

# Sarah A. Tobin

## EDUCATION / QUALIFICATIONS

- Ph.D., 2011 Anthropology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts  
Dissertation: *Everyday Pieties: Negotiating Islam and the Economy in Amman, Jordan*  
Advisor and First Reader: Robert W. Hefner
- M.A., 2005 Applied Anthropology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida  
Thesis: *Microfinance in Neoliberal Times: The Experience of an Egyptian NGO*
- B.A., 1998 English, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California
- Durham University Islamic Finance Summer School, Durham, UK
- Islamic Finance Qualification, Securities and Investment Institute, London, UK
- Islamic Studies Coursework in *Aqeedah* (Islamic Theology) and *Seerah* (Life and Times of Mohammed), Dar al-Tawfiq, Amman, Jordan

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- Everyday Piety: Islam and Economy in Jordan*. Cornell University Press. 2016.
- The Politics of the Headscarf in the United States*. Co-Authored with Aubrey Westfall, Bozena Welborne, and Ozge Celik-Russell. Cornell University Press. 2018.

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2020 “The Evolving Experience of Islamic Neoliberalism for Jordan’s Islamic Action Front in Islamic Banking and Finance.” *Politics and Religion*.
- “Making Islamic Finance ‘Islamic’: Authenticity in Islamic Banking and Finance Institutions.” *Islamic Finance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Oxford University Press. Eds. Haider Khan and Karamo Sonko.
- “Modeling Exile: Syrian Women Gather to Discuss Prophetic Examples in Jordan.” *Routledge Handbook of Islam and Gender*. Ed. Justine Howe. Routledge.
- 2019 Women, corruption, and *wasta* in Jordan: A case study in female elected representatives. Co-Authored with David Jackson and Jennifer Philippa Eggert. Chapter 9, *Corruption and Informal Practices in the Middle East and North Africa*, Eds. Ina Kubbe and Aiysha Varraich. Routledge.
- “Prophets and Profits: The Jordanian Government; Strategies for Defining and Containing Risk In Volatile Times.” School for Advanced Research (SAR) Advanced Seminar and Edited Volume, *Faith-Based Charity and the Security State: Containing People and Finance in Risk Societies*. Ed. Erica James Caple.
- 2018 “Vernacular Politics, Sectarianism, and National Identity among Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” *Religions* 9, no. 7 (2018): 225.
- 2017 “Islamic Headcovering and Political Engagement: The Power of Social Networks.” *Politics and Religion*. March. Co-Authored with Aubrey Westfall, Bozena Welborne, and Ozge Celik. doi:10.1017/S1755048316000754
- “Islamized Postal Savings: A Model for Risk Sharing.” In *Urban Governance and Participatory Planning in the Middle East*. Ed. Luna Khirfan. McGill-Queen’s University Press.
- 2016 “The Complexity of Covering: The Religious, Social and Political Dynamics of Islamic Practice in the United States.” Co-Authored with Aubrey Westfall, Bozena Welborne, and Ozge Celik. *Social Science Quarterly*. April. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.12278.

- 2014 “Is it *Really* Islamic?’ Evaluating the ‘Islamicness’ of Jordan’s Islamic Banks.” *Research in Economic Anthropology* 2014, Vol. 34 (1):127-156.
- “My Life is More Important Than Family Honor’: Offline Protests, Counter-Cyberactivism, and Article 308.” *CyberOrient* 2014, Vol. 8, Issue 1: <http://www.cyberorient.net/article.do?articleId=8875>.
- 2013 “Ramadan Blues: Debates in Pop Music and Popular Islam in Amman, Jordan.” *Digest of Middle East Studies* 2013, 22(2):292-316.
- 2012 “Jordan’s Arab Spring: The Middle Class and Anti-Revolution.” *Middle East Policy* 2012, 19(1):96-109.
- 2006 “White Conceptions of Racial Hierarchy: Temporary versus Permanent Preferences.” *Ethnic Studies Review* 2006, 29(2):46-65. Co-Authored with Jonathan Gayles.

