

Feb. 10, 2020

Leor Halevi

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Education:

Ph.D. in History and Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, 1996-2002.

Thesis Accepted: Sept. 9, 2002; Date of Degree: Nov. 5, 2002

Dissertation: "Muhammad's Grave: Death, Ritual and Society in the Early Islamic World."

Advised by Roy Mottahedeh (Principal Advisor), Wolfhart Heinrichs, William Graham, and Michael Cook (External Advisor from Princeton University)

M.A. in History, Yale University, 1994-96.

Date of Degree: Dec. 14, 1995

B.A. in Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 1990-94.

Date of Degree: June 7, 1994

Title of Senior Thesis: "The Life of the Dead: Imagined Afterlives in Ancient Mediterranean Texts," advised by Michael Cook.

Employment History:

Vanderbilt University

Associate Professor of History, July 2008-present.

Associate Professor of Law, by courtesy, 2011-present.

L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)

Professeur invité, with a Chair at the Institut d'Études de l'Islam et des Sociétés du Monde Musulman (IISMM), Nov-Dec, 2013.

Texas A&M University

Assistant Professor of History, Sept. 2002-June 2008.

Harvard University

Instructor of the Sophomore Tutorial in "Medieval European History & Literature" and

Junior Tutor in the "Intellectual History of Medieval Judaism, Christianity & Islam."

Committee in History and Literature, 2000-01.

Head Teaching Fellow for “Western Societies, Politics, and Cultures: From Antiquity to 1650,” a course taught by James Hankins and Eric Robinson. History Department, Fall 1999.

Yale University

Teaching Assistant for “The World of Islam in the course of Western Civilization: Muhammad to 1492,” a lecture course taught by Ahmad Dallal and María Rosa Menocal. Humanities Program, Spring 1996.

Princeton University

Undergraduate Research Assistant to Abraham Udovitch and Hossein Modarressi of Near Eastern Studies

Honors and Awards:

Awards given to my book *Muhammad's Grave*:

- * Winner of the 2007 [*Albert Hourani Book Award*](#), Middle East Studies Association.
- * Winner of *Phi Beta Kappa's 2008 Ralph Waldo Emerson Award*.
- * Winner of the 2008 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in the Category of Analytical-Descriptive Studies, American Academy of Religion.
- * Winner of the 2011 John Nicholas Brown Prize, The Medieval Academy of America.
- * Short-listed Finalist for the Best First Book Prize in the History of Religions.
- * Long-listed Finalist for the Cundill International Prize in History.

Junior Scholar Award, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, 2005.

Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index selected my *Past & Present* article, “Wailing for the Dead,” as its “Article of the Month.”

The Middle East Studies Association's 2003 Malcolm H. Kerr Award for the Best Dissertation in the Humanities.

Princeton University Distinctions at Graduation

- * 1994 Senior Thesis Prize
- * *Summa cum Laude*
- * *Phi Beta Kappa*

Research/Creative Expression

Books:

Modern Things on Trial: Islam's Global and Material Reformation in the Age of Rida, 1865-1935. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.

With Francesca Trivellato and Cátia Antunes, eds., Religion and Trade: Cross-Cultural Exchanges in World History, 1000-1900. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Muhammad's Grave: Death Rites and the Making of Islamic Society. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.

Work in Progress:

Next Book Project: “Everyday Salafism in an Entangled World: The Saudi Spirit of Global Exchange in the Century of Bin Baz (d. 1999).” Under contract with Harvard University Press under the working title, “The Salafi Ethic and the Spirit of Globalization.”

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Nationalist Spirits of Islamic Law after World War I: An Arab-Indian Battle of Fatwas over Alcohol, Purity and Power.” Forthcoming in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, likely in the October 2020 issue.

“What hath Allah wrought? The Global Invention of Prescriptive Machines for the Islamic Consumer, 1975-2010.” Forthcoming in *Technology and Culture* and to be published by July 2021.

[“Is China a House of Islam? Chinese Questions, Arabic Answers, and the Translation of Salafism from Cairo to Canton, 1930-1932,”](#) *Die Welt des Islams* 59 (2019) 33-69.

[“Religion and Cross-Cultural Trade: A Framework for Interdisciplinary Inquiry.”](#) In Francesca Trivellato, Leor Halevi, and Cátia Antunes, eds., *Religion and Trade: Cross-Cultural Exchanges in World History, 1000-1900*, ch. 1 (Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 24-61.

