

BRANNON D. INGRAM
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Northwestern University

Department of Religious Studies
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Employment

- 2013 – present **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL
- Associate Professor of Religious Studies
 - Core Faculty: Program in Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Studies
 - Affiliated Faculty: Program in African Studies (PAS), Asian Studies
 - Co-Director: [Global Religion Research Group](#), Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS) Center for International and Area Studies
- 2012 – 2013 **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL
- College Fellow, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
- 2011 – 2012 **Wheaton College**, Norton, MA
- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities

Education

- 2005 – 2011 **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, Chapel Hill, NC
- Ph.D. in Islamic Studies
- 2004 – 2005 **Leiden University**, Leiden, The Netherlands
- M.A. in Islamic Studies
 - Fulbright/Netherlands America Foundation Fellow
- 1999 – 2003 **Reed College**, Portland, OR
- B.A. in Religion

Primary Research Interests

Islam in modern South Asia and South Africa, Sufism, Islamic law and society, Islamic political thought, Islamic religious authority, Theory and Method in Religious Studies

Publications

Monographs

How Islam Became a Religion: On the Colonial Pathways of a Modern Category (in progress)

Revival from Below: The Deoband Movement and Global Islam (Oakland: University of California Press, 2018).

- Reviewed by Simon Fuchs in *Die Welt des Islams* 61 (2021): 124–126.
- Reviewed by Ali Altaf Mian in *American Journal of Islam and Society* 37, 3-4 (2020): 98–105.
- Reviewed by Moin Ahmad Nizami in *Journal of Islamic Studies* 31, 2 (2020): 276–9.
- Reviewed by Matthew Kuiper in *Religious Studies Review* 45, 3 (2019): 390–1.
- Additional reviews forthcoming in *Pakistan Journal of Historical Studies* and *Reading Religion*

Edited Volumes

Imagining the Public in Modern South Asia, eds. Brannon D. Ingram, J. Barton Scott and SherAli K. Tareen (London: Routledge, 2016).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“A ‘Modern’ Madrasa: Deoband and the Colonial Secular,” *Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung* 44, 3 (2019): 206–5.

“Crises of the Public in Muslim India: Critiquing ‘Custom’ at Aligarh and Deoband,” *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 38, 3 (2015): 403–18.

“What is a Public? Notes from South Asia” (with J. Barton Scott), *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 38, 3 (2015): 357–70.

“Public Islam in Post-Apartheid South Africa: The Radio Islam Controversy,” *Critical Research on Religion* 3, 1 (2015): 72–85.

“The Portable Madrasa: Print, Publics and the Authority of the Deobandi ‘Ulama,” *Modern Asian Studies* 48, 4 (2014): 845–71.

“Sufis, Scholars and Scapegoats: Rashid Ahmad Gangohi (d. 1905) and the Deobandi Critique of Sufism,” *The Muslim World* 99, 3 (2009): 478–501.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“Is Islam a ‘Religion’? Contesting *Din*-Religion Equivalence in Twentieth Century Islamist Discourse,” in Brannon Wheeler and Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst, eds. *Words of Experience: Translating Islam with Carl W. Ernst* (Sheffield: Equinox, forthcoming 2021)

“Is the Taliban Anti-Sufi? Deobandi Discourses on Sufism in Contemporary Pakistan,” in Katherine Pratt Ewing and Rosemary R. Corbett, eds. *Modern Sufis and the State: The Politics of Islam in South Asia and Beyond* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2020), 81–91.

“René Guénon and the Traditionalist Polemic,” in Olav Hammer and Kocku von Stuckrad, eds. *Polemical Encounters: Esoteric Discourse and its Others* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2007): 201–26.

