

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Roswitha Badry** is Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Freiburg, Germany. Her publications and research interests centre on the history of the MENA-region since the nineteenth century, the continued influence of classical ideas in contemporary discourses, Shi'a Islam, gender issues, (auto-) biographies of religious scholars and intellectuals, and contemporary Arabic literature.

**Emanuelle Degli Esposti** is Research and Outreach Associate at the Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, where she is investigating intra-communal antagonism and identity politics. In particular, her work makes use of theories in critical discourse analysis and psychoanalysis to theorise the production of in- and out-group boundaries relating to Sunni-Shi'a sectarianism, especially at the level of everyday practices. She holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies and an MSc in Middle East Politics from SOAS, University of London, and an MA and BA in Philosophy and Modern Languages from the University of Oxford. Her doctoral research drew on the case study of the Iraqi Shi'a diaspora to develop an alternative framework for conceptualising sectarianism as the unconscious of identity formation.

Beyond academia, Emanuelle Degli Esposti also delivers security and risk analysis on Europe and the Middle East for a range of private-sector clients, as well as having professional experience in consultancy and journalism. In 2011, she founded *The Arab Review*, an online journal showcasing arts, culture and politics from the Middle East.

**Chiara Formichi** is Associate Professor in Southeast Asian Studies at Cornell University. Her work focuses on Islam as a lived religion and as a political ideology in twentieth-century Indonesia and Southeast Asia more broadly. As such, her interests lie at the disciplinary intersection between Islamic Studies, History and Area Studies, methodologically resting on archival research as well as ethnography. Thematically, her research has addressed the role of Islam in politics, the status of Muslim minorities, the shaping of Indonesia's socio-political modernity, and the history of Islam in Asia.

**Mari-Sol García Somoza** graduated in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires. She holds an MA in Social and Human Sciences from the EHESS, France. She is currently a PhD candidate at the UBA-Paris Descartes University. Her doctoral thesis is entitled 'From Fatima to Evita: Identities, Involvement Spaces and Religious Sociabilities of Muslim Women in Argentina'. She is a Lecturer in Culture and Hispanic Civilisation in France. She is a member of the editorial board for the CEIL-CONICET journal *Sociedad y Religión* and for the ACSR/UFGRS journal *Ciencias Sociais e Religião*. She is also a member of the Centre for Cultural Anthropology, Paris Descartes University and of CEIL-CONICET's Society, Culture and Religion Programme. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the MERCOSUR Association of Social Scientists of Religion 2015–18.

**Mara A. Leichtman** is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Muslim Studies at Michigan State University. Her research highlights the interconnections among religion, migration, politics and economic development. She is the author of *Shi'i Cosmopolitanisms in Africa: Lebanese Migration and Religious Conversion in Senegal* (2015). She also edited (with Dorothea Schulz) a special issue of *City and Society* on *Muslim Cosmopolitanism*:

*Movement, Identity, and Contemporary Reconfigurations* (2012) and (with Mamadou Diouf) the book *New Perspectives on Islam in Senegal: Conversion, Migration, Wealth, Power, and Femininity* (2009). Her articles have appeared in the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Contemporary Islam*, *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of Religion in Africa* and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. She was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at the American University of Kuwait (2016–17) where she launched a new research project that examines Islamic humanitarianism in the Gulf directed to global economic development in Africa.

**Arun Rasiah** is Associate Professor of Liberal Studies at Holy Names University in Oakland, California. His research on the transmission of knowledge in the Muslim world traces the movement of ideas, the development of formal education, and practices of informal learning in several contexts. Currently, he is a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies where he is working on a project entitled ‘The Pedagogy of Malcolm X: Teaching Decolonisation’.

**Piro Rexhepi** is an Assistant Professor of Global Studies at Northampton Community College. He holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Strathclyde and was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. His interdisciplinary research covers the politics of sexuality, religion and de/coloniality in the Balkans and has been published in *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *East European Quarterly*, *Big Data & Society* as well as local and international media such as *The Guardian*, *Critical Muslims*, *Balkanist* and *Desde el Margen*.

**Robert J. Riggs** is a specialist in contemporary Shi‘ism, focusing on its emergence as a complex of local and transnational movements. He serves as Associate Professor of Religion and Politics at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, where he teaches courses on Islamic history and religion, on comparative monotheisms and the history of Muslim–Christian–Jewish relations, on the political economy of the MENA region, and on Islam and

Democracy, among others. He focuses in his research on the influence of contemporary Shi'a religious authorities based in Lebanon, Iraq and Iran over local and transnational Shi'a religious movements. His forthcoming book, *Shiascapes: The Changing Face of Contemporary Arab Shi'ism*, examines the contemporary histories of Shi'a communities in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and their diasporas in Europe and the US. Robert Riggs also serves as a regular commentator on the Middle East for a variety of news outlets, such as *CTV News* and *Al-Jazeera*.

**Oliver Scharbrodt** is Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Birmingham. His research expertise covers the intellectual history of modern Islam, Shi'ism, Sufism and Muslim minorities in Europe. Oliver Scharbrodt is the author of *Islam and the Baha'i Faith: A Comparative Study of Muhammad 'Abduh and 'Abdul-Baha 'Abbas* (2008) and co-author of *Muslims in Ireland: Past and Present* (Edinburgh University Press, 2015). Currently, he is the principal investigator of an ERC-funded project investigating the transformation of clerical authority in Twelver Shi'ism since the late 1950s.

**Yafa Shanneik** is Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Birmingham. She researches the dynamics and trajectories of gender in Islam within the context of contemporary diasporic and transnational Muslim women's spaces. She works on Sunni and Shi'a women communities in Europe and their transnational links to the Middle East. She also has a particular research interest in the authority and leadership of Muslim women and the changing nature of women's participation in religious practices in Europe and the Middle East. She has published several articles on gender and Islam and migrant identities in Europe such as: 'Remembering Karbala in the Diaspora: Religious Rituals among Iraqi Shii Women in Ireland' (*Religion*, 2015) and 'Religion and Diasporic Dwelling: Algerian Muslim Women in Ireland' (*Religion and Gender*, 2012).

**Emiko Stock** received Masters in Khmer Studies from INALCO (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations) and in Anthropology from Nanterre University, both in Paris, before joining the Department of Anthropology at Cornell University as a graduate student. In Phnom Penh,

she studied archaeology at the Royal University of Fine Arts while working various jobs, primarily as a fixer-interpreter. Her ethnographic work in Cambodia and Iran is conducted as a videographer and historiographer. She is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Asian Studies Program at Hamilton College starting Autumn 2019 where she teaches digital film production.

**Mayra Soledad Valcarcel** graduated in Anthropological Sciences from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). She is currently PhD candidate of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) at the Interdisciplinary Institute of Gender Studies (IIEGE, FILO: UBA) at the University of Buenos Aires, researching on Muslim women in Argentina.

**Benjamin Weineck** is director of a research group at the Department for the Study of Religion at Bayreuth University, Germany. His research group addresses questions of religious differentiation, sectarianism or sectarian indifference among Muslims (mostly Shi'a and Alevi) in the European diaspora and in the respective countries of origin (with a focus on Turkey, the Ottoman Empire and Iran). He is the editor, together with Johannes Zimmermann, of *Alevism between Standardisation and Plurality: Negotiating Texts, Sources and Cultural Heritage* (2018). In addition, he has published various articles concerning historical as well as contemporary aspects of Alevi and Shi'a Islam. His monograph on the history of the Kızılbaş-Alevi in the Ottoman Empire, sixteenth to eighteenth century, is currently in preparation.

**Noor Zehra Zaidi** is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Her research expertise covers sectarianism in the modern Middle East, modern Shi'a communities, pilgrimage and gender. She completed her PhD in 2015 at the University of Pennsylvania with a dissertation entitled 'Making Spaces Sacred: The Sayyeda Zaynab and Bibi Pak Daman Shrines and the Construction of Modern Shi'a Identity', which explores the evolution of pilgrimage to two female shrines in Syria and Pakistan. She is currently working on a new manuscript on sites of sectarianisation in Saddam Hussein's Baathist Iraq, which explores prisons, shrines, homes and visual space as sites of memory-making and the construction of an identity of resistance amongst the Shi'a Muslim community of Iraq.