[“The Consumer Jihad: Boycott Fatwas and Nonviolent Resistance on the World Wide Web,”](#) *The International Journal of Middle East Studies* 44 (2012) 45-70.

[“Lex Mahomethi: Carnal and Spiritual Representations of Islamic Law and Ritual in a Twelfth-Century Dialogue by a Jewish Convert to Christianity.”](#) In *The Islamic Scholarly Tradition: Studies in History, Law, and Thought in Honor of Professor Michael Allan Cook*, edited by Asad Q. Ahmed, Behnam Sadeghi and Michael Bonner, pp. 315-342. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

[“Christian Impurity vs. Economic Necessity: A Fifteenth-Century Fatwa on European Paper,”](#) *Speculum* 83 (2008) 917-945.

[“The Paradox of Islamization: Tombstone Inscriptions, Qur'anic Recitations, and the Problem of Religious Change,”](#) *History of Religions* 44, no. 2 (2004) 120-52.

[“Wailing for the Dead: The Role of Women in Early Islamic Funerals,”](#) *Past & Present* 183 (2004) 3-39.

[“The Theologian's Doubts: Natural Philosophy and the Skeptical Games of Ghazali,”](#) *Journal of the History of Ideas* 63, no. 1 (2002) 19-39.

[“Bernard, Explorer of the Muslim Lake: A Pilgrimage from Rome to Jerusalem, 867,”](#) *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 4, no. 1 (1998) 24-50.

Essays and Op-eds:

“The Extricability of Things from Religion: A Salafi Perspective on Prayer Machines,” [Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief](#) 12, no. 1 (2016), 106-107.

“The Muslim Xbox,” [Reverberations](#), 31 May 2013.

Leora Auslander, Amy Bentley, Leor Halevi, H. Otto Sibum, and Christopher Witmore, “AHR Conversation: Historians and the Study of Material Culture,” [American Historical Review](#) 114 (2009) 1355-1404.

“Watery Grave, Murky Law,” [The New York Times](#), 7 May 2011.

* Article on the disposal of Bin Laden’s corpse.

“Excommunicating Dead Terrorists.” *Washington Post / Newsweek* website *On Faith: A Conversation on Religion and Politics*, 29 December 2008.

* Excerpt published under the title “Cremation Is the Answer for Mumbai Terrorists,” [The Washington Post](#), Saturday, January 3, 2009, B07. Widely disseminated online and debated in the Reuters Blog “FaithWorld.”

“The Torture of the Grave: Islam and the Afterlife.” [International Herald Tribune](#), 4 May 2007, Opinion Page.

* Ranked by Iht.com as one of its ten most e-mailed articles of the week. Posted on numerous websites, ranging in color from RichardDawkins.net to Supernaturalnews.com, this article was the subject of online commentary in English, Italian and Romanian. Translated into Arabic, Korean and Portuguese.

Encyclopaedia Articles:

“Funerary Practices,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*. Leiden: Brill, 2013 (2), pp. 116-126.

“Death and Dying” and “Funerary Practices: Muslim.” *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. Routledge, 2006.

Review Articles:

“To Live Like a Moor: Christian Perceptions of Muslim Identity in Medieval and Early Modern Spain,” by Olivia Remie Constable. *Common Knowledge*, forthcoming. {Edited version of review approved on Nov. 12, 2018}

“Before and After Muhammad: The First Millennium Refocused,” by Garth Fowden. *The American Historical Review* 120, no. 5 (2015), 1838-184. {A Featured Review}.

“A Common Justice: The Legal Allegiances of Christians and Jews under Early Islam,” by Uriel I. Simonsohn. *The American Historical Review* 118 (2013) 289-290.

“Muhammad is Not the Father of Any of Your Men: The Making of the Last Prophet,” by David S. Powers. *The American Historical Review* 116 (2011) 246-7.

- “The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State,” by Noah Feldman. *The Historian* 72 (2010) 404-406.
- “The First Muslims: History and Memory,” by Asma Afsaruddin. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 128, no. 3 (2008) 577-9.
- “Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics and Territory in Islam,” by Brannon Wheeler. *Bulletin of the Middle East Studies Association* 42 (2008) 215-6.
- “The Development of Islamic Ritual,” edited by Gerald Hawting. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 70, no. 3 (October 2007) 611-613.
- “Communities of Violence: Persecution of Minorities in the Middle Ages,” by David Nirenberg. *Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review* 4 (1997-98) 180-184.

