

Curriculum Vitae

Robert M. Tappan

June 2015

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Towson University
LA 4127
8000 York Rd.
Towson, MD 21252-0001
t. 410-704-5448
f. 410-704-4398
rtappan@towson.edu

EDUCATION

- 2011 Ph.D., University of Virginia, Religious Studies: Islamic Studies
Dissertation: “Beyond Clerics and Clinics: Islamic Bioethics and Assisted
Reproductive Technology in Iran”
- 2010 M.A., University of Virginia, Religious Studies: Islamic Studies
- 1997 B.A., University of Redlands, Johnston Center for Integrative Studies, Major:
Religious Studies, Minor: Middle Eastern Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2011- Assistant Professor, Towson University, Department of Philosophy and Religious
Studies
- 2003 Instructor, Washington and Lee University, Religion Department
- 2001 Instructor, University of Virginia, Department of Religious Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Book Chapters

“More Than Fatwas: Ethical Decision Making in Iranian Fertility Clinics,” in *Islam and Assisted
Reproductive Technologies: Sunni and Shia Perspectives* (Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2012)

Encyclopedia Articles

“Abortion,” “AIDS,” “Animals,” “Dietary Rules,” “Ethics,” “Family Planning,” “Health Care,” “Medicine” in *Encyclopedia of Islam in the United States* (Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press, 2007)

Invited Blog Posts

“The Use of Reproductive Technologies in Iran,” *Contending Modernities* (November 22, 2013)
<http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2013/11/22/the-use-of-assisted-reproductive-technologies-in-iran/>

“A Response to Sherine Hamdy and Charles Camosy,” *Contending Modernities* (September 24, 2013)
<http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2013/09/24/a-response-to-sherine-hamdy-and-charles-camosy/>

“What (or when) is the human person?” *Contending Modernities* (February 4, 2013)
<http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2013/02/04/what-or-when-is-the-human-person/>

GRANTS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2013 | Member of a Towson University team that received the “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys” grant as part of the “Bridging Cultures” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities |
| 2013 | Member of a Towson University team that received the “Muslim Journeys Bookshelf” award as part of the “Bridging Cultures” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities |

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2015 | Fantastic Faculty award, Housing & Residence Life, Towson University |
| 2014 | Awarded “merit plus” for academic year 2013-14 by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Towson University |
| 2001-2003 | FLAS Fellowship for the Study of Persian Language, University of Virginia |
| 2000 | Seven Society Graduate Fellowship for Superb Teaching, Semi-Finalist, University of Virginia |
| 1997-1998 | Academic Enhancement Program Fellowship, University of Virginia |
| 1997 | Phi Beta Kappa, University of Redlands |

1997 Departmental Honors in Religion, University of Redlands

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2015 “Third-Party Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Iran: Human Dignity and Gender in Islamic Bioethics,” Contending Modernities symposium on Science and the Human Person, University of Notre Dame Global Gateway in Rome, Italy June 3-6
- 2014 Science and the Human Person: Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Perspectives, Contending Modernities working group meeting, Fordham University, October 9-11
- 2014 “Islamic Bioethics, Embryo and Gamete Donation, and Surrogacy in Iran,” Comparative Studies of Islamic Reasoning and Practice on Health and Sexuality, Islamic State University (UIN), Jakarta, Indonesia, August 21
- 2014 “Gender, Assisted Reproductive Technology, and Islam,” Seminar Series on Medicine and Religion at the University of Chicago, sponsored by the Program on Medicine and Religion and the Initiative on Islam and Medicine, Chicago, IL, June 2
- 2014 “Gender, Islam, and Assisted Reproductive Technologies,” Contending Modernities symposium on Science and the Human Person, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Doha, March 3-4
- 2013 Science and the Human Person: Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Perspectives, Contending Modernities working group meeting, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Notre Dame University, May 2-4
- 2012 Science and the Human Person Contending Modernities working group meeting, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, & World Affairs, Georgetown University, November 9-11
- 2009 “More Than Fatwas: Ethical Decision Making in Iranian Fertility Clinics” at the “Islam and the Biotechnologies of Human Life” conference and workshop of the Council on Middle East Studies, Yale University, September 19
- 2006 “Reproductive Technology and Ethics in Iran” at the symposium “Iran: Beyond the Islamic Revolution” at Florida State University, March 15

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 Panelist, “Teaching Islamic/Abrahamic Ethics” at the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, Chicago, IL, January 10

- 2012 “Islamic Bioethics and Animal Research: The Case of Iran” at the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, Washington, D.C., January 6
- 2008 “Fatwas and Beyond: Ethical Decision Making in Iranian Fertility Clinics” on the “Global Ethical Concerns” panel at the meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November 3