### Popular Publications (Selected)

- 2019 “Practices and Perceptions of Corruption in the Jordan Compact - Work Permit Program.” *U-4 Report*.
- “Capacity building for politicians in contexts of systemic corruption: Countering ‘wasta’ in Jordan.” *U-4 Report*.
- “The New Lost Boys of Sudan.” [POMEPS Studies 36: Youth Politics in the Middle East and North Africa](#). POMEPS (*The Project on Middle East Political Science*).
- ‘Sudan's nye Lost Boys’ <https://bistandsaktuelt.no/arkiv-kommentarer/2019/sudans-nye-lost-boys/>. Bistandakult.
- 2016 “Islamic Banking and Finance.” *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslims World, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. MacMillan Reference USA.
- “NGO Governance and Syrian Refugee ‘Subjects’ in Jordan.” *Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)*. First Author, with Madeline Campbell. [www.merip.org](http://www.merip.org).
- “Bombings and Biodata: The Daily Uncertainty of Being a Syrian Refugee.” *Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs*. <http://watson.brown.edu/news/explore/2016/SarahTobin>
- “Public Piety and Nationalist Sentiment in Jordan.” *Project on Middle East Political Science, Studies #17*. <http://pomeps.org/2016/02/08/evolving-methodologies-in-the-study-of-islamist-politics/>.
- 2015 “Brown Political Review Interviews Sarah Tobin.” *Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs*. <http://www.brownpoliticalreview.org/2015/11/bpr-interviews-sarah-tobin/>.
- “Syria’s Humanitarian Crisis: A Call for Regional and International Responses” [https://f2b65c88-a185-4b0b-aa91-bb12b0500709.filesusr.com/ugd/55e102\\_f33f2d8fcd0a4317a3e9c6384be8c632.pdf](https://f2b65c88-a185-4b0b-aa91-bb12b0500709.filesusr.com/ugd/55e102_f33f2d8fcd0a4317a3e9c6384be8c632.pdf) BCARS Publication. Contributing Author.
- 2014 “Security and Resilience Among Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” *Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP)*. Co-Authored with Denis Sullivan. [www.merip.org](http://www.merip.org).
- “God Save the King? The Evolution of Protest in Jordan in Light of the Arab Spring.” *Middle East Conflicts and Reforms*. Westphalia Press. Pp. 57-70. 2014.
- “Understanding Today’s Middle East: People and Places of the Arab Spring” [https://f2b65c88-a185-4b0b-aa91-bb12b0500709.filesusr.com/ugd/55e102\\_e00193e80a06415f9a4a1b9c65b7684f.pdf](https://f2b65c88-a185-4b0b-aa91-bb12b0500709.filesusr.com/ugd/55e102_e00193e80a06415f9a4a1b9c65b7684f.pdf) BCARS Publication. Editor.
- 2013 “The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Lessons from the Iraqi Refugee Experience.” *Boston University Institute for Iraqi Studies*. Editor.

“A Just and Equitable Economy: Envisioning and Implementing Islamic Banking and Finance.”  
*Islamic Monthly – Politics, Culture, Society*.

2011 “Banking with Allah: Can Islamic Banking Reconcile Islam and Capitalism?” *Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM) Post* 2011, 106(1):17.

2009 “Islamic Banking in the Global Financial Crisis: The Value of ‘Banking Rightly.’” *Anthropology News* October 2009:13-14.

### Book Reviews

2019 Review of P. Sloane-White (2017), *Corporate Islam: Sharia and the Modern Workplace*. Cambridge University Press. *Islamic Law and Society*.

2018 Review of I. Kalmar (2012), *Early Orientalism: Imagined Islam and the Notion of Sublime Power*. Routledge. *Comparative Islamic Studies*.

2015 Review of M. Atia (2013), *Building a House in Heaven: Pious Neoliberalism and Islamic Charity in Egypt*. University of Minnesota Press. *Oxford Journal of Islamic Studies* 2015, 26:3.

2014 Review of F. Adely (2012), *Gendered Paradoxes: Educating Jordanian Women in Nation, Faith, and Progress*, University of Chicago Press. *Review of Middle East Studies* 2014, 48:1.

2013 Review of M. S. Fisher (2012), *Wall Street Women*. Duke University Press. *American Ethnologist* 2013, 40:3.

### Article Reviews (*Public Anthropology*, all forthcoming)

Review of O. Simmons (1957), “Implications of Social Class for Public Health.” *Human Organization* 16:7-10; [www.publicanthropology.org](http://www.publicanthropology.org).

Review of J.D. Herzog (1974), “Father-Absence and Boys’ School Performance in Barbados.” *Human Organization* 33(1):71-83; [www.publicanthropology.org](http://www.publicanthropology.org).

Review of S. E. Keefe (1992), “Ethnic Identity: The Domain of Perceptions of and Attachment to Ethnic Groups and Cultures.” *Human Organization* 51(1):35-43; [www.publicanthropology.org](http://www.publicanthropology.org).

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020 Horizon 2020 Consolidation Grant: FORSTERK (NFR-TRAFIG forsterkningsmidler). PI.

2018 European Commission Horizon 2020: *Translocal Figurations of Displacement: Connectivity and Mobility as Solutions to Protracted Refugee Situations*. Work Package Leader.

Research Council of Norway, NORGLOBAL2: *Urban Displacement, Development and Donor Policies in the Middle East*. Co-Manager.

Research Council of Norway, NORGLOBAL: *Refugees for Development: On the Nexus of Humanitarian Assistance and Development*. Research Partner.

2017 ARUSS-Assisting Regional Universities in Sudan and South Sudan. Research Partner.

Research Council of Norway: Results-Based Financing in Tanzania. Research Partner.

Fulbright Schuman European Union Award (finalist, withdrawn).

2016 Global Experiential Teaching and Learning Grant (course abroad), Brown University.

2015 Global Experiential Teaching and Learning Grant (course development), Brown University.

2014 College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University; with Dr. Denis Sullivan.

2013 Visiting Research Fellowship, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (declined).

- 2012 Mellon Foundation Grant, administered by Wheaton College Faculty Research Grant for Independent Research and Research Assistant.
- 2011-2012 Visiting Fellow, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford, England (declined).

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (Selected)

- 2020 “Tracing Translocal Figurations of Displacement in Asia.” National University of Singapore Migration Methodologies Workshop, Singapore (March).
- “Syrian women navigate Jordanian politics and politics in Jordan.” International Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii (March).
- 2019 “Child marriage in forced migration: social processes in-flux.” British Academy Conference, London (March)
- “Assessing the Prospects and Aspirations for Islamic Banking and Finance in Post-War Syria.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics SASE, New York (June).
- “‘Working for a Country That is Not My Own’: Syrian Refugee Governance and the Jordan Compact’s Work Permit Program.” The Nordic Middle Eastern Studies Conference, Helsinki (August).
- “Syrian Refugees in Sudan.” African Studies Association, Boston (November).
- “Everyday Life of Sectarianism in the Middle East: Ambivalent Articulations of ‘Sectarian’ Difference and the ‘Other’” Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans (November).
- “Self-Making in Exile: Islamically-Inspired Emplacement by Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” American Anthropological Association, Vancouver (November).
- 2018 “Working for a Country That is Not My Own: Refugee Governance and the Jordan Compact’s Work Permit Program.” American Anthropological Association, San Jose (November).
- “Sectarianism and the Vernacular Among Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” American Academy of Religion, Denver. (November).
- “Syrian Refugees Moving Money: Hawala, (Il)licit Transfers, and Surviving Precarity in Jordan.” European Association of Social Anthropologists, Stockholm, Sweden (August).
- “Islamic Banking and Finance and the Sustainable Development Goals” World Congress on Middle East Studies, Seville, Spain (July).
- “Customer Satisfaction in the Islamic Economy.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Kyoto, Japan (June).
- “Islamic Piety and Economy in Jordan.” l’Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne / EHESS (April).
- “Understanding Early Marriage: Amplified Agency, Decreased Regulation, and Structural Violence of Syrian Refugees in Za‘atari.” Dept. of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam (March).
- “Sectarianism and Identity Among Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” Dept. of Anthropology, University of Sussex (February).
- 2017 “Jordanian Mothers, Stateless Children: Muslim Women’s Activism and Citizenship Debates.” American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. (November).
- “Political Crises, Precarity, and Resilience: Social and Economic Resourcefulness Among Refugees, Migrants, and the Displaced.” Discussant. American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. (November).
- “The Role of Religion in the Syrian Refugee Crisis.” Presidential Plenary Session Panelist. American Academy of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts (November).

