

ZAHRA N. JAMAL

znjamal@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Doctor of Philosophy, Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies, June 2008

Master of Arts, Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies, June 2002

Dissertation Title: “*Work no words*”: *Voluntarism, subjectivity, and moral economies of exchange among Khoja Ismaili Muslims*

Rice University

Summa Cum Laude

Bachelor of Arts, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, May 2000

Bachelor of Arts, Slavic Studies, May 2000

EXPERTISE

Issues: Gender, Islam, Civic Engagement, Human Rights, Youth Development, International Development, Education

Geographies: United States, Central and Eurasia, South Asia, West Asia, Asian Diasporas in North America

Languages: English, Russian, Urdu, Arabic, Farsi, Tajik

WORK EXPERIENCE

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Associate

September 2012-Present

Political Science & Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago

Course Taught: TBD, related to Islam and Gender

Teach, conduct research, and organize University-wide programming on Women, Islam, and the Public Sphere, including the Anti-Muhammad Video, Anti-Shariah Movement, All-American Muslims, and Islam through Hollywood. Grant-writing with CSGS Director Linda Zerilli on the same.

Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow

September 2011-August 2012

Anthropology & Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago

Course Taught: Women and Power: Rights Politics in International Perspective

Teach, conduct research, and organize undergraduate workshop on International Women's Rights as part of the Sawyer Seminar. Co-organize conference on Indian Women's Rights.

Visiting Assistant Professor

July 2009-July 2011

James Madison College, Michigan State University

Courses Taught: Women and Power in Comparative Perspective; Muslim Identity in Global Perspective

Organized Asian Studies Center Colloquium Series: Women and Gender Politics in Asia

Lecturer

February-April 2010

Aga Khan Foundation Kyrgyzstan

Course Taught: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Field Methods.

Lecturer in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies

July 2008-June 2009

Harvard University

Levenson Prize Nominee for Best Undergraduate Professor at Harvard

Courses Taught: Negotiating Muslim Identities; Anthropology of Middle Eastern Communities; Moral Economies of Exchange

Lecturer in Anthropology

January 2009- June 2009

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Course Taught: Understanding Culture

DIRECTORSHIP EXPERIENCE**Assistant Director****February 2012-Present***Center for the Study of American Muslims, Institute for Social Policy and Understanding*

Conduct and oversee policy-relevant research such as the Islam in Prisons, American Muslim political participation, the Sharia controversy, American Muslim women leaders; write articles, policy pieces, op-eds and media appearances for radio and television; outreach with universities, policy makers, media outlets; raise money for research; direct research priorities.

Director of Strategy & Research**July 2009- Present***Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board for USA*

Program oversight of research, programmatic development, and program implementation of case-study workshops for the Ethics in Daily life Project serving South, Central, and West Asian Muslims in the United States. Program oversight of research design, development and direction of Central Asian Literary Traditions Project. Submit quarterly reports and make quarterly presentations. Create and adhere to annual budgets.

Program Director of International Development**July 2010-July 2011***Michigan State University*

Bridging James Madison College, the Asian Studies Center, and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to: Coordinate Central Asia and Caucasus Faculty Working Group. Devise a summer training program for development leaders, researchers, funders on cultural context in international development projects. Develop a study tour to Central Asian countries for faculty and students. Coordinate a multidisciplinary faculty research group on post-conflict institution building in Central Asia and other locations.

Director of Strategy & Operations**July 2005-July 2009***Aga Khan Social Welfare Board for USA*

Program oversight of marketing, recruitment, training, continuing education, and management of over 200 social services volunteers and 8 regional managers in the US, Australia, and New Zealand serving a 24x7 free, confidential help line. Created online continuing education platform; increased rate of volunteers completing continuing education from 25% to 90% in 2 years. Managed two national public health campaigns for South and Central Asian Muslims in the United States: the Aga Khan Foundation-funded Mental Health Initiative and the Special Needs Awareness Initiative.

Advisor to Director**July 2008- June 2009***Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University*

Advised Director on strategic partnership and grant-making opportunities within and across institutions in the areas of Islam and Media, Islam in the West. Participated in SSRC-funded Islam in Context convening at invitation of Director; engaged advanced graduate students to produce deliverables. Developed and implemented strategies to engage key stakeholders for Harvard-wide Alumni weekend featuring the Center's affiliates' research in a full-day conference.

