Islamic Civilizations Studies

Islamic Civilizations Studies (ICIVS) at Emory University is a unique Ph.D. program that investigates Islamic civilizations through trans-regional and multidisciplinary perspectives. By concentrating on the cultural, social, economic, and linguistic interconnections that characterize the Islamic world, ICIVS prepares its graduates to engage intellectually across the humanities and the social sciences in a wide range of professional capacities.

Emory’s Islamic Civilizations Studies (ICIVS) Ph.D. program is looking for imaginative and creative graduate students who wish to explore new approaches to the global study of Islamic Civilizations. This innovative interdisciplinary program is designed to serve as an incubator for emerging new fields of Islamic Studies scholarship. Emory University’s multidisciplinary and highly integrative approach to Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies allows it to offer a unique academic environment for the pursuit of research projects that cut across conventional regional and disciplinary boundaries.

The Islamic Civilizations Studies Ph.D. program is devoted to exploratory, problem-based interdisciplinary graduate education. ICIVS graduate students work with a faculty committee on specific research questions and theories of interpretation and are encouraged to conduct innovative and interdisciplinary research that highlights trans-regional and transnational connections between the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and beyond. Students accepted into the ICIVS Ph.D. program design their own programs of study under the guidance of faculty advisors. Along with language training that prepares them for textual or field research, they receive training in research methods, historiography, Islamic Civilizations Studies as a field of study, and the pedagogy of Islam and Islamic Civilizations. Like all Emory graduate students they also receive training in research and classroom ethics and acquire hands-on experience in teaching through the TATTO (Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity) program.

Possible programs of study supported by ICIVS include (but are not limited to): Islamic Civilization in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean Basins; Muslim and Jewish Iberia and North Africa; Islam in Classical and Modern Humanities & Social Sciences

Islamic Civilizations Studies

Islamic calligraphy of Surat al-Ikhlas (Qur’an 112) by a calligrapher of the Iban people of Sarawak, Malaysia. The calligraphy incorporates designs from Iban long-houses and the overall design is in the shape of a traditional Malaysian kite.

Professional Development

Laney offers a range of programs that encourages students to develop their professional skills, engage with broader professional communities, and prepare for their careers. Visit gs.emory.edu to learn more.
Arabic Literatures; Islam in Indo-Persian and Urdu Literatures; Judeo-Arabic Language, Linguistics, and Literatures; Politics and Society in the Muslim World; Islamic Political Philosophy; Muslim and Non-Muslim Minorities in Muslim Societies (with special emphasis on Christian, Jewish and Hindu communities); Diaspora Communities from the Muslim World; Muslim Minorities in Non-Muslim Societies; Islamic Civilizations and Post-Colonial Studies; Islamic Hybridities; Gender and Society in the Muslim World; and Frontier Interactions Between States and Peoples in the Muslim World.

Program of Study

Core Curriculum
ICIVS students take 5 semesters (45 credit hours) of core and elective courses in a program of study determined in consultation with their advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Such programs may vary significantly in content across the field of Islamic Civilizations Studies. Normally a student will take 3–4 courses (9–12 credit hours) per semester. At least one course must be taken outside the ICIVS program in an external field related to the student’s program of study. The following courses make up the core curriculum of the ICIVS Ph.D. program:

- ICIVS 510: Orientation and Research Methods
- ICIVS 710: Historiography and the Study of Islam
- ICIVS 720: Islamic Civilizations Studies
- ICIVS 725: Islamic Civilizations Studies Pedagogy Seminar
- ICIVS 735R: Advanced Arabic Studies OR Advanced Persian Studies OR Advanced Urdu Studies OR Advanced Judeo-Arabic Studies

Language Qualification
Students admitted to the ICIVS program must have a minimum Intermediate proficiency in at least one Islamic language taught at Emory (currently Arabic, Judeo-Arabic, Persian, or Urdu). Students must achieve ACTFL Advanced-Plus proficiency in their chosen language by the conclusion of the fifth semester of study. Students are encouraged to combine language instruction at Emory with intensive language study abroad. All students must pass an advanced language proficiency test before taking the qualifying exam in the third year of study.

Students are also required to qualify at reading level in two additional research languages relevant to their course of study. These may include European and non-European languages, to be determined by their advisor and approved by the DGS. Students are required to pass a reading exam in these languages.