- “Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Privatization, Governance, and Resilience.” Middle East Center, University of Washington, Seattle (April).
- “The Economy of Resilience: Policy and Practice.” FXB Center for Health and Human Rights and the Middle East Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School (February).
- 2016 “Culture, Sectarianism, and the Syrian Refugees in Jordan.” International Affairs, University of Maine (April).
- “Islam and Capitalism: Reflections on Contemporary Religious Life in Jordan’s Economy.” Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania (March).
- “Palestinian Refugees from Syria: From Fractured Histories to Alternative Futures.” Policy Studies Organization, Middle East Dialogue, Washington D.C. (February).
- “Palestinian Refugees from Syria: The *Kafala* System and New Formations of Jordanian State Power.” *In and Out of Syria: A Conference on the War and the Refugee Crisis*. University of Texas, Austin (February).
- “Public Piety and Nationalist Sentiment in Jordan.” *Project on Middle East Political Science*. George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (January).
- 2015 “Epistemologies and Ontologies of the Familiar/Strange Among Middle Eastern Forcibly Displaced Populations” Discussant. American Anthropological Association Denver, Colorado (November).
- “Becoming a Professional Refugee: New Subjectivities and New Social Organization in the Neoliberalization of the Syrian Refugee Experience in Jordan.” Co-Authored with Madeline Campbell. American Anthropological Association. Denver, Colorado (November).
- “Neoliberal Piety: From Islamic Economics to Economized Islam.” *Theorizing Transformations in the Middle East and North Africa*. Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (October)
- “Overview of the Syrian Refugee Crisis.” Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island (September).
- “Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Carriers of Sectarianism.” North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies, Providence, Rhode Island (September).
- “Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Carriers of Sectarianism?” Policy Studies Organization Middle East Dialogue, Washington D.C. (February).
- 2014 “Understanding Early Marriage: Amplified Agency, Decreased Regulation, and Structural Violence of Syrian Refugees in Za`atari.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (November).
- “Early Marriage in Za`atari: Beyond Alarmism.” *Syria’s Humanitarian Crisis: A Policy Discussion*, Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts (October).
- “Exploring the Debates about Modernity, Religious Plurality, and Islamic Banking and Finance.” *Religion and Culture in a Globalized World: Questioning our Research Frames*; UCSIA, University of Antwerp, Belgium (September).
- “Islamized Postal Savings in Jordan: A Model for State-Society Collaborative Risk-Sharing.” Eleventh Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance, Cambridge, Massachusetts (April).
- “In the Stands, On the Pitch, and Around the World: Muslim Women as Consumers and Producers of Soccer” with Rebecca Chabot. Western Social Science Association Annual Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico (April).
- “Debates on Politics, Economics, and Culture as Jordan Joins the GCC.” Policy Studies Organization Middle East Dialogue, Washington D.C. (February).

- 2013 “Gendering *Shari`a*: Women Using Islamic Law for Equality in Marriage.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland (November).
- Organizer and Chair, Panel: “Envisioning The New Middle East: Images of Engagement and Imagined Publics;” Paper: “Sunglasses, Swimsuits, and the Cinema: Engaging the Images of Authenticated, Modern Islam in Jordanian Newspaper Advertisements.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (November).
- “De Jure Liberty and De Facto Discrimination: The Headscarf and the Politics of (Dis)Engagement.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (August).
- “Description vs. Ascription: Exploring Muslim Women's Motivations for Veiling in the United States.” Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (April).
- “‘My Life is More Important than Family Honor:’ Protesting a Culture of Article 308 in light of the Arab Spring.” Policy Studies Organization Middle East Dialogue, Washington D.C. (February).
- 2012 Organizer and Chair, Panel: “The Learning Channel: Exceptionalizing Borders and Typifying Crossings.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California (November).
- “Prophets and Profits: The Jordanian Government; Strategies for Defining and Containing Risk In Volatile Times.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California (November).
- “Muslim Women's Rights and Participation in Religious and Secular Societies.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana (August).
- Organizer and Chair, Panel: “The Arab Spring: Impacts and Opportunities in Times of Shifting Boundaries;” Paper: “‘Between Iraq and a Hard Place:’ The Resistance of Amman, Jordan's Middle Class to Protest and Revolution” Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland (March).
- “Middle Class and Anti-Revolution in ‘The Nation of Security and Stability’: Jordan’s Arab Spring.” Policy Studies Organization Middle East Dialogue, Washington D.C. (February).

