

EMMA RIFAI

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EDUCATION

2021 **Ph.D., Religious Studies, The University of Iowa**
Title: Secular Embodiments: Body Management, Protestant Culture, and American Secularism in the Twenty-First Century
Directors: Kristy Nabhan-Warren and Jenna Supp-Montgomerie
Committee Members: Natalie Fixmer-Oraiz, Naomi Greyser, and Raymond Mentzer

2017 **The Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies**
2017 **The Graduate Certificate in College Teaching**

2018 **M.A., Religious Studies, The University of Iowa**
Comprehensive Exam Areas: American Religions; Critical Theory and Religion; and Religion, Food, and the Body

2011 **M.A., Middle East Studies, The University of Washington**
Thesis: Fashioning Identities: New Relationships with Fashion and Modesty in Turkey

2009 **B.A., Sociology of Religion, Minnesota State University Moorhead**
Thesis: Unveiling New Orientalism: An Exploration in Images

2008 **B.M., Instrumental Music and Religious Studies, Concordia College**
Thesis: The Body's Iron Cage and Its Relationship to the Protestant Ethic

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2023 **St. Catherine University**, Department of Core Curriculum. Lecturer.

2021-2022 **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**, Department of Religion and Culture. Instructor.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

“Whose Techno-Utopia? Power, Privilege, and the Religio-Secular Frameworks of the Contemporary Biohacking Movement.” *Religion Compass* 16:11-12 (November 2022): 1-10.

“Digital Waistlands: Pro-Ana Communities, Religion, and Embodiment.” *Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture* 9 (2020): 207-227.

“Weighty Matter(s): Religion, Secularism, and American Weight Loss Culture.” *Religion Compass* 14:2 (February 2020): 1-10.

“Spreading the Religion of Thinness from California to Calcutta: A Critical Feminist Postcolonial Analysis” with Michelle Lelwica and Jenna McNallie. *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 24:1 (Spring 2009): 20-41. (Published under Emma Hoglund.)

Textbook Entries

“Evangelical Christianities in North America.” *Bloomsbury Religion in North America*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

“Women and Christianity.” *Bloomsbury Religion in North America*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

Book Reviews

Review of *The Story of Radio Mind: A Missionary’s Journey on Indigenous Land*, by Pamela E. Klassen. *Material Religion* 15:5 (July 2019): 644-645.

Review of *Religious Affects: Animality, Evolution, and Power*, by Donovan O. Schaefer. *Material Religion* 12:4 (December 2016): 515-516.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conferences Organized

2022	Religion and Media Workshop, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado
2021	Religion and Media Workshop, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas
2020	Religion and Media Workshop, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual
2019	Annual Upper Midwest Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, St. Paul, Minnesota
2018	Graduate Student Council Student Roundtable Series, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado
2018	Annual Upper Midwest Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, St. Paul, Minnesota
2017	Graduate Student Council Programming, Annual Meeting of the American

Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts

Conference Presentations

2021 “Whose Techno-Utopia? Biohacking, Silicon Valley, and Protestant Privilege,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas

2020 “DNA Dieting: Genetic Testing, Nutrigenetics, and American Secularism,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual

2018 “Uploading the Body; Embodying the Online: Bodies, Digital Space, and the Pro-Ana Movement,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado

2018 “Networked Anorexia: Pro-Ana Communities, Network Logic, and the Internet,” Conference of the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado

2018 “Pro-Ana: An Internet-Mediated ‘New Religious Movement?’” Craft Critique Culture Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

2017 “Disrupting Secular Space: Veiled Female Bodies in Turkish Shopping Malls,” Jakobsen Memorial Graduate Conference, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

2016 “Fashioning Identities: New Relationships with Fashion and Modesty in Turkey,” Doing the Body in the 21st Century Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2008 “The Body’s Iron Cage and Its Relationship to the Protestant Ethic,” Annual Upper Midwest Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, St. Paul, Minnesota

2007 “From California to Calcutta: Spreading the White-Western Devotion to Female Thinness—A Feminist Post-Colonial Analysis,” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, California

PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

Colloquia

2021 “Body Hacks: Biohacking, Silicon Valley, and Protestant Privilege,” Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia

2019 "Biohacking the Body: Fasting, Silicon Valley, and Protestant Privilege,"
The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

Guest Class Lectures

2022 "Divine Dieting: Pro-Ana, Religion, and the Body," in *Introduction to American Studies* (RLCL:2504), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia

2019 "Digital Waistlands: Pro-Ana Communities, Religion, and Embodiment," in *Food, Body, and Belief: A Global Perspective* (RELS:2674), The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

2014 "Spreading the Religion of Thinness from California to Calcutta: A Critical Feminist Postcolonial Analysis," in *Women's Religious History* (REL 374), Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota

2014 "Fashioning Identities: New Relationships with Fashion and Modesty in Turkey," in *Social Theory* (SOC 302), Minnesota State University Moorhead, Moorhead, Minnesota

AWARDS AND HONORS

2021 Barbara W. and Rex E. Montgomery Award, The University of Iowa

2019 President and Mrs. Eugene Gilmore Scholarship, The University of Iowa

2018 Rev. Louis Penningroth Award, The University of Iowa

2017 Alice Marguerite Blough Award, The University of Iowa

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dissertation Writing Fellowship, The University of Iowa

2019 Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship, The University of Iowa

2016, 2018 Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant, The University of Iowa

2010-2011 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, The University of Washington

2009-2010 Schwartz Fellowship, The University of Washington

Service to Profession

2022-Present Assistant Editor, *Journal of Religious Ethics*

2018-2022 Chair and Steering Committee Member, Religion and Media Workshop of the American Academy of Religion

2019 Peer Reviewer, *Communication, Culture and Critique*

2017-2019 Student Director, Upper Midwest Region of the American Academy of Religion

2018 Peer Reviewer, *Contemporary Women's Writing*

Departmental and University Service

2021-2022 The Department of Religion and Culture's Brown Bag Series Coordinator, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

2015-2018 Graduate Student Critical Theory Reading Group Coordinator, The University of Iowa

2015-2018 Religion Graduate Student Organization (RGSO), The University of Iowa
Co-Coordinator, 2017-2018
Faculty Committee Representative, 2016-2018
Graduate Student Mentor, 2016-2017
Secretary/Treasurer, 2016
Social Event Chair, 2015-2016

2016-2017 UI Council on the Status of Women Member, The University of Iowa

2015 Advanced Graduate Student Workshop Leader, The University of Iowa

Community Outreach

2022 "Religion and Secularism" *The Religious Other Inclusion Workshop*, Tri-Faith Initiative, Omaha, Nebraska

2022 "Christian Nationalism" Workshop, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Blacksburg, Virginia

2021-2022 New River Abortion Access Fund Grant Writing Committee Member, Blacksburg, Virginia

2021 "The Protestant Roots of Secular American Values." Religion @ Work

(Podcast).

2019 “Islam and Veiling Practices” Workshop, Lutheran Campus Ministries, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

2018 “Women and Islam” Workshop, JustChurch, Iowa City, Iowa

2018 “Women and Islam” Workshop, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Iowa City, Iowa

2017 “Islam” Three-Part Workshop, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Iowa City, Iowa

2015 “Islam” Guest Discussion Leader, Lutheran Campus Ministries, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

2023 Future Humans, Human Futures: Religion, Technology and Ethics Workshop, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

2019-2021 Secularity and Sanctity in the Modern Era Working Group, Obermann Center, The University of Iowa

2015-2020 Graduate Student Critical Theory Reading Group, The University of Iowa

2020 Humanities for the Public Good Networking Workshop, Obermann Center, The University of Iowa

2020 Bridging the Gap: What I Said vs. What They Heard Workshop, The University of Iowa

2019 Social Justice and Vulnerability in the Classroom Workshop, The University of Iowa

2019 Managing the Market Summer Professional Development Series, The University of Iowa

2018 Summer Doctoral Seminar, Wayne State University

2018 Dissertation Writing Summer Camp, The University of Iowa

2018 Grant and Fellowship Writing Seminar, The University of Iowa

2016 Iowa N.E.W. Leadership Institute, The University of Iowa

COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Evangelical Christianities in America: Gender, Women, and Sexuality
Harry Potter: Mystery and Magic of Life
Methods and Theories in Religious Studies: Genealogy, Discipline, and Power
Religion and the Modern World: Key Questions and Debates
Women and Religion in America Today: From Protestantism to Paganism
“World(?)” “Religion(s)(?)”(?): Theory, Methodology, and Gender

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture
Theta Alpha Kappa
Alpha Kappa Delta

LANGUAGE

Arabic, Reading Proficient

REFERENCES

Naomi Greyser

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Departments of American Studies, English, and Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies
The University of Iowa
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