Grants and Fellowships:

- European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS), Senior Fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 2015-2016.
- L’Institut d’études avancées de Paris, Senior Fellowship, 2013-14.
- Social Science Research Council grant, New Directions in the Study of Prayer, 2012-14.
- American Council of Learned Societies’ Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2010-2011.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2008-2009.
- John W. Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress, 2005-2006
- SIAS Summer Institute Fellowship. Funded by the Alexander-von-Humboldt and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundations, and hosted by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, this workshop on the theme of “Hierarchy, Marginality, and Ethnicity in Muslim Societies” met in Berlin in 2005
- Franklin Research Grant by the American Philosophical Society, 2005
- The Library of Congress Fellowship in International Studies by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), Spring 2004
- Texas A&M University Research Grants:
- Melbern G. Glasscock Center’s Internal Faculty Fellow, Spring 2008
 - Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities, 2003 and 2005
 - Stipendiary Fellow at the Center for Humanities Research, 2002-2003
 - Award for International Research – Related Travel Support, 2004
 - Faculty Research Enhancement Program, 2004 and 2007
- Packard Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities at Harvard University, 2001-2002
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant for Research in Arabic, 2000-2001
- Dissertation Fellowship at Harvard’s Center for the Study of World Religions, 1999-2000
- Harvard University Fellowships:
- Scholarship for Study at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, 1998-1999
 - Harvard Graduate Society Awards “A” & “B” for Summer Study, 1998 & 1999
 - Mellon Language Grant, 1998
 - D.C. Thomas Fellowship, 1996-97
- Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar for Study at Yale University, 1994-96

Invited Talks, Seminars, and Colloquia:

- “Modern Things on Trial: Islam’s Global and Material Reform in the Early 20th Century.” Book Talks: (1) New York University, *Silsila: Center for Material Histories*, May 2020; (2) Tel Aviv University, School of Historical Studies, Forum Rubin, Oct. 2020; (3) Rhodes College, Oct. 2019.

- “Machines and Islam: Connections between Technology and Muslim Practices.” Presentation in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History’s conference on Religion and Innovation. Apr. 2019.
- “Spirits of Islamic Law in the British Empire: Impurity, Modernity, and Alcohol in Interwar Bombay and Cairo.” Sharia Workshop at Columbia University. Nov. 2018.
- “Artifacts of the Infidel: Medieval and Modern Interpretations of the Sacred Law of Islam.” The Medieval Academy’s Plenary Speaker at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2017.
- “The Sacred Law of Modern Things: Islam’s Material Reformation, 1900-1935,” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Dec. 2015.
- “Stealing Electricity, Refrigerating Pork: Muslim Scruples and Qualms in the Transnational Labor for God and Mammon.” The Berkeley Global History Seminar. UC Berkeley, April 2015.
- “Infidel Commodities: The Sacred Law of Modern Things, Or, Salafism and Capitalism.” Fellows’ Seminar at the Institut d’études avancées, Paris, March, 2014.
- “Electronic Islam: Postmodern Capitalism and the Religious Awakening of Engineers,” Initiative in Culture, Technology & Society, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Feb., 2014.
- Seminars at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), 2013-14:
- “Law and Practice at the Origins of Islam: Rituals of Death in the Hadith” in the seminar «Doctrines et pratiques de l’islam contemporain (19-21e s.)» in Dec. 2013.
 - “Pray Pray Revolution: The Re-Invention of Islam by Engineers” and “Salafi Modernism: Fatwas on ‘Secular’ and ‘Religious’ Technologies” in the seminar «Variations du croire: frontières du religieux et mouvements transnationaux» in Dec. 2013.
 - “Commerce with the Infidel: Ritual Impurity and Foreign Trade in Medieval Islamic Law” in the seminar «Textes et culture dans l’Islam médiéval» in Dec. 2013.
 - “Salafi Spirits of Capitalism” in the seminar «Le nouvel esprit du capitalisme musulman: Approches croisées de l’économie islamique» in Apr. 2014.
- “The Re-Invention of Islam in the Age of Religious Machines, 1970 to the Present,” Inaugural Talk at the Institut d’études avancées de Paris, November, 2013.
- “The Things that Infidels Make: Modern Objects before the Sacred Law of Islam.” Senior interdisciplinary workshop on “Materialities, Texts and Images.” California Institute of Technology and The Huntington Library, May, 2013.
- “Mysteries of the Womb: The Body Natural and the Body Islamic, or, The Power of a Legal Fiction.” Keynote Speech, History Graduate Student Conference, Washington University, October, 2012.
- “The Transformation of Islam: Religion, Technology, and Global Trade.” The Paul Garcia Lecture at Saint Louis University’s Center for International Studies. April, 2012.
- “Machines and Prayers: The Transformation of Islam in the Modern Era” and “How to Pray on an Airplane: Ethnographic Notes on Salafi Legal Culture.” Papers circulated for SSRC Workshops on the Study of Prayer. New York, March 2012 and Oct. 2013.
- “Western Things and the Shari‘a: Fatwas on European and American Commodities.” The University of Michigan, The International Institute’s Islamic Studies Program and The Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. November, 2010.
- “Modernist Islam and Western Goods: The Fatwas of the Egyptian Reformer Rashid Rida 1900-1935,” Texas A&M University’s Glasscock Humanities Center Symposium. October, 2008. Revised as “Imperial Commodities and the Search for a Modern Islam: The Fatwas of Rashid Rida, 1903-1935.” Presented at the Vanderbilt History Seminar. September, 2009.
- “Death and Burial in the Muslim World: The Role of Islam.” Conference on “Death, Burial and

- the Transition to the Afterlife” held at The British Museum, November 2008.
- “Muhammad’s Grave: Death Rites and the Making of Islamic Society: A Retrospective by the Author.” (1) The University of Texas, Islamic Studies Lecture Series, February 2008. (2) The University of Michigan, Interdisciplinary Seminar for Islamic Studies, November 2010.
- “Commerce with Infidels: Muslim Attitudes to Foreign Goods.” Lecture at the Library of Congress, July 2006.
- “Christian Impurity vs. Economic Necessity: A Muslim Response to a New European Product in the Fatwa on Rumi Paper.” (1) Talk presented at the SIAS Summer Institute workshop on “Hierarchy, Marginality, and Ethnicity in Muslim Societies.” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 2005. (2) The History Department at the Catholic University of America devoted a colloquium to my paper (circulated in advance) in October, 2005. (3) Revised talk presented at an Interdisciplinary Conference on “Elephants, Silk, and Paper: Global Trade and Cultural Exchange in the Middle Ages.” Hosted by the University of Colorado’s Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies in November 2005, I was one of four featured speakers. (4) The Department of Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University devoted a colloquium to my paper (circulated in advance) in February, 2006.
- “Washing the Corpse in Arabia and Mesopotamia.” (1) Presented at the conference, “Shaping the Middle East: Christians, Jews, and Muslims in an Age of Transition, 550-750 C.E.” The University of Maryland, April, 2005. (2) Revised version presented at a colloquium on the theme, “Death and the Hereafter.” The Medieval Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, February, 2006.
- “Mournful Memories: Death Rites and the Question of Women in Early Islam.” (1) Presented at the University of Maryland, College Park, in April, 2004. (2) Revised version presented at the Library of Congress, in May, 2004.

Conference & Workshop Presentations:

- “The Impurity of Foreign Workers in the Land of the Two Holy Mosques.” American Academy of Religion, Pre-circulated paper for the Material Islam Seminar. San Antonio, TX, Nov. 2016. Revised version circulated at the University of Arkansas School of Law, Jan. 2020.
- “When the Fringe Discovers the Center of Islam: A Chinese Request for an Arabic Fatwa.” Presented to the John E. Sawyer Seminar on “Speech and Space: Discursive Environments Across Non-Arab Islam.” Vanderbilt University, Sept. 2017.
- “Artifacts and the Shari‘a.” Introduction to a Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin workshop, June 2016.
- “Stealing Electricity, Handling Pork: Scruples and Qualms in the Transnational Labor for God and Mammon.” Vanderbilt University workshop, Muslims Negotiating Modernities, Sep. 2014.
- “A House of Islam or A House of War: On Republican China’s Legal Status in Ma Ruitu’s Correspondence with Rashid Rida.” Association of Asian Studies, March 2013.
- “Ritual, Gender and Law: The Performance of Funerary Laments and the Rise of Islamic Practices.” Rethinking Islamic Studies Workshop, American Academy of Religion. November, 2012.
- “Gramophones, Cell Phones and the Qur’an: Modern Instruments and Ritual Concerns in Salafi Fatwas from Egypt and Saudi Arabia.” Middle East Studies Association, November, 2012.
- “Washing Corpses in Early Islamic Arabia and Mesopotamia.” Presented in a panel on Religion and the Dead Body. The American Historical Association, Presidential Session, January, 2011.

- “Lex Mahomethi: Christological Representations of Islamic Law and Ritual in a Twelfth-Century Dialogue.” Presented at The Islamic Scholarly Tradition: Studies in History, Law and Thought. Princeton University, December 2010.
- “Religion and Cross-Cultural Trade: Interdisciplinary Reflections.” Presented at the *European Social Science History Conference*. Ghent, April 2010.
- “The Consumer Jihad: Boycott Fatwas and Nonviolent Economic Resistance since 11 September 2001.” Presented at an international conference hosted by the Center for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, entitled *Rethinking Jihad: Ideas, Politics and Conflict in the Arab World and Beyond*. Edinburgh, Sep. 7-9, 2009.
- “Rumi Paper: Christian Impurity vs. Economic Necessity in a Fifteenth-Century Fatwa.” Presented at the *American Oriental Society*, Annual Meeting. San Antonio, March 2007.
- “The Paradox of Islamization: Tombstones and the Problem of Religious Change.” (1) Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November, 2003. (2) Revised talk presented at the conference, “Documentary Evidence and the History of the Early Islamic Mediterranean,” organized by the International Society for Arabic Papyrology, held in Granada, Spain, 2004.
- “Rites of Mourning: Women’s Laments and the Reaction of Islamic Law.” Presented at the *Middle East Studies Association*, Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C., November, 2002.
- “Remembrance of Muhammad: Washing the Dead beyond Medina.” Presented at the *American Historical Association*, Annual Meeting. Cambridge, January 2001.
- “Wailing in the House of Islam.” Presented at the *Center for the Study of World Religions*, Colloquium. Cambridge, March 2000.
- “Petrus Alfonsi and the Representation of Muslim Reality.” Presented at the *Medieval Studies Graduate Colloquium*. New Haven, March 1996.

Teaching-Related Activities

Teaching at Texas A&M University:

Courses:

History 103: World History to 1500
 History/RELS 221: A History of Islam, 600 to the Present
 History 347: The Rise of Islam, 600-1258
 History 348: Modern Middle East, 1800 to the Present
 History 481-W: Muslim Empires, 1258-1800
 History/RELS 489: Topics in Islamic History
 History 685: Islamic Political Thought

Teaching Training Grants:

International Programs, International Curriculum Development Grant, 2005
 College of Liberal Arts, Curriculum Development Grant, 2003 and 2007

Teaching at Vanderbilt University:

Courses:

History 115F: The Shari‘a: Islamic Law Through the Ages

History 119: A History of Islam

History 213: Muhammad and Early Islam

History 288a: Religion, Culture and Commerce: The World Economy in Historical Perspective

History 390/8000: Directed Readings at the Graduate Level on (1) Medieval Islamic Law and Ritual, (2) Modern Islam in a Transnational Context, (3) Intercultural Encounters in Islamic History, (4) Heresy and Rebellion in Medieval Islam

History 397a: Dissertation Prospectus Seminar

History 3209: Sex, Marriage, and the Body in Islamic Law

Law 743: Islamic Law in the Modern Age

Law 7323: Islamic Law from Mecca to Modernity

Academic Service:

Service to the Department of History, Vanderbilt University:

Participant at Emily Greble’s book manuscript workshop, April 2019

Speakers’ Committee member, 2018-19

Presenter of the new major in Law, History & Society, Sept. 2017

Chair of Search Committee for a Historian of Africa, 2016-17

Commentator for Vanderbilt Graduate History Association Conference, Feb. 2015.

Interim Director, Vanderbilt History Seminar, 2012-2013.

Chair of Search Committee for a Modern Middle East Historian, 2011-12

Graduate Studies Committee, 2011-12, 2014-15, 2017-18

Economics-History Lectureship, Member of the Search Committee, 2009-10

Fourth-Year Review Committee, 2009-10, 2014-15

Service to the College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University:

Member of Ad Hoc Committee for Fourth Year Review in Department of Religious Studies, 2019

Member of the Dean’s Global Studies Committee, 2016-17.

Chair of Panel, Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies, 17th International Conference, Vanderbilt University, Aug. 2016

Respondent for Vanderbilt Religious Studies Workshop, “Being Muslim: How Local Islam Overturns Narratives of Exceptionalism,” March 2015.

