed March 2, 2006.
- *Director of the Graduate Program*, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, U.K. Interviewed January 29, 2004. Offered position, but declined.
- *Nominated for the Meredith Teaching Award*, May 2003.

Continuing Appointments:

Member of Advisory Board (since 2005), Book Series on Signifying (on) Scriptures, Vincent Wimbush, editor

Member of Abrahamic Initiative Advisory Board, Chautauqua Institution (since 2006).

Member of Editorial Board (since 2004-), Postscripts: A Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds Elizabeth Castelli, editor. Equinox: London.

Member of Advisory Board (since 1999), Forum on Religion and Ecology.

Mentor (since 1999), AAR Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession.

Member of Editorial Board (since 2007), Contemporary Islam, Gabriele Marranci and Donald Varsico, editors. Springer: Heiderberg

Member of Editorial Board (since 2005), Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, Elizabeth Schusler Fiorenza, editor. Harvard Divinity School: Cambridge

Completed Appointments:

- Chairperson. Department of Religion, (2006-2008) Syracuse University
- Director, Muslim Cultures Program, Syracuse University Abroad, London
- Member of Advisory Board (since 2006), Future of Minority Studies.
- Editor-in-Chief (since 2002), AAR Spotlight on Teaching.
- Member of Teaching and Learning Committee (2002-2008), AAR.
- Member of Editorial Board (1998-2007), Journal of the American Academy of Religion.
- Co-Chair, Religions of South Asia Section (2004-7), American Academy of Religion.
- Director, (2002-2004) Graduate Studies Program in Religion, Syracuse University.
- Co-Chair, Study of Islam Section (two terms: 1994-2000), AAR
- Member of Steering Committee (1998-2001), Women and Religion Section, AAR.
- President (1999-2000), AAR/SBL Rocky Mountain – Great Plains Region.
- Deputy AsiaPartners India (1999), Asian Studies Program, The Colorado College.
- Vice-President and Program Chair (1998-1999), AAR/SBL Rocky Mountain –Great Plains Regional Conference hosted at Colorado College in April 1999.
- Advisory Committee (1997-1998), Islam and Ecology Conference, Harvard University.
- Member (1997), AAR/SBL Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Regional Self-Study.
- Member of National Committee (1993-1996), Aga Khan Foundation USA.
- Member of National Committee (1993-1996), Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board, USA.

- Member of National Committee (1987-1996), Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board, Canada.
- Training Consultant (1995), Islam in Southeast Asia Seminar, Marlboro College.
- Member of Steering Committee (1992-1994), Study of Islam Section, AAR.
- Editor-in-Chief (1987-1993), Hikmat Magazine, Canada.
- External Evaluator (1988), Festival of Indian Dance and Music, Raga Mala Performing Arts Society of Canada.
- Seminar Co-ordinator(1984-1988), Series on the Study of Religion at Institute of Islamic Studies and Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University.
- Manager USA & Canada Concert Tour(1983), North Indian Classical Vocalist Prabha Atre.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AAR	American Academy of Religion
AAUP	Association of University Professors
MESA	Middle Eastern Studies Association
IAHR	International Association for the History of Religions
NASOR	North American Association for the Study of Religion

COLLEGE COMMITTEES AND SERVICE

Syracuse University (2000-

2000/01	Search Committee, Religion Search Committee, Fine Arts Faculty Associate, South Asian Studies Program, (since 2000) Women Studies Program Advisory Board (since 2000)
2001/02	Hendricks Chapel Advisory Board Chair, Advisory Committee on Faculty Development Reviewer, Syracuse University Fulbright Committee Senior Search Committee, Religion Executive Committee, Religion Middle East Studies Advisory Board (since 2002)
2002/04	Executive Committee, Religion Ray Smith Symposium Committee Religion & Society Proposal Committee Search Committee, Fine Arts, Ethnomusicology
2004/05	Luce Foundation Grant Application Committee Maxwell - Chautauqua Collaboration Committee

- 2005/06 Meredith Teaching Award Committee
Search Committee, History Department, Middle East
Evaluation for Tenure Review, Vivian May
Muslim Cultures Proposal Committee
- 2006/7 Chair, Department of Religion
Faculty Council, Humanities Council, HSM Chairs
Religion and Society Program, ex-officio
Diversity and Democratic Culture
Core Member, Mellon Grant Religion & Culture Committee
- 2007/8 Chair, Department of Religion
Faculty Council, Humanities Council, HSM Chairs
Religion and Society Program, ex-officio
Faculty Liason, Dr. Eboo Patel University Lecture Series

The Colorado College (1997-2000)

Mellon Grant Project on Liberal Arts (appointed by the President), 1999-00
First Year Experience Steering Committee, 1999-00
Faculty Advisor, ACM India Program, 1998-00
Women's Concerns Committee, 1998-99
Asian Studies Executive Committee, 1997-00
Edith Gaylord Student Prize Committee, 1997-00
Faculty Advisor, Student Peer Support Network, 1997-98
Faculty Advisor, South Asian Student Association, 1997-00
Department of Religion Search Committee, 1997-1998

Middlebury College (1991-1997)

Advisory Council on Technology 1995-1996
Multimedia and Learning Technology Committee 1993-1995
Advisor to South Asian Student Association 1991-1996
Advisor to Islamic Students Association 1991-1996

Central Michigan University (1989-1991)

Women's Studies Program Newsletter 1990-1991
College of the Arts & Sciences Steering Committee 1989-1991
Pfeiffer Award Review Committee, Department of Religion 1989-1990
Curriculum Committee, Department of Religion 1989-1990