

CALEB IYER ELFENBEIN
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EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara
Ph.D., Religious Studies, 2009
Dissertation: *Differentiating Islam: Colonialism, Sayyid Qutb, and Religious Transformation in Modern Egypt*

Harvard University Divinity School
Masters of Theological Studies, 2001

Vassar College
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 1998

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Grinnell College
Associate Professor, Departments of History and Religious Studies, 2016-present

Grinnell College
Director, Center for the Humanities, 2016-present

Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University
Associate Faculty and Class Adviser, 2009-2010

Brown University
Visiting Instructor, Department of Religious Studies, 2007-2008

RESEARCH

Research interests: American Islam, Islamophobia, theories of public life, human welfare, histories of the modern Middle East, modern Egyptian history, religion and modernity, histories of Islamist thought, comparative colonial and intellectual history

Scholarly Projects and Publications

Elfenbein, Caleb. *Fear in Your Heart: What Islamophobia Can Tell Us about Public Life in Today's America*. Forthcoming 2020, New York University Press.

Elfenbein, Caleb, et. al. *Mapping Islamophobia: Visualizing Islamophobia and its Effects in the United States*, <http://mappingislamophobia.org>

- Publicly facing, on-going web-based project on anti-Muslim hate and its effects on American Muslim participation in public life in the United States
- Project includes two original datasets documenting anti-Muslim and anti-Islam activity in the United States and American Muslim participation in public life
- Utilizes data visualization to provide users with interactive maps of both datasets to encourage humanistic engagement with data
- Winner, Best Data Visualization, 2017 Digital Humanities Awards

Elfenbein, Caleb, Farah Omer, and Julia Schafer. "Mapping Anti-Muslim Hostility and its Effects," in *Introduction to Digital Humanities: Research Methods for the Study of Religion*, ed. Kristian Petersen and Christopher Cantwell (DeGruyter Press, 2019).

- Volume currently available for open peer review on-line in advance of print formats: <https://opr.degruyter.com/digital-humanities-and-research-methods-in-religious-studies/>

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Ministering to Other People's Fears: Effects of Anti-Muslim Hostility on American Muslim Participation in Public life." *Journal of Hate Studies* 15 (1) 2019: 105-132.

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Public Gallery: Mapping Islamophobia." *Public: A Journal of Imagining America* 4 no. 2 (2018): <http://public.imaginingamerica.org/blog/article/mapping-islamophobia/>

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Debating the Common Good: Islam, Modernity, and the Ethics of Cross-Cultural Analysis." *The Muslim World* 106 no. 4 (2016): 671-695.

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Full Bellies and Sincere Intentions: Re-Reading Sayyid Qutb as a Theorist of Human Welfare." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 83 no. 4 (2015): 1024-1057.

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Contingency in the Age of Religion: The Hajj and Religion-Making in Colonial and Postcolonial India." *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 27 no. 3 (2015): 247-277.

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Muhammad's Hair." *Frequencies: A Collaborative Genealogy of Spirituality*. Social Science Research Council: <http://freq.uenci.es/2011/12/01/mohammads-hair/>

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Establishing Religion in Iraq: Islam and the Modern State." *Comparative Islamic Studies* 3 no. 1 (2007): 57-71.

Elfenbein, Caleb and Richard Reitano. "Diplomacy in the 21st Century: Civil Society Versus the State," in *Multilateral Diplomacy and the United Nations Today* (2nd

edition), ed. JoAnn Fagot Aviel, James Muldoon, Richard Reitano and Earl Sullivan. Boulder: Westview Press, 2005: 234-244.

Public Writing

Elfenbein, Caleb. "The Silencing of American Muslims." *The Hill*, 22 April 2019. <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/politics/440024-the-silencing-of-american-muslims>

Elfenbein, Caleb and Peter Hanson. "What Does It Mean to Be a 'Real' American?" *Washington Post*, 3 January 2019. https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/01/03/what-does-it-mean-be-real-american/?utm_term=.2054dbbfdd42

Elfenbein, Caleb. "More Americans Have Positive Views of Muslims Today Than Two Years Ago. So Why Are Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes On the Rise?" *Washington Post*, 14 December 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2017/12/14/more-americans-have-a-positive-view-of-muslims-today-than-two-years-ago-so-why-are-anti-muslim-hate-crimes-on-the-rise/?utm_term=.becb5d3e2aea

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Can Ivanka Trump Change the President's Policies On Immigration?" *Fortune*, 24 February 2017. <https://fortune.com/2017/02/24/ivanka-trump-anti-semitism/>

Scholarship on Teaching

Elfenbein, Caleb. "The Value of Historicizing Sexual Violence." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 33 no. 1 (2017): 169-171.

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Big questions and critical inquiry: harmonizing learning goals in the religious studies classroom." *Teaching Theology and Religion* 19 no. 1 (2016).

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles

Elfenbein, Caleb. Review of *Making the Arab World: Nasser, Qutb, and the Clash that Shaped the Middle East*, by Fawaz Gerges. *Reading Religion* (September 2018). <http://readingreligion.org/books/making-arab-world>

Elfenbein, Caleb. Review of *The Age of the Efendiyya: Passages to Modernity in Colonial-National Egypt*, by Lucie Ryzova. *History: Review of New Books* 44 no. 1 (2016).

Elfenbein, Caleb and Juan Eduardo Campo. "Terrorism." *McMillan Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, ed. Richard Martin, et. al. 2 ed. New York: McMillan Reference USA, 2016.

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Hajj." *Encyclopedia of Global Studies*, ed. Mark Jurgensmeyer. New York: Sage Publications, 2012.

Elfenbein, Caleb. "Umar 'abd al-Rahman," "Afghan Mujahedin," "Citizenship," "International Law," "Jihad Movements," "Mohammedanism," "Secularism," "Tablighi Jama'at," "Terrorism," "Westernization." *Facts on File Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* (2009), ed. Juan Eduardo Campo.

PRESENTATIONS

Professional Presentations

"Fear In Your Heart: What Islamophobia Can Tells Us about Public Life in Today's America," invited as 2019 Religious Studies Colloquium speaker, Middle Tennessee State University, September 2019.

"What Is the Role of Local Media in Muslim Self-Representation?" invited presentation at Reporting Islam, Northwestern university, April 2019.

"When Digital Publics Become Three-Dimensional: Questions from Park 51," invited presentation at Religion and Its Many American Publics, Lehigh University, April 2019.

"*Mapping Islamophobia: Knowledge Production, Digital Humanities, and Islamic Studies*," presented at American Academy of Religion, November 2018.

"Public Humanities in Context," presented at Liberal Arts and the Humanities: Innovation, Engagement, and Cross-Disciplinary Opportunities," Colby College, October 2018.

"*Mapping Islamophobia and the Social Studies Classroom*," invited presentation at Hacking the Symposium: Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry, University of Iowa, August 2018.

"Mapping Campus Religious Culture," presented at Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Theology and Religion Conference on Curricular Innovation, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2017.

"Specter of Hate: Effects of Islamophobia on American Muslim Public Participation," presented at Fourth International Conference on Hate Studies, Gonzaga University, October 2017.

“Mapping Islamophobia as Inquiry-Based Learning,” invited presentation at the Iowa Global Scholars Workshop, University of Iowa, October 2017.

“Applying Social Theory in Digital Media: Video Essays in Being Muslim in America,” invited presentation at Religious Studies at a Crossroads, Carleton College, May 2017.

“Is This Activism? Mapping Islamophobia as Public Humanities,” invited presentation at Humanizing Data: Data, Humanities, and the City, New York University, April 2017.

“The Specter of Hate: Islamophobia and the Conditions of Public Life,” presented as the Burchenal Lecture in Religion and Public Life, Eckerd College, February 2017.

“The Fallacy of Non-Interference; or ‘Pauper Pilgrims Are Un-Islamic!’” presented at the Annual Midwest Conference on British Studies, September 2016.

“The Circulation of Colonial Histories and Their Effects: Teaching Islam and Gender in a Liberal Arts Context,” invited presentation at the Rethinking Islamic Studies Workshop, American Academy of Religion, November 2015.

“Debating the Common Good: Islam, Social Theory, and Ethical Cross-Cultural Analysis,” invited presentation at the Center for Global Islamic Studies, Lehigh University, October 2015.

“Sayyid Qutb, Humanism, and the Common Good,” presented at Shifting Boundaries: The Study of Islam in the Humanities, University of Vermont, April 2015.

“Governing the Hajj: Differentiation and the Character of Empire,” presented at meeting of Religion and Colonialism Consultation, annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2009.

“Sayyid Qutb and the Concept of Prophecy,” invited presentation at Prophecy, an interdisciplinary workshop held at New York University, April 2009.

“Establishing Religion in Iraq,” revised draft presented at Re-Stating Religion, Columbia University, March 2006.

“Establishing Religion in Iraq,” presented at meeting of Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group, annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2005.

“Scholarship, Power and Politics: federal funding of Area Studies following September 11,” presented at annual conference on Islam in the Middle East and South Asia, University of California at Santa Barbara, March 2004.

“Religious Violence in International Law,” presented at Symposium on Religion and Violence, Stanford University, May 2003.