## **COURSES TAUGHT (Selected)**

### **Khartoum University, Khartoum, Sudan**

Theory and Methods in Refugee Studies

### **Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island**

Islamic Economics

Cultures of the Contemporary Middle East

Refugees and Displacement in the Modern Middle East

### **Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts**

The Arab Spring

### **Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts**

Globalization, Social Media, and the Islamic World

Urban Anthropology – Muslim Cities and Civilizations

Women in Islam

People and Cultures of the Middle East

### **Andrew’s University, Berrien Springs, Michigan**

Cultural and Development Anthropology Graduate course in Cape Town, South Africa (2014);  
Nairobi, Kenya (2013); Accra, Ghana (2012)

**Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts**

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Economic Anthropology: Wealth, Poverty, and Culture

Political Anthropology: Power and Society in the Middle East

Ethnicity and Identity

**University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan**

Listening and Reading

**STUDENT SUPERVISION****PhD Students**

Sarah Hefny, PhD in Anthropology [Brown University]. Dissertation: *Syrian Refugees in Rome, Italy*. 2020.

M. Chloe Mulderig, PhD. in Anthropology [Boston University]. Dissertation: *Present Imperfect: Hypocrisy and The Pluralization of Islamic Understanding In Fes, Morocco*. 2015.

**MA/MS & MD Students**

Elise Presser. MD/ScM Candidate in Population Medicine. Thesis: *Syrian Refugees and Primary Health Care*. Anticipated 2017.

**BA/BS Honors Students**

Sabiya Ahamed. *Demanding Dignity: Syrian Refugees & the Refugee Resettlement Process in Providence, RI*. 2017

Noura Al-Zaid. *Saudi Legal Education and Knowledge Production for Women*. 2016.

Kawther AlKhudairy. *A Cross-Cultural Comparison of the Aspects Related to Perceived Level of Mattering in Individualistic and Collectivist Societies*. 2017.

Kiara Butrosoglu. *Maximization: Reconciling Neoliberalism and Islam: Morally Modern (Capstone)*. 2016

Cecilia Garza. *Where the Transnational and the Local Meet: Contextualizing Women's Empowerment in the Moroccan Rif*. 2017

Rebecca Harris. *Transforming Refugees into "Illegal Immigrants." Neoliberalism, Domestic Politics, and Syrian Refugee Employment in Jordan*. 2016.

Layla Heidari. *Framing Iran: How 'politics of perception' inform our view of Iranian Contemporary Art*. 2015.

Julian Jiggetts. *Arab and Muslim Labor Market Outcomes in the Post 9/11 Era*. 2016.

Nikhita Mendis. *Breaking and Making Sri Lankans: Serlankēyye Subjectivities and Practicing Lajja*. 2017.

Abby Linn. *When Motherhood Meets Social Protest: Fatima Through the Lens of Ayatollah Khomeini and Ali Shariati*. 2015.

Kutay Onayli. *Other Things That May Have Happened During A Long Day*. 2017

Sana Parvais-Siddiq. *International Engagement with Migrant Labor Rights in the UAE: Effectual or Not?* 2016.

Sophia Sepulveda. *Arab Women, Red Lines: The Anti-Sexual Harassment Movement in Egypt*. 2015.

Livia Whitermore. *Iridescence and the Cockroach: Between T and T*. 2016.

**POSITIONS HELD**

2017-Present Senior Researcher, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway

2015-2017 Associate Director of Middle East Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

- 2014 Carnegie Visiting Scholar and Assistant Director, Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies (BCARS), Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2013 POINT Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Area Studies and the Berlin Graduate School for Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- 2011-2013 Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in Islamic Studies, Department of Anthropology, Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts
- 2007, 2009-10 Instructor and Senior Teaching Fellow, Department of Anthropology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2009-2010 Senior Writing Fellow and ESL Specialist  
Educational Resource Center, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2008 Instructor, UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, Amman, Jordan  
Instructor, Department of English and Applied English, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan