

Candace Lukasik

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Academic Appointments

- 2024-2025 Faculty Leave Fellow, Brandeis University
Crown Center for Middle East Studies
- 2023-2024 Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellow
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- 2023-2024 Affiliate Faculty Member, University at Buffalo
Department of Anthropology
- 2022-present Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Affiliation with the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures
- 2020-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis
John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

Education

- 2013-2020 PhD., Sociocultural Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation: “Transnational Anxieties: Coptic Christians as Martyrs and Migrants,” Committee: (Saba Mahmood†), Charles Hirschkind, Mayanthi Fernando, Stefania Pandolfo, Maria Mavroudi
- 2013-2015 M.A., Sociocultural Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley
- Fall 2012 The American University in Cairo, Egypt, FLAS Fellowship
- 2011-2013 MA, Arab Studies, MESAAS, Columbia University
Thesis: “Conquest to Paradise: Citizenship, rights, and Coptic political activism after the 2011 Egyptian revolution”
Committee: Timothy Mitchell and Hamid Dabashi
- 2007-2011 B.A., Political Science and International Relations, Canisius College
- 2009-2010 The American University in Cairo, Egypt, NSEP Boren Scholarship

Research and Teaching Interests

Migration and Displacement; Diaspora and Transnationalism; Global Indigeneity; Violence and Memory; U.S. Empire and Imperial Formations; Race and Racialization; Minority Rights and Citizenship; Religion and Geopolitics; Human Rights and Humanitarianism; Reconstruction and

Development; Islam; Middle Eastern Christianity; Orthodox Christianity; Eastern Catholics and Global Catholicism; Middle East (Egypt and Iraq); United States

Publications

Book Manuscripts

Martyrs and Migrants: Coptic Christians and the Persecution Politics of US Empire (in production with NYU Press, North American Religions Series)

Somewhere Else: Political Ecologies and Indigenous Sovereignty in Global Assyria (in progress)

Orthodox Christianity in America. Co-authored with Sarah Riccardi-Swartz (under contract with Routledge, Religion in America Series)

Anthropologies of Orthodox Christianity: Theology, Politics, and Ethics. Volume co-edited with Sarah Riccardi-Swartz (under contract with Fordham University Press, Orthodox Christianity & Contemporary Thought Series)

American Examples: New Conversations about Religion Volume III. Volume co-edited with Michael J. Altman and Joshua Urich (in production with The University of Alabama Press)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Peer-Reviewed

- 2024 “Power Circuits: Asymmetries of Global Christianity.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Early View Online. Co-authored with Jason Bruner.
- 2023 “Beyond Church and State: Contentions of Minority Citizenship in Egypt.” *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 179-201.
- 2022 “Migrating Minority: Persecution Politics in Transnational Perspective.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* Vol. 54, No. 3, pp. 541-546.
- 2022 “Modern-Day Martyrs: Coptic Blood and American Christian Kinship.” In *Global Visions of Violence: Persecution and Agency in World Christianity*, eds. Jason Bruner and David Kirkpatrick. Rutgers University Press.
- 2022 “Bloody Kinship: Transnational Copts and American Persecution Politics.” In *Global Faith, Worldly Power: Evangelical Internationalism and U.S. Empire*, eds. Melani McAlister, Axel Schäfer, and John Corrigan. University of North Carolina Press.
- 2021 “Economy of Blood: The Persecuted Church and the Racialization of American Copts.” *American Anthropologist* Vol. 123, No. 3, pp. 565-577.
- 2020 “Postcolonial Solidarities: Oriental Orthodox Kinship in an Age of Migration.” *Journal of Ecumenical Studies* Vol. 55, No. 4, 484-517.

2016 “Conquest of Paradise: Secular Binds and Coptic Political Mobilization.” *Middle East Critique* Vol. 25, No. 2, 107-125.

Other

2021 “Oriental Orthodox Kinship and Anti-Racist Futures in the United States.” *Ecumenical Trends* Vol. 50, No. 6, 19-22. Co-authored with Christopher Sheklian.

2021 “Introduction: Book forum on Charles Hirschkind, *The Feeling of History: Islam, Romanticism, and Andalusia*,” *History and Anthropology* Vol. 32, No. 5, 637-669.

2019 “On the Study of Islam and the Middle East after Saba Mahmood: A Roundtable Conversation with Lisa Wedeen and Schirin Amir-Moazami,” *Sociology of Islam* Vol. No. 2, 345-360.

2016 “What Difference Does Orthodoxy Make?: The Anthropology of Christianity and the Problem of Alterity,” *The Alexandria School Journal* Vol. 3, 44-55.

Forthcoming

“Suffering Subjects: Human Rights and the Geopolitics of Concern.” Special Issue of *Religion and Society* on the 20th Anniversary of Talal Asad’s *Formations of the Secular: Christianity, Islam, Modernity*.

Review of *Between Heaven and Russia: Political Apostasy and Religious Conversion in Appalachia* by Sarah Riccardi-Swartz. *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies*.

In Preparation

Editor for Special Issue on “Geopolitical Kinship.” To be submitted to *Ethnos*.

“Ruins: Cultural Memory and the Politics of Heritage Preservation in Rural Upper Egypt.” To be submitted to *American Ethnologist*.

“Diasporic Expertise: Religious Education and Colonial Remnants Between Egypt and the United States.” To be submitted to *Cultural Anthropology*.

“Migrating Bodies/Flowing Blood: Imperial Solidarities and Global Christian Kinship between Egypt and the U.S.” To be submitted in a special issue of *Mediterranean Politics* entitled “Ambivalent Solidarities: New Perspectives from Kinship and Migration Studies.”

Co-editor for Special Issue on “The Idea of Critical Coptic Studies.” Solicited by *Exchange: Journal of Contemporary Christianities in Context*.

Book Reviews

2024 Review of *The Arab Spring Abroad: Diaspora Activism Against Authoritarian Regimes* by Dana M. Moss. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

- 2022 Review of *The Politics of Persecution: Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire* by Mitri Raheb. *Journal of Church and State*.
- 2021 Review of *Colonizing Christianity: Greek and Latin Religious Identity in the Era of the Fourth Crusade* by George Demacopoulos. *International Orthodox Theological Association Forum*. <https://iota-web.org/2021/01/03/george-demacopoulos-colonizing-christianity-reviewed-by-candace-lukasik/>
- 2020 Review of *The Political Lives of Saints: Christian-Muslim Mediation in Egypt* by Angie Heo. *Material Religion* Vol. 16, No. 3, 377-379.
- 2018 Review of *Christianizing Egypt: syncretism and local worlds in late antiquity* by David Frankfurter, *Political Theology* Vol. 19, No. 6, 544–545.
- 2014 Review of *The Coptic Question in the Mubarak Era* by Sebastian Elsässer. *Comparative Islamic Studies* Vol. 10, No. 1, 127-128.

Fellowships & Grants

External

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| 2024-2025 | Faculty Leave Fellowship, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University |
| 2024-2025 | Small Project Grant, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion |
| 2023-2024 | Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship, American Association of University Women |
| 2022 | Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Religion Faculty Teaching Undergraduates, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion |
| 2021 | Individual Research Grant, American Academy of Religion |
| 2020-2021 | Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) |
| 2019-2020 | Research Fellowship in Coptic Orthodox Studies, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University |
| 2019 | Annette K. Baxter Travel Grant, American Studies Association |
| 2019 | Graduate Student Travel Scholarship, Society for the Anthropology of Religion |
| 2018-2019 | Dissertation Fellowship, Louisville Institute |
| 2018 | Travel Grant, Middle East Studies Association |
| 2017-2018 | International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) |
| 2014 | Politics of Religious Freedom project grant, Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs |
| 2009-2010 | NSEP David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship, Cairo, Egypt |
| 2009 | The Critical Language Scholarship, Amman, Jordan |

Internal

Washington University in St. Louis

2020-2021 Research Grant, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

UC Berkeley

Spring 2020 Lowie-Olson Grant, Department of Anthropology

2019-2020 Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Fall 2019 Lowie-Olson Grant, Department of Anthropology

Fall 2019 Andrew Mellon Conference and Research Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2018-2019 Lowie-Olson Grant, Department of Anthropology

2018 Summer Research Grant, Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion

Fall 2018 Andrew Mellon Conference and Research Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Spring 2018 Andrew Mellon Conference and Research Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2016-2017 Andrew Mellon Conference Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2016-2017 John L. Simpson Memorial Research Fellowship, Institute of International Studies

2016-2017 Sultan Graduate Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Spring 2016 Graduate Division Conference Travel Grant

2015-2016 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

2015 Stevens Scholar Program Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2015 Pre-dissertation Research Grant, Institute of International Studies

2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Summer, Cairo, Egypt

2015 Sultan Graduate Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2014-2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

2014 Sultan Graduate Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2013-2014 Andrew Mellon Travel Grant, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2013-2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Columbia University

2012 Regional Travel Research Fellowship, Middle East Institute

2012-2013 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Teaching

2023-2024 Discussant, "Indigeneity in Comparative Perspectives," Department of Anthropology, University at Buffalo.

2022-2023 Instructor, "Introduction to Religion," Department of Philosophy and Religion, Mississippi State University.

Spring 2022 Instructor, "Religion, Race, Migration: Borders of Difference?" John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis.

- Spring 2021 Instructor, “Global Circuits: Religion, Race, Empire,” John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis.
- Summer 2019 Instructor, “Anthropology of Religion in the Middle East,” Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.
- Spring 2019 Reader, “International Media,” Media Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Ian Davis.
- Fall 2016 Adjunct Professor, “Islam: Revival and Tradition,” Department of Religious Studies and Theology, Canisius College.
- Spring 2016 Graduate Student Instructor, “Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology,” University of California, Berkeley, Prof. James Holston.
- Spring 2015 Reader, “Religion and Music,” University of California, Berkeley, Prof. Charles Hirschkind.
- Fall 2014 Graduate Student Instructor, “Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology,” University of California, Berkeley, Prof. Charles Hirschkind.

Invited Projects

- 2019-2023 Participant, Orthodox Christianity and Human Rights, funded by the Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs and Leadership 100 [PIs: George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou]
- 2022 Session Facilitator, Middle East Christianity: A Historic and Living Tradition, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for College and University Educators, Bradley University [Project Co-Directors: Jason Zaborowski, Nelly van Doorn-Harder]
- 2022 Participant, New Directions in Orthodox Thought and Practice (NDOTP), Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief (OC) [Advisory Committee: Michael Hjälml, Cyril Hovorun, Pantelis Kalaitzidis, Aristotle Papanikolaou, Ashley Purpura]
- 2021 Participant, American Examples (the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Alabama), funded by the Henry R. Luce Foundation [Steering Committee: Michael Altman, Merinda Simmons, Steven Ramey, Richard Newton]
- 2021 Participant, New Arts of Persuasion? Charisma, Aesthetics and the Making of Religio-Political Publics, funded by the Jackman Humanities Institute Program for the Arts, University of Toronto [Project Team: Simon Coleman, Victoria Fomina, Connie Gagliardi, Angie Heo, Valentina Napolitano, Filippo Osella]

2013 Graduate Fellow, Politics of Religious Freedom, funded by the Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs [PIs: Saba Mahmood, Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Winnifred Sullivan, and Peter Danchin]

Public-Facing Scholarship

- 2023 “Affective Un/Belonging: The Coptic Diaspora and Imperial Geographies of Islam.” *Contending Modernities*. <https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/affective-unbelonging-coptic/>.
- 2023 “Middle Eastern Christians and Persecution Politics in Transnational Perspective.” *Contending Modernities*. <https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/middle-eastern-christians-transnational/>.
- 2022 “The Ordinary Affects of U.S. Empire.” *Canopy Forum*. <https://canopyforum.org/2022/11/11/ordinary-affects-of-us-empire/>.
- 2022 “Majority Perceptions of Minor Feelings in Egypt.” *The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy* (TIMEP). <https://timep.org/commentary/analysis/majority-perceptions-of-minor-feelings-in-egypt/>
- 2022 “Kinship.” *Keywords: Critical Theory for Political Theology 2.0*. <https://politicaltheology.com/kinship/>
- 2022 “Minority (Trans)Nationalism between Egypt and the United States.” *Berkley Forum*. <https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/responses/minority-trans-nationalism-between-egypt-and-the-united-states>
- 2022 “Religious Publicity and Transnational Minority Politics.” *The Immanent Frame*. <http://tif.ssrc.org/2022/02/18/religious-publicity-and-transnational-minority-politics/>
- 2021 “U.S. Empire and the Politics of American Religion.” *Canopy Forum*. <https://canopyforum.org/2021/06/23/u-s-empire-and-the-politics-of-american-religion/>
- 2021 “Global Circulation of ‘The [National] Blessing.’” *The Christian Nation Project*. <https://thechristiannationproject.net/the-blessing/>
- 2021 “The American Politics of Coptic Martyrdom.” *Sightings*. <https://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/articles/american-politics-coptic-martyrdom>
- 2020 “Human Rights and Persecution Economies.” *Public Orthodoxy*. <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2020/10/13/human-rights-and-persecution-economies/>
- 2020 “The Social Life of Language: Copts and Coptic.” *The Languages of Berkeley: An Online Exhibition*. <https://update.lib.berkeley.edu/2020/07/20/coptic/>

- 2020 “Middle Eastern Christians and the U.S. Immigration Debate.” *Middle East Section-Anthropology News*. <https://www.anthropology-news.org/articles/middle-eastern-christians-and-the-us-immigration-debate/>
- 2020 “Debating Christmas Day: Copts, Calendars, and the Immigrants’ Church.” *Public Orthodoxy*. <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2020/02/20/copts-debating-christmas/>
- 2019 “Interview with Candace Lukasik: Transnational Anxieties.” *Coptic Canadian History Project*. <https://thecchp.com/2019/10/27/interview-with-candace-lukasik-transnational-anxieties/>
- 2019 “Rami Malek and Contentions of Coptic Identity.” *Public Orthodoxy*. <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2019/03/12/rami-malek-and-contentions-of-coptic-identity>
- 2019 “Copts, Church, and State: Egypt’s Christians Frustrated with Lack of Protection.” *The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy* (TIMEP). <https://timep.org/commentary/analysis/copts-church-and-state-egypts-christians-frustrated-with-lack-of-protection/>
- 2018 “Grad Spotlight: Candace Lukasik.” *Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion* (BCSR). <https://bcsr.berkeley.edu/research/grad-spotlight-candace-lukasik/>
- 2018 “Modernity, Murder, and Coptic Identity.” *Public Orthodoxy*. <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2018/08/27/modernity-murder-and-coptic-identity/>
- 2017 “Land, Migration, and Memory in an Upper Egyptian Village.” *Coptic Canadian History Project*. <https://egyptmigrations.com/2017/06/25/land-migration-and-memory/>
- 2012 “‘The End of an Era’: A Genealogical Analysis of ‘Sectarianism’ in Egypt and the Memory of Pope Shenouda III.” *Baraza Online*. <https://baraza.cdrs.columbia.edu/sectarianisminegypt/>

Presentations & Conferences

Media Appearances

- 2022 “Finding Our Religion,” The Dirt Podcast. September 21, 2022.
- 2022 “Economy of Blood—Interview,” Anthropotamus—Anthropology Podcast. June 3, 2022.
- 2020 “Copts and Race in America,” Coffee with Bishop Suriel. October 14, 2020.
- 2020 “Coptic Immigration to North America,” Coffee with Bishop Suriel. October 7, 2020.
- 2020 “A Conversation on Racial Reconciliation,” Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. June 12, 2020.
- 2018 “Copts between Egypt and America,” Logos TV. March 7, 2018.

Invited Talks

- 2023 “Martyrs and Migrants: Persecution Politics Between Egypt and the United States,” Department of Anthropology, McMaster University [via Zoom]. November 13, 2023.
- 2023 “Economy of Blood: the Persecuted Church and the Racialization of American Copts,” Racial & Ethnic Diversity, Department of Sociology, Stonehill College [via Zoom]. November 1, 2023.
- 2023 “Martyrs and Migrants: Coptic Christians and the Transnational Politics of Persecution,” Department of Anthropology, University at Buffalo. October 24, 2023.
- 2023 “Martyrs and Migrants: Coptic Christians and the Transnational Politics of Persecution,” Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania. October 10, 2023.
- 2023 “‘Draining the Middle East of Christians’: The Contested Politics of Migration among Egypt’s Copts,” Minority and Ethnic Politics in and from the Middle East Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison. April 28, 2023.
- 2023 “Middle Eastern Christian Immigration: Predicaments and Paradoxes,” Introduction to Diaspora and Transnational Studies II, Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto—Mississauga [via Zoom]. March 8, 2023.
- 2022 “‘Draining the Middle East of Christians’: The Contested Politics of Migration among Egypt’s Copts,” Afternoon Anthropology Lecture Series, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. November 4, 2022.
- 2022 “Anxious Kin: Thinking about a Shared Secular Episteme,” Response for Book Launch Event on *The Secular Paradox: On the Religiosity of the Not Religious* by Joe Blankholm, Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life, University of California, Santa Barbara. October 7, 2022.
- 2022 “Migrants and Martyrs: Coptic Christians and the Transnational Politics of Persecution,” Department of Philosophy and Religion, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. March 3, 2022.
- 2022 “Migrants and Martyrs: Coptic Christians and the Transnational Politics of Persecution,” Department of Anthropology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. February 17, 2022.
- 2021 “Copts between Church and State: Practices of Christian Citizenship in Egypt,” Orthodoxy and Democracy conference, New Directions in Orthodox Thought and Practice (NDOTP), Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief (OC), Oslo, Norway. August 19-20, 2022.
- 2021 “Economy of Blood: The Persecuted Church and the Racialization of American Copts,” Religious Violence Course, Global Studies, University of Chicago [via Zoom]. November 9, 2021.

- 2021 “Christians in the Middle East: the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt and Diaspora,” Journey to the Christian East Speaker Series, Valparaiso University [via Zoom]. September 21, 2021.
- 2021 Book Launch for *At Home and Abroad: The Politics of American Religion* edited by Elizabeth Shakman Hurd and Winnifred Fallers Sullivan, Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, Columbia University [via Zoom]. March 17, 2021.
- 2021 “Economy of Blood: Coptic Christianity and the Persecution Politics of U.S. Empire,” Department of Religion, Hope College [via Zoom]. February 25, 2021.
- 2020 “‘Strangers in their Land’: Paradoxes of Migration Among Copts in Diaspora,” Integration and Tradition: The Making of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Sweden, Lund University [via Zoom]. December 14, 2020.
- 2020 “Sensing Faith, Knowing Ethos: Secular Threat Among Transnational Coptic Christians,” Glasgow Anthropology Network [via Zoom]. November 13, 2020.
- 2020 “Coptic Migration and Racialization in America,” Oriental Orthodox Christianity and the Problem of Racism, Zohrab Information Center [via Zoom]. October 15, 2020.
- 2020 “Modern-Day Martyrs: Coptic Blood and American Christian Kinship,” St. Shenouda-UCLA Conference of Coptic Studies [via Zoom]. August 29, 2020.
- 2020 “Meeting in Addis Ababa: Postcoloniality and Oriental Orthodoxy,” Mahibere Kidusan, USA Center, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Campus Ministry [via Zoom]. August 23, 2020.
- 2020 “Middle Eastern Christian Immigration: Predicaments and Paradoxes,” Religion on the Move: Religion and Migration in North America, Department of Religion, Amherst College [via Zoom]. April 16, 2020.
- 2020 “Exploring Effects of Migration on Coptic Orthodox Christians,” St. Mary & St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church Manhattan, NY. March 7, 2020.
- 2019 “Islamophobia, Global Christianity, and American Evangelicals in the Age of Trump,” Religion and Race in the Time of Trump, Society of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion, San Diego, CA. November 22, 2019.
- 2019 “Persecution Politics: Seeing Muslims and Middle Eastern Christians through US Empire,” The Limits of Justice: Law, Ethics, and Theology in Christian-Muslim Relations, The Christian-Muslim Studies Network, Emory University, Atlanta. October 10-12, 2019.

- 2019 “Knowing: Separating Faith and Culture,” St. Mary & St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church Manhattan, NY. June 3, 2019.
- 2019 “‘Ecumenism of Blood’: Islamophobia and the Geopolitics of Middle Eastern Christians,” Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley. April 25, 2019.
- 2016 “Arab Spring: Movements and the Military,” Protest, Politics, and the State in Today’s World, Department of Political Science, Canisius College. March 21, 2016.
- 2013 “Egypt and the Arab Spring,” Islam: Revival and Tradition, Department of Religious Studies and Theology, Canisius College. March 25, 2013.

Invited Workshops

- 2023 Cultural Heritage of Migration: Solidarities and Struggles, American University in Cairo. January 11-12, 2023.
- 2022 The Properties of Christianity: Church property and religious life in the Middle East, London School of Economics & UK Economic and Social Research Council [via Zoom]. September 16, 2022.
- 2022 Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal Fellowship Seminar, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Kalamazoo, MI (The Fetzer Institute). September 6-10, 2022.
- 2021 Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal Fellowship Writing Workshop, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) [via Zoom]. September 30, 2021.
- 2019 International Dissertation Research Fellowship Summer Workshop, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Providence, RI. May 30-June 2, 2019.
- 2018 “The Study of Secularism: Pedagogical Challenges, Teaching Strategies,” McGill University, Montreal, Canada. January 18, 2018.

Conference, Symposium, and Colloquium Participation

Organized Workshops and Panels

- 2023 “Is Secularism a Settler Concept?” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2023.
- 2023 “An Ethnographic Otherwise: Political Theologies in and of ‘the Field,’” Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, November 14, 2023. Co-organized with Valentina Napolitano and Aaron Eldridge.
- 2023 “Global Assemblages: Religion and the Far Right,” Political Theology Network Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 7-10, 2023.

- 2022 “Thinking about Religion and the Far Right in Global Perspective,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 10, 2022.
- 2022 “Ruin As Trace: Ethnographic Reckoning In The Aftermath Of Destruction,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 10, 2022.
- 2021 “Orthodox Christianity, Alterity, and Worldmaking,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion [via Zoom], May 15, 2021.
- 2020 “Orthodoxy and Anthropology in Conversation,” The Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University [via Zoom], November 6, 2020.
- 2020 “Unsettling Racial Geographies in Middle Eastern Diasporas,” Middle East Studies Association [via Zoom], October 5-17, 2020.
- 2020 “Economy of Blood: The Persecuted Church and the Racialization of American Copts,” John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics Colloquium, Washington University in St. Louis [via Zoom], October 1, 2020.
- 2019 “Global Encounters: Responses to American Evangelicalism in the Middle East,” American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI. November 7-10, 2019.
- 2016 Anthropology, Christianity, Critique: The Idea of Christianity in Anthropological Inquiry, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. November 16-20, 2016.
- 2015 New Approaches to Christians in the Middle East, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. November 21-24, 2015.

Paper Presentations

- 2023 Invited Participant. “Making a Proper Religion: Secularism Studies and Notes on *Coping with Defeat*,” Author-Meets-Critics: *Coping with Defeat: Sunni Islam, Roman Catholicism, and the Modern State*. American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX. November 18, 2023.
- 2023 Invited Participant. “Persecuted Kin: Christianity and Spilt Blood,” The Formation of Persecuted Subjects. American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada. November 17, 2023.
- 2023 Invited Participant. “Persecuted: Human Rights and the Subjects of Suffering,” Formations of the Secular, 20 Years On. American Anthropological Association, Toronto, Canada. November 16, 2023.
- 2023 “The Ordinary Affects of U.S. Empire,” Comparison, Affects, & Power Workshop, University of Pennsylvania [via Zoom], March 18 and 19, 2023.

- 2023 Invited Participant. "Persecution Politics: Coptic Diaspora Advocacy and American Evangelical Kinship, 1990-2003," Complicated Entanglements "from Above" and "from Below": American Evangelicals, US Foreign Policy, and the Shaping of Global Evangelicalism. American Historical Association [via recording], January 7, 2023.
- 2022 Invited Participant. "Copts between East & West: The Minority Condition in Transnational Perspective," West and East and the Problem of History. Middle Eastern Studies Association, Denver, CO. December 4, 2022.
- 2022 Invited Participant. "Book Review Panel Discussion of Mitri Raheb's The Politics of Persecution: Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire," American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. November 20, 2022.
- 2022 Respondent. "Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Christianity in the Midst of Catastrophes," American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. November 19, 2022.
- 2022 "Global Translations of Indigeneity: Land, Kinship, and Political Advocacy Among Transnational Assyrians," Indigeneity and (Im)migration Stream, Political Theology Network Conference, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ. April 7-9, 2022.
- 2022 Invited Participant. "Christianity, World Religions, and the CIA: A Conversation on Michael Graziano's Errand into the Wilderness of Mirrors," American Historical Association [via Zoom], February 26, 2022.
- 2022 Invited Participant. "Christianity, World Religions, and the CIA: A Conversation on Michael Graziano's Errand into the Wilderness of Mirrors," American Society of Church History/American Catholic Historical Association, New Orleans, LA. January 7, 2022.
- 2022 "'Descendent of Islam Princes': Proximities to Whiteness Among Middle Eastern Christians in the United States (1915-1935)," Christianity, Race, and American Empire in the 1920s, American Society of Church History, New Orleans, LA. January 8, 2022.
- 2021 Invited Participant. "Reimagining Middle Eastern Studies: Notes from the Margins," Middle East Studies Association [via Zoom], November 30, 2021.
- 2021 Invited Participant. "New Directions in Middle East Christianity," American Academy of Religion [via Zoom], November 23, 2021.
- 2021 Invited Participant. "Asymmetrical Encounters: Transnational Copts and U.S. Persecution Politics," Thinking about World Christianity: Power, Politics, and Violence, American Academy of Religion [via Zoom], November 21, 2021.
- 2021 "Martyrs and Migrants: The Persecuted Church and the Racialization of American Copts," Borders, Bodies, and Ethics: Transnational Religious Networks in the Middle East, American Anthropological Association [via Zoom], November 18, 2021.

- 2021 Invited Participant. "From Ethics to Politics: Performing Public Anthropology of Religion," Society for the Anthropology of Religion [via Zoom], May 16, 2021.
- 2021 Invited Participant. "Author-meets-critics roundtable discussion of Sophie Bjork-James's *The Divine Institution: White Evangelicalism's Politics of the Family*," Society for the Anthropology of Religion [via Zoom], May 16, 2021.
- 2021 Invited Participant. "Asymmetrical Encounters: Transnational Copts and U.S. Persecution Politics," Thinking about World Christianity: Power, Politics, and Violence, Princeton Theological Seminary's World Christianity Conference [via Zoom], March 3, 2021.
- 2020 Invited Participant. "Between Egypt and the Egyptian Diaspora: The Changing Contours of Coptic Studies," Middle East Studies Association [via Zoom], October 5-17, 2020.
- 2020 Invited Participant. "De-Centering the Middle East: Challenging the Status Quo," Middle East Studies Association [via Zoom], October 5-17, 2020.
- 2020 "Colonial Remnants and Secular Threats in Transnational Coptic Orthodox Contexts," Global Orthodoxy Conference: Transnational Oriental and Eastern Christian Communities in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries [via Zoom], The Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, September 30-October 2, 2020.
- 2020 "'On the Brink of Extinction': Reconstructing Christianity in Iraq," Graduate Student Workshop, Assyrian Studies Association Biennial Symposium, Florida International University, March 20-22, 2020, [cancelled due to Covid-19].
- 2019 "'Ecumenism of Blood': Globalization and the Geopolitics of Middle Eastern Christians," Global Pessimisms: Ethnographic Perspectives on Hope, Skepticism, and Negotiating Authority, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA. November 23-26, 2019.
- 2019 "Knowing Ethos: Transnational Anxieties and Authority in Coptic Theological Education," Knowledge, Texts, and Interpretations, Society for the Anthropology of Religion Conference, University of Toronto. May 21-23, 2019.
- 2019 "Transnational Anxieties: Shaping a Minority Community Between Egypt and the United States," Diversity and Power in Global Christian Communities, Center for Race & Gender, University of California, Berkeley. April 18, 2019.
- 2018 Invited Participant. "Migrating Minority: The Politics of Persecution between Egypt and the United States," Missionaries and Migrants Beyond Boundaries: Transnationalism and the Coptic Question in Egypt and its Diasporas, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 15-18 2018.

- 2018 “‘You have to have the credentials’: The Coptic Orthodox Church and Theological Education in the 21st Century,” Copts in Modernity Symposium, St. Athanasius College, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia. July 13-16, 2018.
- 2018 “Dreams of Migration: Time and Memory in an Upper Egyptian Village,” Second Annual Coptic Canadian History Project Conference, Toronto, Canada. April, 2018.
- 2017 “Between Faith and Ethos: Coptic Community-Fashioning through Theological Education in the United States,” After the Self: Ethical Practices, Shared Aspirations, and Community Fashioning, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC. November 29-December 3, 2017.
- 2017 “The Transnationalism of Coptic Political Activism,” Religious Dynamics in Contemporary Egypt, French Institute of Egypt, Cairo. September 10-12, 2017.
- 2017 “‘Copts and ‘the Persecuted Body’: Migration and Transnational Networks between Egypt and the United States,” Inaugural Coptic Canadian History Project Conference, Toronto, Canada. April 6, 2017.
- 2016 “On the Coptic Question: Secular Binds and Christian Politics in Egypt,” International Congress of Coptic Studies, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA. July, 2016.
- 2016 “Religious Authority and Secular Binds: Christian Politics and Dissent in Contemporary Egypt,” Futures and Ruins Workshop, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University, Durham, NC. March 25-26, 2016.
- 2015 “Christian-Muslim Relations, Lay Politics, and the Coptic Orthodox Church,” Christianity in African Contexts: Conflict in Africa, Department of Religious Studies Graduate Student Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington. April 18, 2015.
- 2015 “A ‘Coptic Liberation Theology’: Christian-Muslim Relations and the National Unity Paradigm in post-2011 Egypt,” Sites of the Political, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS) Graduate Conference, Columbia University, New York City. March 5-6, 2015.
- 2014 “‘Discovered Among the Masses’: Coptic Rights and Political Mobilization(s) in post-January 25th Egypt,” Playing the Numbers Game: Shaping Nationalistic Discourses and Actions, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC. December 2-7, 2014.
- 2014 “Rethinking the ‘Coptic Cause’: Coptic Political Mobilization and the Coptic Orthodox Church after the 2011 Egyptian revolution,” Contemporary Middle Eastern Christian Trends: Migration, Media, Mobilization, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA. November 22-25, 2014.

- 2013 “The (In)visibility of Religious Freedom: Coptic Political Activism and Citizenship in Post-Jan 25 Egypt,” Capstone Workshop, Politics of Religious Freedom project, Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. October 16-18, 2013.
- 2013 “Coptic Revolution, Egyptian Revolution: Rethinking Coptic Political Activism beyond Citizenship,” God, Nation, Revolution, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. October 10-13, 2013.
- 2013 “Conquest to Paradise: Citizenship, the secular and Coptic political activism after the 2011 Egyptian revolution.” Centre for Academic Shia Studies, Third Annual Conference, Sectarianism in the Contemporary Islamic World, London. April 13, 2013.
- 2012 “National Unity and Persecution Discourse: ‘Sectarianism’ in Egypt and Iraq as a Practice of Modernity?” Middle East History and Theory Conference, University of Chicago. May 4-5, 2012.

Academic Service

Professional service

- 2022-present Steering Committee Member, Anthropology of Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2022-present Steering Committee Member, Religion and Politics Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2021-present Member-at-Large, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association
- 2021-present Board Member, Egypt Migrations—A Public Humanities Project
- 2019-present Steering Committee Member, Middle Eastern Christianity Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2020-2021 Co-Organizer, Orthodox Christian Studies Center Fellows Workshop and Reading Group. Fordham University [via Zoom].
- 2018-2020 Co-Curator, New Directions in the Anthropology of Christianity
- 2018-2019 Co-Facilitator, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Salon, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley.
- 2014-2016
- 2014-2015 Co-Chair, “Global Christianities,” Townsend Center Working Group, UC Berkeley.
- 2011-2013 Co-Founder and Editor, Baraza Online, Middle East Section

- 2013 Committee member, MESAAS Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University.
- 2012 M.A. Representative, MESAAS Department, Columbia University. Spring.

Manuscript Reviewer and Prize Committees

Columbia University Press
 Oxford University Press
 American Anthropologist
 Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute
 Journal of the American Academy of Religion
 Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East and North African Migration Studies
 Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)
 Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation
 Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion (2022, 2024)
 Society for the Anthropology of Religion Graduate Student Paper Prize
 Arab American Book Award (Adult Non-Fiction) (2022, 2023)

Consultancies

- 2022-2023 New York State Supreme Court, Expert Witness on the Solemnization of Coptic Marriage. July 2022-March 2023.
- 2022 U.S. Institute for Peace, “Virtual Academic Conversations on ‘Minorities’ in the MENA Region,” February-March 2022.
- 2021 European Reconstruction and Development Bank/Cross Cultural Consulting Service, “Ethnic Minorities in North Africa and Central Asia—Egypt Consultant,” April-December 2021.

Languages

English	Native
Egyptian Arabic	Fluent
Modern Standard Arabic	Fluent (reading and writing)
Spanish	Reading comprehension

Professional Affiliations

American Anthropological Association (Society for the Anthropology of Religion; Society for Cultural Anthropology; Middle East Section)
 American Academy of Religion
 Middle East Studies Association
 Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society (SERMEISS)
 International Association for Coptic Studies
 Assyrian Studies Association

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