Non Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“Indian Bodies, Meccan Hearts: Two Deobandi Views on Being Muslim in India,” in Chiara Formichi, ed. *Routledge Handbook of Islam in Asia* (London: Routledge, forthcoming 2021)

“The Deoband Movement,” in Emad Hamdeh and Natala Delong-Bas, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Reform* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2021)

Encyclopedia Articles

“Qasim Sema, Mawlana,” *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three* (in progress)

“Ashraf `Ali Thanawi,” “Deoband School,” “Rashid Ahmad Gangohi,” and “Tablighi Jama`at,” in Arvind Sharma, ed. *Encyclopedia of Indian Religions* (London, New York: Springer, 2014).

“Zia ul-Haq (d. 1988),” in Gerhard Böwering, Patricia Crone, Wadad Kadi, Devin J. Stewart, and Muhammad Qasim Zaman, eds. *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012).

“Ahmadi American Muslims,” in Edward E. Curtis, ed. *Encyclopedia of Muslim American History* (New York: Facts on File, 2010).

Book Reviews

Matthew J. Kuiper, *Da'wa and Other Religions: Indian Muslims and the Modern Resurgence of Global Islamic Activism*, published on [Reading Religion](#), 16 September 2019.

Moin Ahmad Nizami, *Reform and Renewal in South Asian Islam: The Chishti-Sabiris in 18th-19th Century North India*, in *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 56, 1 (2019): 110-112.

Marcia Hermansen, *Shah Wali Allah's Treatises on Islamic Law*, in *Religious Studies Review* 39, 2 (2013): 121.

Sakurai Keiko and Fariba Adelhah, *The Moral Economy of the Madrasa: Islam and Education Today*, in *Contemporary Islam* 7, 2 (2013): 263-266.

Arthur F. Buchler, *Revealed Grace: The Juristic Sufism of Ahmad Sirhindi (1564-1624)*, in *Comparative Islamic Studies* 8, 1/2 (2012): 227-229.

Patrick Laude, *Pathways to an Inner Islam: Massignon, Corbin, Guénon, and Schuon*, in *Sophia* 51, 1 (2012): 143-145.

Robert Rozehnal, *Islamic Sufism Unbound: Politics and Piety in Twenty-First Century Pakistan*, in *Comparative Islamic Studies* 2, 2 (2006): 193-194.

Online Publications and Commentaries

“[Why Did a Muslim Civil Rights Group Oppose Democrats' Plans to Confront White Nationalism](#),” *Religion Dispatches*, 15 November 2019

Roundtable: [‘Religion’ in Muslim Traditions Workshop, Williams College, The Maydan](#), 1 August 2019

Brannon D. Ingram, [Revival from Below: The Deoband Movement and Global Islam](#) (New Texts Out Now), *Jadaliyya*, 19 July 2019

“[Understanding the Deoband Movement](#),” *The Maydan*, 8 November 2018

Honors, Distinctions, and Fellowships

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, Northwestern University – 2017-18

Grant Recipient (with Elizabeth Shakman Hurd): American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)/Luce Foundation's Program in Religion, Journalism and International Affairs – Northwestern University, 2018-19

Associated Student Government (ASG) Faculty Honor Roll, Award for teaching excellence from Northwestern student government – 2014-15 and 2016-17

Kaplan Faculty Fellowship, Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University – academic year 2016-17

John Hunwick Research Award, Program in African Studies, Northwestern University – April 2015

Equality, Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) Grant, Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University – funding for symposium “Imagining the Public in Colonial India: Print, Polemics and the People” – spring 2013

University of North Carolina Dissertation Completion Fellowship: Competitive fellowship for dissertation completion – fall 2010 and spring 2011

University of North Carolina Dissertation Research Fellowship – spring 2010

Visiting Fellow, Centre for Contemporary Islam (CCI), University of Cape Town – spring 2009 /fall 2010

Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship: Fellowship for research in India and South Africa – 2009

U. S. Student Fulbright Fellowship, Leiden University – fall 2004/spring 2005

Invited Talks and Colloquia

“Title TBD” Global Lunchbox Lecture Series, Northwestern Center for International and Area Studies – May 2021

“Critiquing the Category of Religion in Muslim South Asia,” Penn Religious Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania – February 2021

Invited discussant for virtual manuscript workshop on Elizabeth Lhost's *The Office of Islamic Law: Everyday Legal Life and the Making of Modern South Asia, 1800-1950*, Dartmouth College – January 2021

“Experiencing Time in the Deoband Movement,” invited discussant for roundtable on “The Islamic World and its Histories,” American Historical Association (AHA) annual conference, New York City – January 2020

“Beyond ‘Radicalization’: Notes from the Field and New Vocabularies,” invited discussant, CERI, Sciences-Po, Paris, June 2019

“Is Islam a ‘Religion’? Why Categories Matter,” Millsaps Friday Forum Lecture, Millsaps College – April 2019

“Understanding South Asian Madrasas,” Notre Dame Islamic Studies Colloquium, Notre Dame University – February 2019

“Remaking the Public,” at ‘South Asia and Beyond’ colloquium, Max Planck Institute for Human Development – Berlin, June 2017

“Who is a Wali? Boundaries of Sainthood in the Deobandi Imagination,” Inhabiting Pasts in Twentieth-Century South Asia, University of Chicago, 4 November 2016

“Sufism: Querying ‘the Mystical’ through Islam,” Guest Lecture for The Alumnae of Northwestern University, May 2016

“A Noble Jihad? Debating Politics in the Muslim Anti-Apartheid Movement,” The Rufus Monroe and Sophie Hougaard Paine Lecture in Religion – University of Missouri at Columbia, April 2016

“Is the Taliban Anti-Sufi? Deobandi Discourses on Sufi Saints’ Shrines in Contemporary Pakistan,” at Rethinking Islam, Democracy, and Identity in Pakistan and India: The Role of Sufism – Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, Columbia University, September 2015

“South African Muslims and the Anti-Apartheid Movement: Pluralism, Ethics, Politics,” Islamic World Studies Lecture Series, Loyola University, April 2015

“Islam and Politics in Apartheid South Africa,” William and Mary College, Department of Religious Studies, March 2015

“Imagining the Public in Modern India: Liberalism, Law, Religion,” Buffett Center for International Studies, Northwestern University, February 2015

“Muslim Ethics under Apartheid: Between Sufism, Self and Politics,” Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, February 2013

“Grave Danger: Deoband, Sufi Devotions and Saints’ Shrines,” *Piety, Poetry and Politics: Sufi Muslims in South Asia*, Conference at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies – 28 April 2011

“Projecting Publics in South African Islamic Radio: Media, Minorities and Post-Apartheid Rights,” Religion and Media Workshop, American Academy of Religions (AAR) Annual Conference – 29 October 2010

“Deobandis Abroad: Debating South Asian Sufism in South Africa,” Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam (CCI), University of Cape Town – 7 April 2010

Conference Papers and Presentations
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- “Islamism’s *Din*: Boundaries of ‘Religion’ in Mawdudi and his Successors,” Religion as a Changing Category of Muslim Practice, Pembroke College, Oxford University – May 2019
- “Framed by Religion,” Reporting Islam: Media, Policy, Politics, Northwestern University – April 2019
- “Making Sense of *Din* in Early Modern Europe: Islam between ‘Religion’ and ‘Law,’” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference – November 2018
- “Is *Din* Translatable?” Translating Islam: A Conference in Honor of Carl Ernst, UNC-Chapel Hill – October 2017
- “A ‘Modern’ Madrasa: Deoband the Colonial Secular,” Workshop on ‘Muslim Secularities: Explorations into Concepts of Distinction and Practices of Differentiation’, Humanities Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Leipzig – June 2017
- “True Sufis Don’t March in the Streets: Deobandi Political Ethics from South Asia to South Africa,” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference – November 2015
- “The Public and the Crowd in Deobandi Thought,” Annual Conference on South Asia – University of Wisconsin at Madison – October 2015
- “Narrating Decline: Critiquing ‘Custom’ at Aligarh and Deoband,” American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Conference – January 2015
- “Debating the Authority of the ‘*Ulama*: The Tablighi Jama`at between Deobandi and Salafi Discourses,” Annual Conference on South Asia – University of Wisconsin at Madison – October 2014
- “What Does a Tradition Feel Like? Narrative and Affect in the ‘Normative World’ (*Maslak*) of Deoband,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference – November 2013
- “Modernity’s Entanglements: Ashraf `Ali Thanvi, Islamic Ethics, and Mass Politics,” Annual Conference on South Asia – University of Wisconsin at Madison – October 2013
- “Public Islam in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Muslim Radio and Postsecular Religious Rights,” Conference: “Is the Postcolonial Post-Secular?” – Syracuse University, September 2013
- “Querying Deobandi Ethics at the Intersection of Sufism, Self and Politics,” Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics – January 2013
- “At the Origins of the Tablighi Jama`at: Debating the Authority of the ‘*Ulama*,” Annual Conference on South Asia – University of Wisconsin at Madison – October 2012
- “Anyone Can Be a Saint: Sufi Ethics and Mass Sainthood among the Deobandi ‘*Ulama*,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference – November 2011
- “Islam 101 For Muslims: Fashioning Publics in Three Muslim ‘Primers’ from South Asia,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference – October/November 2010
- “Fashioning Publics in Three Muslim Primers from South Asia,” Annual Conference on South Asia – University of Wisconsin at Madison – October 2010

“Two Texts of the Indian ‘Wahhabi’ Movement: *Taqiyat ul-Iman* and *Tazkir ul-Ikhwān*,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference – November 2008

“Sufism as ‘Pantheism’: Genealogy of a Polemic,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR) Annual Conference – March 2008

“Rashid Ahmad Gangohi and the Deobandi Critique of Sufism,” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference – November 2007

“A Muslim Legal Scholar Between ‘Tradition’ and ‘Modernity’: The Fatwas of Rashid Ahmad Gangohi on the Sufis,” Annual Conference on South Asia – University of Wisconsin-Madison – October 2007

“Marketing Islam in America: Ahmadi *Da’wah* and African-American Muslims,” UNC-Duke 3rd Annual Graduate Islamic Studies Conference – April 2006

Other Conference Activities

Invited Respondent for panel, “Racialisation as a Tool of Disciplining Dissent in CVE/PVE,” at The Racialisation of Violent Extremism, Graduate Institute Geneva, 13 May 2020

Invited Respondent for “Author Meets Critics: Brannon D. Ingram’s *Revival from Below* and SherAli Tareen’s *Defending Muhammad in Modernity*,” Annual Conference on South Asia – University of Wisconsin at Madison – October 2019

Invited Respondent: Panel Discussion of Shenila Khoja-Moolji’s *Forging the Ideal Educated Girl: The Production of Desirable Subjects in Muslim South Asia* and Hannah Hoehner’s *Quranic Schools in Northern Nigeria: Everyday Experience of Youth, Faith, and Poverty* – Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University – November 2018

Respondent to Iza Hussin’s *The Politics of Islamic Law*, at “Rethinking the ‘Muslim World’: Concepts, History, Law, Politics,” Northwestern University – June 2018

Panel respondent: “Covering Religious Violence: Obligations, Challenges, Ethics,” Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs Inaugural Symposium, Columbia University – April 2018

Conference Co-organizer (with Zekeria Ahmed Salem): “Islam in Global Africa: African Muslims in the World, Muslim Worlds in Africa,” Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) inaugural annual conference, Northwestern University – April 2018

Discussion Respondent and Moderator: “Shari’a Politics in Contemporary Nigeria,” with authors Brandon Kendhammer and Sarah Eltantawi, Program in African Studies (PAS), Northwestern University – March 2018

Invited Respondent: Z. Fareen Parvez, *Politicizing Islam: The Islamic Revival in France and India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) Annual Meeting – August 2017

Invited Workshop Participant: “Situating the Islamic in Relation to the State,” Religion and the Public Sphere program of the Social Science Research Council – May 2017

Invited Workshop Participant: “The Politics of Religious Freedom at Home and Abroad,” Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs, Northwestern University – June 2016

Panel Respondent: Faculty Book Colloquium on Henri Lauziere, *The Making of Salafism: Islamic Reform in the Twentieth Century*, Northwestern University – April 2016

Panel Respondent: “Transmitting Knowledge, Finding Meanings: From Sufism to Salafism,” Sacred Word: Changing Meanings in Textual Cultures of Islamic Africa, Northwestern University – April 2016

Panel Chair and Respondent: “Affective Economies and Religious Worlds,” Affect and Emotion Group – American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference – November 2014

Professional Activities and Affiliations

Professional Memberships:

American Academy of Religions (AAR)
Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics (SSME)

Core Faculty, Program in Middle East and North African Studies (MENA), Northwestern University

Associate Member, Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), Northwestern University

Associate Member, Committee on the Study of South Asia (COSAS), University of Chicago

Undergraduate Theses Advised

Mara Kelly, Title TBD, Honors Thesis in Religious Studies and American Studies (academic year 2020-21)

Christopher Lamountain, “Songs of the ‘Universal Shelter’: On the Particularism of Devotional Music in Baha’i Houses of Worship,” Honors Thesis in Religious Studies (academic year 2019-20)

Joseph Baka, “Implausible Deniability: The Grand Mosque Seizure as a Forebear of Twenty-First Century Jihadism against the United States,” Honors Thesis in Middle East North African (MENA) Studies (academic year 2015-16)

Dissertation Committee Service

Matthew Smith, Religious Studies, “Plastic Subjects: US Empire, Secularism, and the Racial Grammar of Protestant Missions Science; Or, Theorizing Race and Religion in the Age of Plastic(s)” (anticipated defense May 2021)

Jeffrey Wheatley, Religious Studies, "Policing Fanaticism, Religion and Race in the American Empire, 1830-1930" (defended June 2020)

William Caldwell, Religious Studies, "The Fugitive Islamicate: African Muslims and Black Radicalism across the Atlantic, 1492-1925" (defended October 2018)

Justine Howe, "The Construction of American Islam: Gender, Authority and Tradition in Suburban Chicago," Department of Religious Studies (defended May 2013)

Alexander Thurston, "Managing Ruptures, Telling Histories: Northern Nigerian Muslim Intellectuals and Arab Universities, 1900-2007," Department of Religious Studies (defended May 2013)

Peer Review and Related Service

Peer Review for Academic Presses

I. B. Tauris
Oxford University Press
University of North Carolina Press

Peer Review for Academic Journals

Comparative Studies in Society and History
Critical Research on Religion
History Compass
Islamic Africa
Journal of Islamic Studies
Journal of Religion
Journal of Religious Ethics
Journal of Religious History
Journal of Sufi Studies
Religion Compass
Religions
South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies

Northwestern University Faculty Liaison

Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum (DISC), University of Michigan

Departmental Service

Member of Faculty Senate (winter and spring 2021)
Director of Graduate Studies (spring and summer 2020)
Graduate Studies/Theory Exam Committees (2018-19)
Speakers Committee (2018-19)
Graduate Studies/Theory Exam Committee (2017-18)
Graduate Admissions Committee (2017-18)

Religious Studies Faculty Search Committee, East Asian Religions (2017-18)
Undergraduate Studies Committee (2016-17)
Qualifying Examinations in Buddhism, Rachel Levy (June 2016)
Graduate Admissions Committee (2015-16)
Graduate Studies/Theory Exam Committee (2015-16)
Department Website Revision (2014-15)
Graduate Awards committee (2014-15)
Graduate Studies/Theory Exam Committee (2013-14)
Graduate Admissions Committee (2012-13)
Speakers Committee (2012-13)

Other University Service

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Program Undergraduate Studies Committee (2019-20 and 2020-21)