COURSES TAUGHT

Towson University

RLST 203: Introduction to Islam
 RLST 206: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
 RLST 305/505: Faith Perspectives in Medical Ethics
 RLST 313: Islamic Ethics
 RLST 363/563: Sufism: Islamic Mysticism
 RLST 367/567: Islam in the Modern Age

Washington and Lee University

Islam
 War and Peace: Muslim and Christian Views

University of Virginia

Religious Ethics and Moral Problems

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2008-2009 Research Associate, Bryn Mawr College
 Performed research, editorial, and bibliographic work on two major book projects and various articles on Islam for President of Bryn Mawr College, Dr. Jane McAuliffe
- 2007-2008 Research Associate, Georgetown University
 Performed research, editorial, and bibliographic work on two major book projects and various articles on Islam for Dean of Georgetown College, Dr. Jane McAuliffe

SERVICE

The Profession

- Ongoing Outside reader for *The American Journal of Bioethics*, *Avicenna Journal of Medical Biotechnology* (Iran), *Bioethics*, *Human Fertility*, *International Review of*

Law, Journal of Religious Ethics, Reproductive BioMedicine Online, Zygon: Journal of Religion & Science

- 2014 Arranged and co-hosted a Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics information session at the 2014 annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion
- 2014-present Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics
- 2014-present Membership Committee of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics
- 2013 Nominating Board Member of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics
- 2013 Local organizer for Study of Islam Section of the American Academy of Religion dinner for the 2013 annual meeting
- 2009-10 Advisory Council member for NPR radio series on “The Arab World’s Demographic Dilemma” by *America Abroad Media*
- 2009 Subject matter reviewer for *Understanding Iran* book series (Rosen Publishing)
- 2006 Informal outside reader for *Animals in Islamic Tradition and Muslim Cultures* (Oneworld)

College of Liberal Arts, Towson University

- 2014 Presenter, “Teaching with Twitter,” for the CLA Fall Teaching Session
- 2014 Judge, Dan Jones Writing Prize
- 2013-present Member, College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
- 2012 Judge, Hirschmann and McWilliams Award in Asian Studies
- 2011-present Asian Studies Advisory Committee

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Towson University

- 2015-present Co-Administrator for Departmental social media accounts
- 2015-present Editor, *Sophia*, Departmental newsletter
- 2013-present Advisor, World Religions Roundtable student club
- 2012-2013 Co-Organizer, Religious Studies Film Festival
- 2012 Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Merit

2011-2013 Co-Advisor, Religious Studies Forum

DISSERTATION AND THESIS COMMITTEES

2014 Bruce Roth, “Analysis of the Rabbinic usage of ‘Because of the Ways of Peace’,” MA, Jewish Studies, Towson University

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2015 Co-Presenter, *Le Grand Voyage*, TU Religious Studies Film Festival, Towson, MD

2014-present Member of the Islam Committee of the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies, Towson, MD

2014 Panelist, PBS documentary “The Trials of Muhammad Ali,” TU Community Cinema Program, Department of Geography and Environmental Planning, Towson University, Towson, MD

2014 “Assisted Reproductive Technology in Iran,” What Matters Speakers Series, Department of Geography and Environmental Planning, Towson University, Towson, MD

2014 Led book discussion of Marjane Satrapi’s graphic novel *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* for the “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys” NEH grant tied to the “Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys” NEH grant awarded to Towson University’s Albert S. Cook Library, Towson, MD

2013 Panelist for “An Evening of Islamic Art and Culture at the Walters Art Museum” as part of NEH grant for “Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys” awarded to Towson University’s Albert S. Cook Library, Baltimore, MD

2013 Provided historical, religious, and cultural background for, and participated in, discussion of Towson University’s Cook Library Book Club for the Khaled Hosseini novel *And the Mountains Echoed*, Towson, MD

2006 “Tradition and Change in the Muslim World” at the “Crossing Contested Ground: Fundamentalist Religion and Contemporary Politics” Centennial Weekend event, University of Redlands, Johnston Center for Integrative Studies, Redlands, CA

2006 “From Jarhead to Egghead: Pilgrimage To, and Through, Johnston,” Kathryn Green Alumni Lecture, University of Redlands, Johnston Center for Integrative Studies, Redlands, CA

- 2003 “Islam” (three-session series), Olivet Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, VA
- 2003 “Islam and War,” International Relations Association, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA
- 2002 “Islam in South Asia,” continuing education seminar for high school teachers, Charlottesville City Schools, Charlottesville, VA

LANGUAGES

Arabic: Advanced reading, intermediate speaking and writing
Persian: Advanced reading, intermediate speaking and writing
French: Intermediate reading, beginning speaking and writing
Urdu: Beginning reading and speaking

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
The Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME)