

Asma Barlas

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Education

Ph.D. International Studies; Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS),
University of Denver, Colorado, 1990.
M.A. International Studies, GSIS, University of Denver, 1986.
M.A. Journalism; University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan, 1971.
B.A. English Literature and Philosophy; Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore,
Pakistan, 1969.

Work History

Director, Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, Ithaca College;
June 2006- (Founding Director, 1999-2002).
Spinoza Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Amsterdam, the
Netherlands, Spring, 2008.
Professor, Department of Politics, Ithaca College, 2004 (associate professor, 1997-
2004; assistant professor, 1991-1997).
Chair, Department of Politics, Ithaca College; 1998-2004.
Instructor, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver; 1985-
1991.
Research Assistant, Graduate School of International Studies, Denver; 1985-1990
Assistant Editor and columnist, *The Muslim* (newspaper) Pakistan; 1982-1983.
Section Officer, (UNIII), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan; 1976-1982.

Dissertation

"State, Class and Democracy: A Comparative Analysis of Politics in Hindu and
Muslim Society in Colonial India, 1885-1947," Graduate School of International
Studies, University of Denver, 1990.

Research/Teaching Areas and Interests

Islam; Qur'anic hermeneutics; Muslim women; Religious and political violence;
Comparative and International Politics (South Asia, Middle East, Third World).

Awards, Honors, Fellowships

- Visiting Scholar, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, at the invitation of The Netherlands Research School for Theology and Religious Studies (NOSTER) and the Faculty of Humanities (Theology and Religious Studies Department and Gender Studies). October 24-November 1, 2009.
- Fellow, Oxford Roundtable, "The Role of the State in Religion," Oxford, England. August 5-12, 2005.
- Visiting Fellow, International Center for Islam and Pluralism (ICIP), Jakarta, Indonesia. June 16-July 3, 2005.
- Fellow, Salzburg Seminar, "Strengthening Democracy and Governance: Women and Political Power," Salzburg, Austria. 26 April- 3 May, 2004.
- "*Believing Women*" in Islam nominated for Grawemeyer Award in Religion, 2009; 2005.
- Woman of Distinction Award, New York State Senate, District: John R. Kuhl, Jr., 2003.
- American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) Post-doctoral Fellowship, 1998-99.
- Ithaca College Summer Research Grants: 2005, 2003, 2001, 1997, 1995, 1993 and Small Grants: 2001-1995; 1993-92.
- American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowship for Ph.D. research/writing, 1989.
- Teaching Grant from Ford Foundation on Superpower Intervention, University of Denver, 1988.
- Ben Cherrington Fellowship, University of Denver, 1985-86.
- Robert Anderson Fellowship, University of Denver, 1984.
- UN Department of Public Information Fellowship for Journalists, UN, New York, Fall, 1983.
- Department of Journalism Fellowship, Punjab, Pakistan, 1969-71.

Academic Achievements

- Dissertation passed with distinction; nominated for Gabriel Almond Award of the American Political Science Association in Comparative Politics, 1990.
- Graduated with a GPA of 4.0, GSIS, University of Denver, 1986.
- First Position, Seventh Foreign Service Officers Training Course in International Relations and Diplomacy, Administrative Staff College, Pakistan, 1976.
- First Class, Masters in Journalism, University of the Punjab, Pakistan, 1971.

Publications

Books

- Islam, Muslims, and the U.S.: Essays on Religion and Politics* (New Delhi, India: Global Media Publications, 2004).

Books (continued)

- "*Believing Women*" in *Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2002). Published in Indonesian as *Cara Quran Membebaskan Perempuan* (Jakarta, Serambi, 2005).
- Democracy, Nationalism and Communalism: The Colonial Legacy in South Asia* (Boulder, CO.: Westview Press, 1995).

Monograph (Spinoza Lectures)

- Re-Understanding Islam: A double critique, Spinoza Lectures* presented by the University of Amsterdam (Amsterdam: Van Gorcum, 2008).

Book Chapters

- "Does the Qur'an Support Gender Equality? Or, do I have the autonomy to answer this question?" in Marjo Buitelaar and Monique Bernards (eds.), *Autonomy and Islam* (Leuven, the Netherlands: Peeters, forthcoming).
- "Embodying Islam and Muslims: Religious and Secular Inscriptions," in Marius Timmann Mjaaland, Ola Sigurdson and Sigridur Thorgeirsdottir (eds.), *The Body Unbound* (U.K.: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010).
- "'Holding Fast by the Best in the Precepts': the Qur'an and method," in Kari Vogt et al. (eds.), *New Directions in Islamic Thought: Exploring Reform and Tradition* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2008).
- "La hermeneutica coranica y la liberacion de la mujer," selected papers, First and Second International Congress on Islamic Feminism, *La Emergencia de Feminismo Islamico* (Spain, Oozebap, 2008).
- "Engaging Islamic Feminism: Provincializing feminism as a master narrative," in Anitta Kynsilheto (ed.) *Islamic Feminism: Current Perspectives, Occasional Papers*, (Tampere Peace Research Institute, Finland, 2008).
- "Women's and Feminist Readings of the Qur'an," in Jane McAuliffe (ed.), *Cambridge Companion to the Qur'an* (Cambridge University Press, 2006).
- "Reviving Islamic Universalism: East/s, West/s, and Coexistence," in Abdul Said et. al (eds.), *Contemporary Islam: Dynamic, Not Static* (Routledge, 2006).
- "Globalizing Equality: Muslim Women, Theology, and Feminisms," in Fera Simone (ed.), *On Shifting Ground: Muslim Women in the Global Era* (NY: Feminist Press, 2005).
- "Amina Wadud's Hermeneutics of the Qur'an: Women Rereading Sacred Texts," in Suha Taji-Faruqi (ed.), *Modern Muslim Intellectuals and the Qur'an* (Oxford University, 2004).

Book Chapters (continued)

"Texts, Sex, and States: A Critique of North African Discourse on Islam," in Kevin Lacey and Ralph Coury (eds.), *The Arab-African and Islamic Worlds: Interdisciplinary Studies* (Peter Lang, 2000).

Journal Articles and Conference Papers

- "Abraham's Sacrifice in the Qur'an: Beyond the Body," Conference proceedings, Religion and the Body, Donner Institute for Research in the History of Religion, Åbo Akademi University, Finland (forthcoming).
- "Still Quarrelling over the Qur'an: Five Interventions," *ISIM Review* (Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World), Autumn, 2007.
- "Teaching about Islam and Women: on pedagogy and the personal," *Intercultural Education*, Special Issue, Vol. 18, November 2007.
- "Women in Islam: Facts and Perceptions," in Memoona Hasnain (ed.), *Patient-centered Health Care for Muslim Women in the United States*, conference proceedings, University of Illinois at Chicago Press, 2007.
- "Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an: Beyond the binaries of tradition and modernity," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Vol. 24, No. 2, 2007.
- "Qur'anic Hermeneutics and Sexual Politics," *Cardozo Law Review*, Vol. 28, No. 1, October, 2006.
- "A Requiem for Voicelessness: Pakistanis and Muslims in the U.S." *Wagadu*, Vol 1, No. 1, Spring, 2004. <http://web.cortland.edu/wagadu/>
- "Jihad=Holy War=Terrorism: The Politics of Conflation and Denial," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Vol. 20, No.1, Winter, 2003.
- "Muslim Women and Sexual Oppression: Reading Liberation from the Quran," *Macalester International*, Vol. 10, Spring, 2001.
- "The Quran and Hermeneutics: Reading the Quran's Opposition to Patriarchy," *The Journal of Quranic Studies*, University of London, Vol. III, No. 2, 2001.

Book Reviews

- "The Antinomies of 'Feminism' and 'Islam:' the Limits of a Marxist Analysis," review of *Feminism and Islamic Fundamentalism: the Limits of Postmodern Analysis*, Haideh Moghissi (London: Zed Books, 1999), in *Middle East Women's Studies Review*, Vol xviii, Nos. 1-2, Spring/Summer, 2003.
- "The Uses and Abuses of Muslim History in Explaining Islam," review of *Empire and Elites after the Muslim Conquest: The Transformation of Northern Mesopotamia*, Chase F. Robinson (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2002); in *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, Vol. 20: 1, 2003.

Book Reviews (continued)

“Islam and Equality;” review of *Islam and Equality: Debating the Future of Women’s and Minority Rights in the Middle East*, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (eds.), Canada, 1999; in *Middle East Women’s Studies Review*, Vol. xv, Nos. 1-2, Spring/ Summer, 2000.

Popular

200+ articles, op-ed pieces, short stories and poems in Pakistani and U.S. papers.

Papers, Lectures, Presentations

2010

“Abraham in the Qur’an: the unbound body,” keynote, Conference on Religion and the Body, Donner Institute for Research in the History of Religion, Åbo Akademi University, Åbo (Turku), Finland, June 16-18, 2010.

“Islam and Religious Diversity: towards pluralism and recognition,” Keynote address, Festival of Friendship Dinner, Ottawa Muslim Women’s Organization, Canada, April 25, 2010.

“Women as Agents of Change in Muslim Majority Countries and the World,” presentation at workshop, Italian Council of Social Sciences and Ethnobarometer; Rockefeller Center, Bellagio, Italy, March 13-14, 2010.

2009

“Islam and Politics of the Body: Religious and Secular Inscriptions,” lecture as part of Doing Gender series, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, October 26, 2009. (Revised paper presented first in Iceland.)

“The Qur’an, Shari’a, and Women’s Rights,” Plenary address, Conference on Re-imagining the Shari’a, University of Warwick, Venice, September 14, 2009.

“Islam and Body Politics: Inscribing (im)morality,” Keynote, Nordic Society for Philosophy of Religion conference on “Religion and the Politics of the Body,” University of Iceland, Reykjavik, June 26, 2009.

“Muslim Women’s Rights: Frameworks and Interpretations,” Regional Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Muslim Societies (UNIFEM/ ICIP) Jakarta, Indonesia, March 11-12, 2009.

“Islamic Reform and Gender Equality: *Fiqh*, Feminism, or CEDAW?” Regional Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Muslim Societies (UNIFEM/ ICIP) Jakarta, Indonesia, March 11-12, 2009.

2008

- "Globalizing Equality: revisiting the debate," Third International Congress on Islamic Feminism, Barcelona, Spain, October 25, 2008.
- "Re-understanding Islam: A double critique," Commemorative Lecture, Islamic Community of Lisbon, Portugal, June 22, 2008.
- "Would Spinoza Understand Me? Europe, Islam, and the Mirror of Difference." Spinoza Lecture 2, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, June 5, 2008. (Also presented at the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands, June 17, 2008.)
- "Believing Women in Islam: Between secular and religious politics and theology," Spinoza Lecture 1, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, May 8, 2008.

2007

- "Can We Speak of Women's Rights in Islam?" Fall Focus: Human Rights, Human Responsibilities, Saginaw Valley State University, October 22, 2007.
- "Engaging Islamic Feminism: Provincializing feminism as a master narrative," Workshop on Islamic Feminism, Tampere, Finland, August 31, 2007.
- "Still Quarrelling over the Qur'an: Five theses on interpretation and authority." Conference on Redefining Boundaries: Muslim Women and Religious Authority in Practice. Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, Amsterdam, June 24, 2007.
- "Lost in Translation: (Muslim) Women and (Films on) Islam," Keynote Address, "Women and Islam" film series, National Film Board of Canada, Toronto, May 22, 2007.
- "On Islamic and Muslim Feminisms," St. Mary's College, April 16, 2007.
- "Gender, Islam, and the War on Terror," College Lecture, Bates, March 14, 2007.
- "Women in Islam: Between Oppression and (Self-) Empowerment," Conference hosted by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Cologne, Germany, March 9, 2007.
- "A Collective Purpose: Crossing Cultural Boundaries," Emmie Baine Lecture, Women's Symposium, SMU, Dallas, March 1, 2007.

2006

- "Does the Qur'an Support Gender Equality?" University of Groningen, the Netherlands, November 23, 2006.
- "Women's Self-Emancipation through the Qur'an," University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, November 21, 2006.
- "Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an: beyond the binaries of tradition and modernity," keynote address, Islam: Tradition and Modernity, regional conference of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists, November 4, 2006, Toronto, Canada.

2006 (continued)

- "Four Stages of Denial, or, My On-Again, Off-Again, Affair with Feminism: Response to Margot Badran," Discussion Series, "Global Fury/ Global Fear: Engaging Muslims," Ithaca College, October 23, 2006.
- "The Pleasure of Our Texts: reading the Qur'an," Women in Religion in the 21st Century, conference, Interchurch Center, New York, October 17-19, 2006.
- "Reading the Qur'an: Challenges and Possibilities for Muslim Women," Workshop convener, Symposium on Gender, Race, Islam, and the "War on Terror," Simon Fraser University, Canada, May 11-13, 2006.
- "The Qur'an and Gender: Sexuality and Women's Status in Islam," two-day class, St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, April 24-25, 2006.
- "*Believing Women*" in Islam, lecture, Swarthmore College, April 14, 2006.
- "Women, Politics, and Islam: Rereading Islamic Sources," lecture, Middlebury College, April 6, 2006.
- "Sacred Knowledge and Women's Rights in Islam," lecture, Columbia University, March 29, 2006.
- "Women in Islam: Rethinking texts, traditions, and reason," University lecture, University of Oregon, March 2, 2006.