Jones Program in Ethics
The JPE program is required for all Emory graduate students and provides them with a foundational, cross-disciplinary introduction to the question of ethics for their research, training and careers. Participation in these courses will be noted on student transcripts. In August preceding their first semester of study students will take JPE 600, a 6-hour course in scholarly integrity. In addition, at least 6 more hours of program-based ethics material will be included in ICIVS 510 (research ethics content) and ICIVS 505 (pedagogical ethics content). In addition, students are required to enroll in 4 educational sessions of JPE 610, which consists of workshops, training sessions and lectures on academic ethics.

Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity (TATTO)
Every student pursuing the Ph.D. in Islamic Civilizations Studies must complete TATTO as one component of his/her academic requirements. TATTO prepares graduate students to teach their specialty at the university level and requires:

- ICIVS 505: ICIVS Pedagogy Seminar
- TATTO 600 before the start of the student’s third semester
- Teaching assistantship (TATTO 605) and associateship (TATTO 610) before the start of the student’s fifth year

Most ICIVS students will have the opportunity to teach a broad range of courses across the field. Students may also apply for Dean’s Teaching Fellowships. Teaching fellows teach one course on their own in each semester of the award year. The Laney Graduate School offers approximately 10 teaching fellowships each year. Students may also teach individual courses after advancement to candidacy (ABD stage).

Qualifying Exams and Dissertation
Students are expected to take their qualifying exams no later than the spring semester of their third year of study. These consist of 3 written exams in different areas related to the student’s field of study. The written exams will be followed by an oral exam, which is normally held one week after the completion of the written exams.

Usually in the sixth semester but no later than the seventh semester students must submit a dissertation prospectus. The prospectus must be approved by the dissertation committee before the student conducts dissertation research.

During the summer following their third year of study ICIVS students must also write grant proposals to support their dissertation research. To prepare them for the grant-writing process, they are required to attend one of the humanities/social sciences grant-writing workshops sponsored by the Laney Graduate School each academic year.

Dissertation research will begin after the successful completion of qualifying exams. In their fourth year and beyond students are expected to work full-time on the research and writing of their dissertation.

Students

The ICIVS Ph.D. program accepts 2–3 new full-time students each year. Students pursue a wide range of career goals, mostly in academia. Depending on their program of study, they can compete with students in the top U.S. and international programs in Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, Judeo-Arabic Studies, and Political Science and Anthropology with a regional concentration on the Muslim world.
Sample ICIVS Ph.D. Plan

YEAR 1

FALL SEMESTER
Language
Orientation/Research Methods
Elective/field course

SPRING SEMESTER
Language
Historiography & the Study of Islam
Elective/field course

SUMMER SEMESTER
Intensive Language

YEAR 2

FALL SEMESTER
Language
Islamic Civilizations Studies
Elective/field course
TATTO

SPRING SEMESTER
Language
ICIVS Pedagogy Seminar
Elective/field course
TATTO

SUMMER SEMESTER
Intensive Language

YEAR 3

FALL SEMESTER
Advanced Arabic Studies OR
Advanced Urdu Studies OR
Advanced Persian Studies OR
Advanced Judeo-Arabic Studies
2 Elective/field courses
TATTO

SPRING SEMESTER
Exam Prep (9–12 hours)

SUMMER SEMESTER
Grant Proposal Writing

YEAR 4

FALL SEMESTER
Dissertation Research (12 hours)
Dissertation Prospectus

SPRING SEMESTER
Dissertation Research (12 hours)

YEAR 5

Grant-Supported Research or Fieldwork

YEAR 6

FALL SEMESTER
Dissertation Research (12 hours)

SPRING SEMESTER
Dissertation Defense

Faculty

The Islamic Civilizations Studies faculty at Emory University includes scholars whose interests encompass many areas and disciplines and are internationally renowned for their reputation and wide breadth of expertise. The ICIVS Ph.D. program has a particularly strong profile in Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, South Asian Studies, and Southeast Asian Studies, and many faculty members are considered among the top scholars in their fields.

ABDULLAHI AHMED AN-NA’IM
(Ph.D. University of Edinburgh, 1976)
Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law
(Islamic law, Islam and human rights, Islam and politics)

JULIETTE RENEE STAPANIAN APKARIAN
(Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1980)
Associate Professor, Russian and East European Studies Program
(Islam and Muslim-Christian relations in the Caucasus, Women’s Studies)

DAVID R. BLUMENTHAL
(Ph.D. Columbia University, 1972)
Jay and Leslie Cohen Professor of Judaic Studies
(Medieval Judaism, Jewish theology, and links between Jewish and Islamic mysticism)

MARÍA MERCEDES CARRIÓN
(Ph.D. Yale University, 1990)
Professor of Spanish
(Cultural encounters between Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain)

SAM (OUSAMA) CHERRIBI
(Ph.D. University of Amsterdam, 2000)
Senior Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies
(Islam in Europe, Arab politics, modern Islamic political movements)

RKIA CORNELL
(Ph.D. Cum Laude Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, 2013)
Professor of Pedagogy and Language Coordinator in Arabic
(Arabic pedagogy; Arabic Literature; Qur’anic exegesis; Women in Islam; Sufi Saints)

VINCENT J. CORNELL
(Ph.D. University of California Los Angeles, 1989)
Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Middle East and Islamic Studies
(Medieval and modern Islamic theology and philosophy; Islamic mysticism; Islam in North Africa, Middle East, and Southeast Asia, Islam and modernity, Islamic political thought)

KEVIN CORRIGAN
(Ph.D. Dalhousie University, 1980)
Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities
(Platonic philosophy and mysticism in the Middle East and Mediterranean)

ALLAL EL HAJJAM
(Ph.D. Moulay Ismail University, 2002)
Senior Lecturer in Arabic
(Arabic pedagogy; Arabic literature; Moroccan literature; Arabic Poetry)

JOYCE BURKHALTHER FLUECKIGER
(Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1984)
Professor of Religion
(Hindu and Muslim vernacular religion in India, religion and gender, performance studies)

JAMES B. HOESTEREY
(Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009)
Assistant Professor of Religion
(Anthropology of Islam, Islam in Southeast Asia, Media Studies, Islam in popular culture)

SCOTT KUGLE
(Ph.D. Duke University, 2000)
Associate Professor of South Asian and Islamic Studies
(Sufism in North Africa and South Asia, Islam in North Africa, Contemporary Islam in South Asia, Islam and Sexuality, Arabic and Urdu Islamic literatures)
RUBY LAL  
(D.Phil. Oxford University, 2001) 
Professor of South Asian Studies  
(Islam and gender in South Asia, Islamic societies of South Asia in the Mughal, colonial, and post-colonial periods, premodern and early modern Muslim societies and cultures, gender and sexuality in Islam)  

ROXANI MARGARITI  
(Ph.D. Princeton University, 2002)  
Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies  
(Middle Eastern social and economic history, material culture, urban studies, history of commerce and maritime technology)  

GORDON D. NEWBY  
(Ph.D. Brandeis University, 1966)  
Goodrich C. White Professor of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies  
(Early Islam, Muslim relations with Jews and Christians, and comparative sacred texts)  

GYANENDRA PANDEY  
(D. Phil. Oxford University, 1975)  
Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of History  
(South Asian and postcolonial history, Muslim-Hindu relations in South Asia)  

ELIZABETH CARSON PASTAN  
(Ph.D. Brown University, 1986)  
Associate Professor of Art History  
(Medieval art and architecture, representations of Jews and Heretics, hagiography, Islam and the West)  

MATTHEW PAYNE  
(Ph.D. University of Chicago, 1995)  
Associate Professor of History  
(Russian and Soviet history, modern Central Asian history, history of Kazakhstan and Muslims in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union)  

MICHAEL PELETZ  
(Ph.D. University of Michigan, 1983)  
Professor of Anthropology  
(Anthropology of Islam, Islamic law, social history and modernity in Southeast Asia, Gender and Sexuality)  

EDWARD L. QUEEN  
(Ph.D. University of Chicago Divinity School, 1986; JD Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis, 2001)  
Director of the D. Abbott Turner Program in Ethics and Servant Leadership  
(Religion & social ethics, civil society, Islam & civil society)  

HOSSEIN SAMEI  
(Ph.D. Tehran University, 1997)  
Senior Lecturer in Persian  
(Persian language and linguistics, premodern and modern Persian literature)  

DEVIN STEWART  
(Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, 1991)  
Associate Professor of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies  
(Islamic law and legal education, Qur’anic Studies, Shiite Islam, Islamic sectarian relations, Arabic dialectology)  

CARRIE R. WICKHAM  
(Ph.D. Princeton University, 1996)  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
(Islam & politics, Islamic activism in Egypt & the Arab world)  

JOHN WITTE JR.  
(JD Harvard University, 1985)  
Jonas Robitscher Professor of Law and Alonzo L. McDonald Distinguished Professor  
(Philosophy of Law, Law and Ethics, Religion and Democracy, including Islam)  

OFRA YEGLIN  
(Ph.D. Tel Aviv University, 1998)  
Associate Professor of Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture  
(Modernist Hebrew poetry; Modernism; Poetics; Holocaust literature; Israeli culture)  

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