

Feminism and Sexuality in the Arab World

The history of feminism, sexuality, and queerness in Muslim spaces across the Middle East has remained paradoxical for scholars and contemporary commenters alike. Far Right political parties across Europe today have cited supposed longstanding Muslim homophobia and misogyny as markers of Islam's incompatibility with modernity. Yet Islamic history and sources since the medieval period tell a more complicated story. This course uses a broad range of source material to engage upper-level students in historical analysis through the methodologies of feminist theory, queer theory, and religious studies.

Reading List

- *Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, *Marriage and Sexuality in Islam*
- *Ibn Al-Jazzar, *Ibn Al-Jazzar on Sexual Diseases and Their Treatment*
- *Martha Brozyna, *Gender and Sexuality in the Middle Ages: A Medieval Source Documents Reader*
- *Qasim Amin, "Women's Freedom" in *The New Woman* (1900)
- *Malik Hifni Nasif lecture at Umma Party Club (1909)
- *Bareed Mista3jil: *Queer Arab Women's Stories from Lebanon* (2009)

- CJ Nash, "Queer Methods and Methodologies: An Introduction" in *Queer Methods and Methodologies: Intersecting Queer Theories and Social Science Research* (2016)

- Sa'diyya Shaikh, *Sufi Narratives of Intimacy: Ibn 'Arabi, Gender and Sexuality* (2012)

- Judith Tucker, "'And God Knows Best': Fatawa as a Source for the History of Gender in the Arab World" in *Beyond the Exotic: Women's Histories in Islamic Societies* (2005)

- Wael Hallaq, "Family Law and Succession" in *Shari'a: Theory, Practice, Transformations* (2009)

- Sahar Amer, "Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries: A Cross-Cultural Approach to Same-Sex Love Between Women" in *Crossing Borders: Love between Women in Medieval French and Arabic Literatures* (2008)

- Khaled El Rouayheb, "A Discourse on Method: The Evolution of *Adab al-bahth*" in *Before Homosexuality in the Arab Islamic World: 1500-1800* (2009)

- Kathryn Babayan, "'In Spirit We Ate Each Other's Sorrow' Female Companionship in Seventeenth-Century Safavid Iran" in *Islamicate Sexualities: Translations across Temporal Geographies of Desire* (2008)

- Jane Hathaway, "Eunuchs in Historical Perspective" in *Beshir Agha: Chief Eunuch of the Ottoman Imperial Harem* (2005)

- Abdulwehab Boudhiba, "The Islamic View of Sexuality", in *Sexuality in Islam* (2004)

- Filippo Osella, "Malabar Secrets: South Indian Muslim Men's (Homo)sociality across the Indian Ocean," *Asian Studies Review* 36 (2012)
- Sachiko Murata, "Macrocosmic Marriage" *Tao of Islam: A Sourcebook on Gender Relationships in Islamic Thought* (1992)
- Judith Tucker, "'And God Knows Best': Fatwa as a Source for the History of Gender in the Arab World," in *Beyond the Exotic: Women's Histories in Islamic Societies*, edited by Amira al-Azhary Sonbol (2005)
- Ottoman History Podcast: Illicit Sex in Ottoman and French Algeria with Aurelie Perrier (2015)
- Robert Aldridge, "The French in North Africa" in *Colonialism and Homosexuality* (2003)
- Hanan Kholoussy, "Deterring Divorce, Modernizing Marriage" in *For Better, For Worse: The Marriage Crisis that Made Modern Egypt* (2010)
- M Lugones, "Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System," *Hypatia* 22 (2007)
- Joseph Massad, "Reorienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World," *Public Culture* 14.2:361-385 (2002)
- Afsaneh Najmabadi, "Women's Veil and Unveil" in *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual Anxieties of Iranian Modernity* (2005)
- Mahmood, Saba, "Agency, Gender, and Embodiment" in *The Politics of Piety* (2005)
- Amina Wadud, "Qur'an, Gender and Interpretive Possibilities" in *Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam* (2006)
- Valentine Moghadam, "Feminists versus Fundamentalists" in *Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks* (2005)
- Aneela Sultana and Muhammad Khan Kalyani, "Femaling Males: Anthropological Analysis of the Transgender Community in Pakistan" *The Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* (2012)
- Sara Ahmed, "Problematic Proximities: Or Why Critiques of Gay Imperialism Matter" in *Feminist Legal Studies* (2011)
- Totally Radical Muslims Zine, Volume 3: *Hubb, Queer Muslim Love Stories* (2017)
- Jenna Brager, "The Selfie and the Other: Consuming Viral Tragedy and Social Media (After)lives" *International Journal of Communication* (2015)
- Fatima El-Tayeb, "Time Travelers and Queer Heterotopias: Narratives from the Muslim Underground" *The Germanic Review: Literature, Culture, Theory*, 88(3) 2013, 305-319

*Primary Sources