Public Presentations

“Narrating Islam,” presented at Newton United Church of Christ, Newton, Iowa, November 2019.

“Mapping Islamophobia as Policy Tool,” presented at the 2019 Public Leaders for Inclusion Council Summit, organized in Washington, DC, by America Indivisible, July 2019.

“Fear In Your Heart,” presented at St. Pau’s Episcopal Church, Grinnell, Iowa, December 2018.

“Global Citizenship: What is it? How can we teach it?” presented with Jason Harshman (University of Iowa) and Alisa Meggitt (Iowa City Community School District) at the Iowa City Public Library, Iowa City, Iowa, April 2018.

“The United States in the Middle East: A History in Moments,” presented at Drake Public Library, Grinnell, Iowa, October 2017.

“Hate, Islamophobia, and American Public Life,” presented at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Grinnell, Iowa, September 2017.

“Specter of Hate: Islamophobia and American Public Life,” presented at Grinnell College Summerfest, Grinnell, Iowa, June 2017.

“Muhammad’s Biographies,” presented at Drake Public Library, Grinnell, Iowa, September 2014.

“100 Years of Change: World War I and the Contemporary Middle East,” presented at Drake Public Library, Grinnell, Iowa, September 2014.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Hate Studies*, 2019-

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2019-

Peer Reviewer, *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, 2016-

Co-Organizer and Facilitator, Teaching against Islamophobia Workshop, American Academy of Religion, November 2019.

Organizer and Facilitator, Countering Islamophobia Workshop, American Academy of Religion, November 2018.

Steering Committee Member, Conference Planning Committee of the Liberal Arts College and Small University Network of the Consortium for Humanities Centers and Institutes, 2018-2019.

Co-Organizer, Rethinking Islamic Studies Workshop, American Academy of Religion, November 2015.

Invited Facilitator and Respondent, Islam, Gender, and Women Group, American Academy of Religion, November 2015.

Co-Founder, Co-Chair and Co-Organizer, Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism Group, American Academy of Religion, 2006-2013, and Member of Steering Committee, 2013-2018.

Assistant Director, *Leaps of Faith*

- Hour-long documentary film (2004) presenting the breadth of public sentiment in Poughkeepsie, NY, surrounding the 2002 invasion of Iraq, the capture of Saddam Hussein and more general views on citizenship and contemporary international affairs.
- Screened in Rhinebeck, NY (Upstate Films), Poughkeepsie, NY (Vassar College), and Istanbul, Turkey (Boğaziçi University).

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Participant, Wabash Center Workshop for Pre-Tenure Faculty (2014-2015)

Recipient and Co-Director, Grinnell College Innovation Fund (2015-2018)
Awarded three-year, \$18,000 grant to facilitate expansion of faculty and student research communities.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

Co-Leader, "Mapping Islamophobia in the Secondary Classroom," 2017-2018

- Collaborative award from Digital Bridges for Humanistic Inquiry, a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon foundation to Grinnell College and the University of Iowa.

Co-Director, Undergraduate Department Grant, 2015-2018
Awarded by Wabash Center for Teaching Theology and Religion

- \$30,000 in funding from Lily Endowment, Inc., in support of “Exploring and Addressing the Effects of Campus Culture on the Religious Studies Classroom,” a long-term project investigating public questions of religion and religious diversity at Grinnell College as they relate to the curricular goals of the Department of Religious Studies

Summer Fellowship in Research and Teaching, 2014-2015

Awarded by Wabash Center for Teaching Theology and Religion

- \$5000 in funding from Lily Endowment, Inc., in support of “Teaching and Researching American Islam in the Post-9/11 Landscape.”

Phillip Hammond Fellow In Religion and Politics, 2006-2007

Awarded by the Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

Institute on Global Conflict & Cooperation Dissertation Fellowship, 2005-2006

Awarded by IGCC, University of California, San Diego

The Professor Charles Wendell Memorial Award in Islamic Studies, 2004-2005

Awarded by the Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

Rowny Graduate Fellowship in Religious Studies, 2001-2006

Awarded by the Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

U.S. State Department Academic Foreign Language Area Studies Award, 2002-2004

- Completed two years of on-site advanced Arabic language training with assistance of funding

U.S. State Department Summer Foreign Language Area Studies Award, 2001-2003

- Completed intensive advanced courses in Arabic at the American University in Cairo, summer 2003
- Completed intensive courses in Arabic at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, summer 2002

LANGUAGES

- Arabic: advanced reading proficiency; intermediate speaking proficiency in *fusha* (formal); intermediate proficiency in Egyptian dialect (*‘amiya*)
- French: reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Academy of Religion