Member of search committee, Department of Religious Studies, Islamic Traditions of South and/or Southeast Asian Islam, 2012-13.

Member of search committee, Asian Studies and Women and Gender Studies, 2011-12.

Moderator, “Muslims and Jews: A Faculty Roundtable Discussion.” Vanderbilt, March 2010.

Chair of Strategic Planning Committee for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion, 2009-10.

Service to the University I: Miscellaneous:

Member of the University Library Committee (Academic Strategic Plan), 2017-19

Honor Council Faculty Adviser, 2017-19.

Elected Senator of the Vanderbilt Faculty Senate, 2016-17

Member of Review Panel for the University’s Dissertation Enhancement Grants for Spring 2015.

Honorary Faculty Guest, MOSAIC Banquet for Prospective Undergraduates. March, 2012 & 2013.
Participant in “Status of Graduate Studies in the Humanities: Retreat.” Dyer Observatory,
Vanderbilt, April 2010.

Service to the University: Events and Presentations on Campus:

Presentation on “The Rise of Technological Islam” to History Honor Society Phi Alpha Theta.
April, 2019.

Presentation and screening of the film “The Judge” at the Law School, March 2019.

Tri Delta House, Professors’ Roundtable on “Conflict in the Middle East.” Nov. 2014.

Stambaugh House, “Critical Dialogue on Islam and 9/11.” Sept. 2012.

Vanderbilt Commons, The Place of Religion in the University, Feb. 2009.

Service to the Profession I: Miscellaneous

Member of the Advisory Board of *The Journal of Medieval Worlds*, published by the University of
California Press, 2017-.

Member of the Advisory Board for “The Middle Ages in the Wider World,” a University of
California multi-campus research project.

Member of Steering Committee for the American Academy of Religion’s Material Islam Seminar,
2013-17.

Participant in an ACLS seminar on Advocacy for the Humanities, September 2008.

Member of the Selection Committee for MESA’s Graduate Student Paper Prize, 2007.

Service to the Profession II: Workshops and Conference Panels Organized:

“Trading with Infidels: Legal Approaches to Interfaith Commerce” and “Cross-Cultural Images and
Crafts: Transcultural Objects and Artisanal Migration” (International Congress on Medieval
Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2017).

“Artifacts and Islamic Law: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue” (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
Workshop, June 2016). Convener, with Finbarr Barry Flood.

“Capitalism and the Material Transformation of Islam in the Modern Era” (MESA 2012).

“Interfaith Commerce in Medieval and Early Modern Times” (The European Social Science History
Conference, Ghent, April 2010). Co-organizer, with Francesca Trivellato and Catia Antunas,
of four conference panels, with fifteen speakers total.

“Religious Authority in Early Islamic Historical Writing” (AHA 2001)

“Ritual, Law and Society in Early Islam” (MESA 2002).

Service to the Profession III: Peer Reviews:

Reviewer for the Canada Research Chairs Program.

Reviewer of applications for the American Academy in Berlin.

Assessor of applications for the European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) fellowships.

Reviewer for Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship Program.

Panelist for the National Endowment of the Humanities, Reviewing Applications to the
Fellowships Program in African and Middle Eastern Studies.

Reviewer of article submissions for *Annales HSS*, *The Journal of the History of Ideas*, *The
International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Al-Qantara*, *History Compass*, *Ethnology*,
Islamic Law and Society, the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*; and book proposals
for the Cambridge and Oxford university presses.

Service at Texas A&M University: General

Library Representative, 2007-08.

Panelist in the Humanities Faculty Grant Writing Roundtable, sponsored by the Melbern Glasscock Center and the Office of Proposal Development, April, 2007.

Graduate Committee Member, 2006-07.

Adviser of a research paper on "Islam and the Internet" by students of Texas A&M University's Academy for Future International Leaders. Spring, 2005.

History Club Advisor, 2004-05.

Organizer of the Junior Faculty Workshop in 2004-05.

Member of the Medieval History Search Committee in 2003-04.

Representative of the History Department at Graduation Ceremonies. December, 2002.

Lectures to Students and the Public at Texas A&M University:

Lecture on "Western Goods in Islamic Thought: Toilet Paper and Phonographs in Modernist Fatwas, c. 1910." Delivered at the Symposium, "Citizens of the World," Nov. 2007.

Lecture on "Basic Tenets of Islam" for LBAR 489: Special Topics – International Relations. September, 2007.

Presentation for the University Libraries Diversity Program on "Muslim Rituals: Origins and Transformations." July, 2007.

Lecture on "Death Rites and the History of Islam" in the Anthropology Department's Brown Bag Speaker Series. October, 2006.

Lecturer on the "Pillars of Islam" to the entire Midshipmen Battalion of Texas A&M University's Department of the Navy. February, 2005.

Public Lecture, "Women and the Shari`a: Strategic Issues Facing the Middle East." Addressing the Academy for Future International Leaders at Texas A&M University. February, 2002.

Service as a Graduate Student

Co-organizer of "Religion in Film" series for fellows at Harvard University's Center for the Study of World Religions, 1999-2000.

Graduate Resident Fellow at Yale University's Calhoun College, 1995-96. Helped find speakers for the Master's Teas and organized a "History and Film" cycle involving faculty, graduates and undergraduates.

Co-chair of the Speakers' Committee of the Andrew's Society, Yale University's forum for graduate students in history, 1995-96. Invited several historians from across the country for this lecture series

Professional Memberships:

American Academy of Religion

American Historical Association

Middle East Studies Association

Profiles, Interviews, Comments:

- [New Books Network](#) Podcast Interview on *Modern Things on Trial* with Asad Dandia, Jan. 7, 2020.
Q&A on *Modern Things on Trial* on the [Columbia University Press Blog](#), Oct. 16, 2019.
Jess Bidgood, "Muslims Seek New Burial Ground, and a Small Town Balks," [The New York Times](#), Aug. 28, 2016.
Hans-Joachim Neubauer, "Verbotene Waren: Der Historiker Leor Halevi erforscht, wie die muslimische Welt auf Zeug der Moderne reagierte," [Köpfe und Ideen](#) 11 (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 2016) 38-43. {[English Translation](#): "The Historian Leor Halevi studies how the Muslim world reacted to things in modernity."}
Peter Manseau, "Will an Islamic Tech Boom Help Teach Young Muslims To Pray," [AlJazeera \(America\)](#), Feb. 28, 2014.
Justin Nobel, "Will Osama bin Laden get 72 Virgins? A Talk with an Islam Death Expert," Digital Dying, a Funeralwise.com blog, May 5, 2011.
Christy Choi, "Did Bin Laden's Burial at Sea Follow Muslim Law?" [TIME.com Newsfeed](#), May 5, 2011.
Matt Salusbury, "The Koran on 'Christian' Paper," *History Today* 59 (June, 2009) 3-4.
* A report on my article in *Speculum*, "Christian Impurity vs. Economic Necessity"
Mardy Fones. "A Middle East Calling." Faculty profile in Vanderbilt University's *Arts and Science Magazine*, Fall 2009.
Gracye Cheng, "Leor Halevi Publishes Award-Winning Book." Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, *E-CMES Magazine*, March 30, 2009.
Ann Marie Deer Owens, "Noted historian of early Islam makes past come to life." *Vanderbilt View* 2, 1 (October 2008) 7.
Columbia University Press, "Interview with Leor Halevi, Author of *Muhammad's Grave: Death Rites and the Making of Islamic Society*."
Tamim Choudhury, "Leor Halevi: The Historian of Islam at Texas A&M." Texas A&M News and Information, Division of Marketing and Communications, Dec. 5, 2007. Story profiled on Texas A&M University's homepage.
Olivia Abernethy, "Diversity begins 'Here.'" Featured article on my course "A History of Islam," in *The Cornerstone Magazine* (2007), an undergraduate publication in the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M.

Reviews of *Muhammad's Grave*:

- Amelang, James S. "Grieving," *History Workshop Journal* 69:1 (2010) 239-245.
Baker, Christine. *Journal of World History* 20 (2009) 453-5.
Bamyeh, Mohammed. *Review of Middle East Studies* 43:1 (2009) 91-93.
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LANGUAGES & CULTURAL BACKGROUND:

Born in Montreal, Canada, to parents of Moroccan and Hungarian descent, I grew up and received most of my primary education in Puebla, Mexico. Since college I have lived mostly in the United States, but I have spent years abroad in Jerusalem, Paris, and Berlin. As a result of these wanderings and a passion for languages, I have native fluency in Spanish and English; proficiency in Arabic, Hebrew, Latin and French; and a slight knowledge of German.