2005

- "Qur'anic Hermeneutics and Muslim Women's Liberation," International Congress on Islamic Feminism, Barcelona, Spain, October 29, 2005.
- "Women Encountering the Qur'an: Authority, Reading, Scripture," George Mason University, September 19, 2005.
- Lecture Series on Islam, Visiting Fellow, Center for Islam and Pluralism, Jakarta, Indonesia, June-July, 2005.
- "'Hold(ing) Fast by the Best in the Precepts:' The Qur'an and Method," Conference on the Changeable and Unchangeable in Islamic Thought and Practice, Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Faculty of Islamic Studies, Sarajevo, May 7-9, 2005 (read by Christian Moe).
- "Women's and Feminist Readings of the Qur'an," lecture, "Islam in the West Series," Center for Middle East Studies, Harvard University, March 22, 2005. "
- "Women in Islam: Facts and Perceptions," keynote address, conference, Muslim Women's Health Needs, University of Illinois at Chicago, March 4, 2005.

2004

- "Mainstreaming Extremism," plenary address to the Muslim Public Affairs Council, Fourth Annual Convention, Long Beach, CA, Dec. 18, 2004.
- "Christian and Muslim Women in Conversation About Scripture," Hartford Seminary, Dec. 3, 2004.

2004 (continued)

- "Gender Inequality and Scriptural Interpretation in Islam," Stanford University, November, 22, 2004.
- "Teaching about Women and Islam," AMEWS Roundtable, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 21, 2004.
- "Text, Tradition, and Reason: The Qur'an and Sexual Politics," Cardozo Law School, Yeshiva University, October 10-14, 2004.
- "Islam, Gender, and Reproductive Health," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, D.C., October 4, 2004.
- "Towards a Theory of Gender Democracy in Muslim Societies," Fifth Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, Washington, D.C., May 29, 2004.
- "Muslim Women, the Qur'an, and Male Power," lecture, Swarthmore College, April 23, 2004.
- "Globalizing Equality: Muslim Women, Theology, and Feminisms," lecture in the series Muslim Women in the Era of Global Communication, Library of Congress, March 26, 2004.
- "Women and Religion," lecture, Presidential Symposium, Auburn University, Alabama, March 16, 2004.
- "The Excesses of Moderation," presentation, "Moderation in Islam" Colloquium, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, February 21-22, 2004.
- "The Qur'an, Sexual Equality, and Feminism," University of Toronto, January 12, 2004.

2003

- "Reviving Islamic Universalism: East/s, West/s, and Coexistence," invited paper, conference on Contemporary Islamic Synthesis, Alexandria, Egypt, October 3-5, 2003.
- "A Requiem for Voicelessness: Pakistanis and Muslims in the US," Cornell University, April 12, 2003.
- "Islam, Equality, and Women: Reading the Qur'an for Liberation," Keynote address, Ithaca College, March 19, 2003.
- "Determining Islamic Authority in North America," presentation at the "Islam in America, 2003" conference, Harvard Divinity School, March 8, 2003.

2002

- Panelist, "Religious Authorities in Middle Eastern Islam," Institut fur Islamwissenschaft, Free University of Berlin, Germany, December 5-8, 2002.
- "Challenging Patriarchal Interpretations of Islam," Anderberg Lecture, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska, November 7, 2002.

2002 (continued)

- "Tradition and Modern Life: the Changing Role of Women," US Embassy, New Delhi, India, August 13, 2002 (via digital video).
- "Islam, Feminism, and Women," Robert L. Bernstein Symposium on Fundamentalism and Modernity, Yale University, April 12-13, 2002.
- "Jihad=Holy War=Terrorism: The Politics of Conflation and Denial," Conference on Pakistan, American University, April 8, 2002.
- "Can African Women Learn from East and Southeast Asia? Response to Amiya Kumar Bagchi," Women and Higher Education in Africa; CEPARRED, Cornell University, March 28-30, 2002.
- "Will the 'Real' Islam Please Stand Up?" Master's Tea Presentation at Silliman College, Yale University, February 21, 2002.

2001-1999

- "Jihad vs. Terrorism: Interpretive Confusion or Exceptionalism?" Seminar on "Terrorism: A New Challenge to the World of Islam," Karachi, Pakistan, December 20-21, 2001.
- "Globalization and Religion," discussant; International Studies Association, Chicago, February 24, 2001.
- "Muslim Women and Sexual Oppression: Reading Liberation from the Qur'an," invited paper, Macalester College Roundtable, Minnesota, October, 2000.
- "Reading Scriptures, Constructing Meaning: Understanding Islam's Position on Women," lecture, Transylvania University, Kentucky, April, 2000.
- "The Qur'an and Hermeneutics: Reading the Qur'an's Opposition to Patriarchy," Conference on Qur'an and Hermeneutics, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, October, 1999.

Miscellaneous papers, talks, and conferences

- "Women, Politics, and Islam," invited talk by the Muslim Students Association, Wesleyan University, December 3, 2010.
- "Finding our Voices as Muslim Women," in celebration of Islamic History Month, Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization, Canada, October 30, 2010.
- "Reflections on "Globalizing Feminism," Al-Nisa, Dutch Muslim Women's Organization meeting, Utrecht, the Netherlands, October 28, 2009.
- "Muslims in the West," public debate with Tariq Ramadan, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, June 13, 2008.
- "Hearing the Word, as a Muslim: Thirteen passages of the Qur'an and Religious Diversity," Vespers Service, Sage Chapel, Cornell University, November 4, 2007.
- "Women and Islam," lecture, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, August 24, 2007.

Miscellaneous papers, talks, and conferences (continued)

- "Challenges of Reading/ Interpreting the Qur'an," Master's class, University of Leiden. Organized by the Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, Leiden, the Netherlands, June 25, 2007.
- "*Believing Women*" in Islam, interview/discussion, Dutch Muslim Broadcasting Network (NMO), Hilversum, the Netherlands, June 25, 2006.
- "One Father, Three Dysfunctional Families: On the 'Problematic' Aspects of Monotheism," Snowstar Institute for Religion, Toronto, Canada, June 4, 2006.
- "Istanbul II: Empowering Women in Public Life in Middle East and North Africa," conference, Istanbul, Turkey, February 6-7, 2006.
- "Women and the Word," Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles, November, 2005.
- "Reading and Interpreting the Qur'an," and "Family and Marriage in Islam," Muslims in the 21st Century, Los Angeles Latino Muslim Association, April 16, 2005.
- "Media Reflections: Ignorance of a Hegemonic Imagination," Occupied Spaces Symposium, Ithaca College, April 8, 2005.
- "Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an," Independent Muslim Women's Alliance, Detroit, Michigan, October 11, 2003.
- "Muslims in the U.S." Strategic Research Forum, California, May 24, 2003.
- "Religion and our Response to Violence," Cornell University, February 13, 2003.
- "9/11, the Academy, and Renewal," Ithaca College, September 12, 2002.
- "Recontextualizing Martin Luther King, Jr.," Ithaca College, January 21, 2002.
- "On Interpretation and Exceptionalism," Ithaca College, October 29, 2001.
- "Why do They Hate Us?," Ithaca Community meeting, September, 23, 2001.
- "American Foreign Policy Towards the Muslim World," Concerned Citizens for Peace and Understanding, October 17, 2000.
- "(Re)coding Islam: Feminists, Stereotyping, and Liberation," Park School of Communications, Discussion Series on Islam, 2000.
- "The Qur'an and Women's Rights: Rereading Scripture," Ithaca College, Discussion Series on Islam, 1999.
- "Sex/Gender and Patriarchy in the Qur'an: Retheorizing Muslim Women's Rights," South Asia Seminar Series, Cornell University, 1999.
- "Texts, Sex, and States: A Critique of North African Discourse on Islam," Conference on Contemporary North Africa: Islamic Assertion, Ethnic Diversity, Democracy, and the State, SUNY, Binghamton, April 3-5, 1998.
- "Women and Muslim Law," keynote address, Women and the Law Conference, South Asian American Women's Association, Corning, NY, 1998.

Courses

Politics of Identity; Colonialism and Race; Unthinking Eurocentrism
Re-Understanding Islam; Islam: Religion and Politics
Intro to Global Studies; Intro to International Relations
Political Economy of the Middle East; South Asia; Third World

College Service and Committees

Chair, Steering Committee for B.A. in International Studies Major (2000-2006).
Chair, H&S Dean's Committee on Ethnic Studies (1998-1999).
Chair of several search committees, Department of Politics (1998-2004).
Faculty Advisor, African-Latino Society (2001-2002); Asia Society (1994-2002);
and Muslim Students Association (1999-2000; 2002).

Memberships, past and present

American Association of Higher Education (AAHE).
American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS).
American Political Science Association (APSA).
Association of Middle Eastern Women's Studies (AMEWS).
Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS)
Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy, Board of Directors (CSID) 2003-06.
Academic Advisory Board, *Religion and Gender*, the Netherlands.
Editorial Board, *Journal of Middle Eastern and North African Intellectual and Cultural Studies*.
International Voluntary Services, Board of Directors (IVS) 1993-98.