APPLIED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**Consultant****March 2011-Present***U.S. Department of State*

Advise U.S. Department of State on challenges of American Muslims. Proposed possible government-led solutions.

Fellow**May 2011-Present***The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding*

Write reports, op-eds, policy briefs for this Detroit and DC-based think tank focusing on issues of Muslim Americans.

Gender Specialist**May 2010-Present***USAID; Michigan State University*

Conduct and support gender-sensitive USAID-funded research, training, and capacity building in rural farms of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan. Recommend sustainable programmatic and policy solutions based on research findings of this cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, international collaborative project to improve food security situation in Central Asia.

International Research Lead: Refugee Settlement & Migrant Labor**July 2009-October 2010***Aga Khan Foundation Kyrgyzstan*

Led international research team to design socioeconomic needs assessment of Afghan refugees and Tajik migrant workers in Kyrgyzstan. Trained 9 Tajik and Afghan student assistants in Kyrgyzstan in anthropological theory and field methods.

Ethnographic Consultant: Education**March 2009-May 2009***Aga Khan Academies Project*

Analyzed interview and ethnographic data from key education stakeholders (parents, educators, civil society, government) in Syria regarding in-residence, transnational I.B. schools. Recommended ways to engage different stakeholders.

Research Consultant: Political Participation**July 2008- June 2009***Harvard University*

Developed Islam in the West Program grant proposals for Rockefeller Brothers Fund for research on political participation of Muslims in America. Engaged a faculty across disciplines and institutions to discuss qualitative data of the Carnegie-funded Muslims in Boston survey; developed strategies for additional research interventions.

Research Consultant: Civic Engagement & Social Media**July 2007-July 2008***Harvard University*

Provided ethnographic consultation on Berkman Center for Internet and Society project to engage Muslim youth globally through social media. Stakeholders included US Department of State, Harvard Faculty, Media Experts. Project has since been adopted by US State Department.

Research Expert: Civic Engagement**December 2006-June 2007***Aga Khan Development Network*

Created international online needs assessment survey tool with team of experts. Conducted ethnographic interviews. Developed recommendations on how to engage different demographics globally in international volunteer opportunities.

Research Expert: Civic Engagement & Human Rights**May 2005-August 2005***Aspen Institute*

Founded, developed, and reported on Muslim Philanthropy in post-9/11 America Project. Project has become as a million dollar effort to education American Muslims on giving and due diligence procedures.

Research Consultant: Human Rights & Gender Equity**May 2002-August 2002***Swiss Development Cooperation*

Provided ethnographic consultation to United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights project undertaken by SDC on polygamy among Muslim villagers and migrant workers from Khatlon, Tajikistan.

Research Consultant: Conflict Resolution**May 2002-August 2002***Aga Khan Humanities Project*

Assisted in development of conflict resolution and negotiation strategies framework for multiple regions in Tajikistan with histories of inter-ethnic conflict.

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming. Jamal, Zahra. "Work No Words": Voluntarism and Piety among South Asian Ismaili Muslims. (Book manuscript in preparation)

Forthcoming. Jamal, Zahra. "Safai moms: Gender, Service, and Securing the Future" (Article in preparation for American Ethnologist)

Forthcoming. Jamal, Zahra. "The Politics of Giving Post-9/11" (Book chapter in preparation for invited edited volume *Governing Gifts: Faith Based Charity and the Security State*. Ed. Erica James.)

2012. "Engaging Pluralism: Civil society and Service." In *Building a Shared Future: Citizenship and Identity*. Eds. Emmanuel Kattan and Yasir Suleiman. British Council and University of Cambridge.

2011. "Khadija: A Window into the Soul of Islam." Video Lecture for *Fund for the Future of Our Children*. 11 Nov 2011: n. pag. Web. http://www.futureofchildren.net/11_12_jamal.html

2011. Jamal, Zahra and Rizwan Mawani. "Hajj Diaries: The Multiple Dimensions of Muslim Pilgrimage." *Wall Street Journal*. 7 Nov: n.pag. Web. <http://onespot.wsj.com/politics/2011/11/07/16dca/zahra-n-jamal-phd-hajj-diaries-the>

2011. Jamal, Zahra and Rizwan Mawani. "Hajj Diaries: The Multiple Dimensions of Muslim Pilgrimage." *Huffington Post*. 7 Nov: n.pag. Web. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-zahra-n-jamal/hajj-diaries-muslim-pilgrimage_b_1077913.html
2011. "Charitable Giving Among Muslim Americans: Ten Years After 9/11." *The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding*. August. <http://ispu.org/Getpolicy/34/2259/Publications.aspx>
2011. Featured in "Exclusive: The Muslim Women of 'I Speak for Myself.'" *The Crescent Post* 9 May: n.pag. Web. <http://www.crescentpost.com/2011/05/exclusive-the-muslim-women-of-i-speak-for-myself/>
2011. "To Be a Good Muslim is to Be a Good Citizen." *Huffington Post* 16 April: n. pag. Web. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-zahra-n-jamal/to-be-a-good-muslim-is-to_b_848173.html
2011. Featured in by I Speak for Myself: American Women on Being Muslim. Promotional Video. April.
2011. "A Sister in Humanity" in *Speak for Yourself*. Eds. M. Ebrahimji and Z. Suratwala. White Cloud Press.
2008. Book Review of *Ismailis in the Middle Ages* in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. Duke University Press.
2007. "Ismailis." *Encyclopedia of Islam in America*. Ed. Jocelyne Cesari. Greenwood Press.
2007. Muslim philanthropy expert, "A Matter of Faith: Volunteering in a Religious Context," International Roundtable. *e-Volunteerism: The Electronic Journal of the Volunteer Community*. www.e-volunteerism.com
2007. Featured in "Graduate Research Workshops: Understanding Islam in the West." *GSAS Colloquy*. Winter.
2005. "Volunteerism: An Interview with Zahra Jamal" in *The Ismaili: United States of America*. Los Angeles: Communications and Publication Portfolio, July 11, p. 18-19.
2003. "Embodying Ethics, Performing Pluralism: Volunteerism Among Ismailis in Houston, TX." *The Pluralism Project*. December. <http://www.pluralism.org/research/profiles/display.php?profile=72666>.

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist*. "Veiled Muslim Women: From Cause to Enemy" in Human Rights and Mental Health of Women in the Context of Religious Freedom. International Academy of Law and Mental Health. Spring 2013.
- Panelist*. "Polishing Soul: Gender, Islam, and Freedom" in "Feminist Expressions, Feminist Futures." National Women's Studies Association. November 2012.
- Panelist*. "From State of Emergency to States of Emergence: The Politics of Giving Among American Muslims Post-9/11" in Faith-Based Charity And The Security State: Containing People And Finance In Risk Societies, American Anthropological Association. November 2012.
- Guest Lecturer*. "Dealing with Difference: Re-writing Histories of Islam in America and Europe through the Arts." UCLA. October 2012.
- Co-Author* with Linda Racioppi and Hashini Dissanayake. "The Gender Politics of Food Security in Tajikistan." The Politics of Development in Central Asia Panel. Midwest Political Science Association National Conference. April 2012.
- Guest Presenter*. "The Politics of the Gift in a post-9/11 World." Sawyer Seminar in International Women's Rights. University of Chicago. March 2012.
- Panelist*. "Diverse Expressions of Women in Islam: Opportunities and Challenges." Ismaili Center, Glenview. March 2012.
- Guest Lecturer*. "Bullied Muslim Youth: Managing the Politics of Difference in K-8 Classrooms." University of Wisconsin, Madison. February 2012.

Guest Speaker. "Philanthropic Pursuits among High Net Worth Muslim Donors." University of Chicago Development Office. February 2012.

Guest Lecturer. "Authority, Adab, Ethics: Foundational Themes in Contemporary Muslim Cultures." Houston. January 2012.

Panelist. "Author's Showcase: I Speak for Myself: American Women on Being Muslim." Asian American Journalists Association Conference. August 2011.

Workshop Moderator. "Professionalism and Service." AKYSB-ITREB NE USA. June 2011.

"Fieldwork Techniques: Through the Lens of Women and Islam" Union College. April 2011.

"Gender Equality in Islam: One Text, Many Interpretations" Public lecture sponsored by MSA of MSU. March 2011.

"Ethics in Daily Life: Living Islam." Ismaili Center. Houston. January 2011.

"Materialism: A Case Study." ITREB USA. Atlanta. January 2011.

"A Journey through Dua." Ismaili Center. Detroit. January 2011.

Chair. "Welfare, Development, and Local Knowledge" Panel. Central and Eurasian Studies Society. October 2010.

"Gender and International Development: A Critical Analysis of Fieldwork from Central Asia" in Gender Roundtable. Central and Eurasian Studies Society Conference. October 2010.

"Volunteer Appreciation: Islamic Perspectives." East Lansing, MI. October 2010.

"Ismailism in Tajikistan." Guest talk. Northeast Council for USA. June 2010.

"Symbolic Significance of the Ismaili Volunteer Corps." ITREB Northeast USA. June 2010.

"Gender and Law: Comparative Muslim Perspectives." Manhattan Ismaili Center. June 2010.

"Safai Moms: Gender, Service, and Safeguarding the Soul." South Asia Workshop. Harvard University. May 2010.

"From State of Emergency to States of Emergence." Citizenship & Networks Conf. Wayne State University. April 2010.

"Din and Duniya: Living an Ethical Life." Ismaili Center. Lansing & Detroit. March-April 2010.

"The Nasir Khusraw Tradition: Historical and Contemporary Practices." Ismaili Center. Phoenix. January 2010.

"Ethnographic Field Methods." James Madison College, Michigan State University. October 2009.

"Are women equal to men?: Modern Interpretations of the Quran." Emory University. Summer 2009.

"Constructing Ismaili Identity in Tajikistan: A Historical Perspective." Emory University. Summer 2009.

"Professionalization of Voluntarism: A Model of Ethical Management." Emory University. Summer 2009.

"Giving among Muslims in America post-9/11." Willamette University. Spring 2009.

"Tolerance no more?: Repressing Religious Minorities in Tajikistan." Michigan State University. Spring 2009.

"Gender Equality in Islam." Loyola University. Spring 2009.

"Women & Islam." Introduction to Islam & Contemporary Muslim Societies. Harvard University. Spring 2009.

"Presenting Islam and Muslim Communities in Context." Participant. Social Science Research Council Conf. Fall 2008.

- “From the Field to the Finish Line: Conceptualizing and Completing a Dissertation Research Project.” Harvard Islam in the West Workshop. October 2008.
- “Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow.” Panelist. The Harvard-Radcliffe Women’s Leadership Conference. September 2007.
- “Transnationalizing Tradition: North American Ismailis Volunteering Abroad.” Middle East Studies Association Conf. November 2006.
- “Transnationalized Tradition.” Harvard Islam in the West Workshop. November 2006.
- “Institutionalizing Pluralism: Muslim Engagement in Western Contexts.” Diversity Dialogues. October 2006.
- “Pluralism: An Ismaili perspective.” Pluralism Panel. Muslims Leaders of Tomorrow Conference. July 2006.
- “Introduction to Islam.” Guest Lecturer, Islamic Culture and Civilization. Wells College. Aurora. Spring 2006.
- “Between Duty and Desire: Muslim philanthropy post-9/11.” Islam in the West Conference. December 2005.
- “Pamiri Ritual in Historical Perspective.” College Program on Islam. Oxford at Emory Univ. Atlanta. Summer 2005.
- “Performing Pluralism: Volunteerism Among Muslims in Houston, Texas.” *Second prize, Best Graduate Student Paper.* Assoc. of Muslim Social Scientists Conference. September 2003.
- “Embodying Ethics, Performing Pluralism: Volunteerism Among Ismailis in Houston, Texas.” Pluralism Project Research Conference. October 2003.
- “Material Faith: Architectural Style, Religious Belief, and Identity in Tajik Badakshan.” Central and Eurasian Studies Society Conference. October 2003.
- “Selling Soul: Glocalization of Qawwalis.” American Anthropological Association Conference. November 2003.
- “(Re)imagining the Imagined: (Re)Producing History and Identity in Post-Soviet Tajikistan.” Dialogue Among Civilizations Conference. October 2001.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Affiliated Faculty*, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. Fall 2011- Present.
- Affiliated Faculty*, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University. Fall 2010- Summer 2011
- Core Faculty*, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University. Fall 2010- Summer 2011
- Core Faculty*, Muslim Studies Program, Michigan State University. Fall 2010- Summer 2011
- Faculty Resource*. Asian Studies Center. Michigan State Univ. Fall 2009- **Summer 2011**
- Core Faculty*, Center for Gender in Global Context, Michigan State University. Fall 2009- Summer 2011
- Adjunct Faculty*, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University. Fall 2009- Summer 2011
- Undergraduate Advisor*. Anthropology Department. Harvard Univ. Spring 2009.
- Member*, Graduate Student Fellowship Committee. Anthropology Department. Harvard Univ. Fall 2008-Spring 2009.
- Member*, Graduate Program Admission Committee. Ctr for Middle Eastern Studies. Harvard Univ. Fall 2008-Spring 2009.
- Member*, Alumni Relations Committee. Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Harvard Univ. Fall 2008- Spring 2009.
- Assistant*, Islam in the West Workshop. Harvard Univ. Cambridge. Spring 2007.
- Rapporteur*, Program on Eurasia in Transition. Davis Center. Harvard Univ. Cambridge. Fall 2003-Winter 2004.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Affiliate, Carr Center for Human Rights, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- American Anthropological Association
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion
- National Women's Studies Association
- Middle East Studies Association
- Central and Eurasian Studies Society
- International Academy of Law and Mental Health

SELECTED DISTINCTIONS**INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL**

I Speak for Myself name #1 Non-Fiction Book on Religion in the United States, Huffington Post, 2011
 Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2011-2012
 Facilitated Memorandum of Understanding Signing between Michigan State University and University of Central Asia, 2010
 Aging Gracefully Initiative, Aga Khan Foundation USA, 2008
 "Muslim Leader of Tomorrow," Association for the Social Advancement of Muslims & World Economic Forum, 2006
 William Randolph Hearst Endowed Scholarship, Heart Foundation, Aspen Institute, 2005
 Mid-dissertation Grant, Weatherhead Foundation, Harvard University, 2005
 Purindar Das Grant, Das Fund, South Asia Initiative, Harvard University, 2005
 Victor and Tara Menezes Grant, Menezes Fund, South Asia Initiative, Harvard University, 2005
 Pluralism Project Research Grant, Pluralism Project, Harvard University, 2003
 Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, Javits Fellow, United States Department of Education, 2000- 2005
 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Honorary Mellon Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2000
 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, United States Department of Education, 1996-2000

UNIVERSITY-WIDE

Levenson Prize Nominee, Best Junior Faculty Professor, Harvard University, 2009
 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, Spring 2009
 Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2007-2008
 Professional Development Grant, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, 2008
 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, Fall 2008
 Hemenway Fellowship of American Ethnology Grant, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, 2007
 Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Grant, Harvard University, 2007
 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, Fall 2006
 Professional Development Grant, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, 2006
 Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Grant, Harvard University, 2006
 Professional Development Grant, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, 2005
 Hemenway Fellowship of American Ethnology Grant, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, 2005
 Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Grant, Harvard University, 2005
 Harvard University Summer Research Support, Harvard University, 2004
 Hemenway Fellowship of American Ethnology Grant, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, 2004
 Center for Middle Eastern Studies Dissertation Research Grant, Harvard University, 2004
 Professional Development Grant, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, 2003
 Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Grant, Harvard University, 2003
 Pluralism Project Fellowship, Harvard University, Summer 2003
 Harvard University Summer Scholarship, Harvard University, 2002
 Center for Middle Eastern Studies Summer Grant, Harvard University, 2002
 Harvard University Summer Scholarship, Harvard University, 2001
 Phi Beta Kappa, Rice University, 2000
 Envision Grant, Rice University, 1999
 Mary Ellen Hale Lovett Fellowship, Rice University, 1999
 Earl Douglas Mitchell Fellowship in Slavic Studies, Rice University, 1999
 John E. Parish Fellowship, Rice University, 1999

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Guest Reporter and Writer. TheIsmaili.org. Covering the Golden Jubilee Games in Nairobi, Kenya. Summer 2008.
 National ISTAR Awards Advisor. Aga Khan Education Board. 2002-2004.
 Afghan Refugee Tutor. Aga Khan Social Welfare Board Volunteer. Houston, TX. 2003-2004.
 Senior Center Volunteer. Aga Khan Social Welfare Board Volunteer. Houston, TX. 2003-2004.
 International Refugees & Youth Volunteer. Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston. Houston, TX. 2003.
 Volunteer. Rothko Chapel. Houston, TX. 2003.
 Religious Education Center Teacher. Binghamton, NY; Boston, MA; Houston, TX. 1992-2004.
 Vice-Captain of Ismaili Volunteer Corps. Binghamton, NY. 1992-1996.