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degrees

- March 1986 Ph.D. (“Doctorat”) in the social sciences of Islamic and Middle Eastern societies, University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV).
- October 1981 Master of Arts (M.A.) in Philosophy, American University of Beirut (A.U.B.).
- October 1978 Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Chemistry, American University of Beirut.

teaching

Sample of courses taught in the last few years includes: social and economic history of early and medieval Islam, and the modern Middle East; kinship in contemporary Middle Eastern societies; the Arab-Israeli conflict; Middle East on film; comparative legal systems: Roman law, Continental systems, and Anglo-American common law; history of American law; Methodology and the writing of history; Modern Europe; Totalitarianism in Europe; and Asia and the World.

- Fall 1998-
present Associate Professor, Department of History, Loyola University of Chicago
- Fall 1992-
Spring 1998 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loyola University of Chicago.
- Fall 1991-
Spring 1992 Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis, The Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations. Research Project: “The Status of Law vis-à-vis the Power-Relations in the Syrian Cities of the Ottoman Empire.”
- Fall 1990 Adjunct Assistant Professor, American University, Washington, D.C., School of International Service.

Spring 1989- Spring 1990	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of History, Georgetown University.
Fall 1988- Spring 1991	Visiting Researcher, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University.
Fall 1986- Spring 1988	Assistant Professor, Civilization Sequence (C.S.) Program, American University of Beirut.

projects

Currently working on a three-pronged project on the “practice of law” in Islamic and Arab societies, based on Ottoman and contemporary case-studies from Lebanon and Syria. The second part, thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant in 1996–1997, is now published.

- The first part deals with a limited number of jurisprudence (*fiqh*) texts from the formative period of Islamic law, such as Abu Yusuf’s *Kitab al-kharaj*, the *Umm* and *Risala* of Shafi’i, and Shatibi’s *al-Muwafaqat fi usul al-shari’a*. The purpose here is not a linear history of Islamic jurisprudence as such, but an experimentation in the textual strategies of the *fiqh* manuals (in particular those focused on the “foundations” or logic of the system), that is, a questioning as to what *jurisprudential writing* represents at its highest level, that of legal doctrines.

- In contrast to part one, the second part (now published)—“*the grammars of adjudication*”—focuses on religious court cases, minutes of the regional councils, sultanic ordinances, fatwas, and *shuruh* manuals from the Ottoman period (19th-century Beirut and Damascus), while the selected type-cases are mainly dealt with in terms of judicial writing and decision making, and the specific *language* of the Ottoman shari’a courts.

- Finally, a third book—“*the ideal of punishment*”—focuses on the discourse of crime and punishment; property, contract, and tort, as documented by police records, memos of judges, lawyers, doctors, witnesses, plaintiffs and defendants, and based on contemporary cases from the cities of Aleppo, Idlib, and Beirut in the 1980s and 1990s.

The three projects should be looked upon, despite the different periods and nature of the documentation, as a single one with a common line of questioning and reasoning. First, it is the textuality of all the texts that is at issue here, which implies that *judicial writing* is questioned at several levels, from the legal doctrines to the practice of the courts. Second, while studying the judicial writing of scholars and judges alike, the most important issue is that of the *autonomy* of the Islamic legal systems: Did those systems rely upon an autonomous judicial reasoning or were they part of larger discursive practices such as the religious, political, oracular, and social?

books

The Grammars of Adjudication: The economics of judicial decision making in fin-de-siècle Ottoman Beirut and Damascus (Beirut: Institut Français du Proche-Orient, 2007), 745 pages.

La Syrie au présent: reflets d'une société, directed with Baudouin Dupret (Paris: Actes Sud, 2007), 878 pages.

L'économie politique de Damas durant le XIX^e siècle: Structures traditionnelles et capitalisme (Damascus: Institut Français d'Études Arabes de Damas, 1993), 200 pages.

The Ideal of Punishment: Court procedures and the Syrian judiciary, in preparation.

Topographies of Cities: a photographic portfolio, in preparation.

publications & papers

"Political Representation and Rural Economy: The Majlis of Damascus Towards the Middle of the 19th Century," paper presented at the Civilization Sequence Program Forum, American University of Beirut, February 27, 1985.

"Le visage urbain de Damas au XIX^e siècle," *Études Orientales*, 1(1987), 13-33.

"Islamic Resurgence in Contemporary Egypt," paper presented at the workshop on *Religion and the Arab World*, sponsored by the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, October 27, 1988.

"Some Remarks on the Political Economy of Damascus During the 19th Century," paper presented at the History Department of Rutgers University, March 13, 1989.

"Case Histories from the Sunni Law-Court Registers of Beirut in the Middle of the 19th Century," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Convention, Toronto, November 18, 1989.

"An Historical Anthropology of Justice: The *Shari'a* Courts of Beirut and Damascus," paper presented at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, February 15, 1990, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of History, February 20, 1990; and Columbia University, Department of History, February 23, 1990. A revised version was presented at the MESA Convention, San Antonio, Texas, November 12, 1990.

"Power-Relations in Nineteenth-Century Damascus," paper presented at the University of Connecticut, Department of History, November 28, 1990; a revised version was presented at St. Anthony's College, Oxford, March 4, 1991; and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of History, April 10, 1991.

“The Status of Law vis-à-vis the Power-Relations in the Syrian Cities of the Ottoman Empire,” paper presented at the Colloquia on *Law and Society: Historical Perspectives*, Washington University in St. Louis, Department of History, November 14, 1991.

“Proof and Persuasion in the Ottoman Judicial System of the Tanzîmât,” paper presented at the MESA convention, Washington, D.C., November 24, 1991.

“Law and Society in Ottoman Syria,” paper presented at Loyola University of Chicago, Department of History, 12 March 1992.

“The Meaning of ‘Customary Law’ in the Context of the Ottoman *Qânûn*,” paper presented at the conference on *Islamic Law in Praxis, 1500-1900*, Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations, Washington University in St. Louis, May 1992.

“Political Economy in the Discourse of the Aleppo Majlis in 1838,” paper presented at the MESA convention, Portland, Oregon, October 31, 1992.

“Textual Analysis of the Sharî‘a Court Records in Ottoman Syria,” paper presented in Arabic at the University of Chicago, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, April 2, 1993.

L'économie politique de Damas durant le XIX^e siècle: Structures traditionnelles et capitalisme (Damascus: Institut Français d'Études Arabes de Damas, 1993).

“The Transfer of Property to Women: Judicial Decision-Making in a Maronite Estate and Waqf in Nineteenth-Century Mount Lebanon,” paper presented at the workshop *Women, Family, and the Courts*, Cornell University, October 15-16, 1993.

“The Enterprise of Judging in the Aleppo Majlis in 1838,” paper presented at the MESA convention, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, November 14, 1993.

“The Ethnography of Legal Discourse: The Practice of the Sharî‘a Courts in Ottoman Syria and Lebanon,” paper delivered at Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 18 January 1994.

“Teaching Non-Western Societies and Civilizations,” project presented at the conference *Enlarging Our World View: Undergraduate Education and the Middle East*, University of Arizona, Tucson, March 10-13, 1994.

“Introducing a Non-Western Civilization Core Course in History: Subject Matter and Methods of Instruction,” paper delivered at Loyola University Chicago, College of Arts and Sciences, Dean’s Office, March 18, 1994.

“Textual Analysis of the Sharî‘a Court Documents in Ottoman Syria,” paper presented at the conference *Ninth Annual Middle East History and Theory*, University of Chicago, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, April 29, 1994.

“The Ethnography of Legal Discourse: A ‘Textual’ Analysis of Two Shari‘a Court Documents in Nineteenth-Century Beirut,” paper presented at the *Joseph Schacht Conference on the Theory and Practice of Islamic Law*, Amsterdam-Leiden, 6-10 October 1994; also presented at the workshop *Cases and Contexts in Islamic Law*, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, December 3-4, 1994.

“The Anthropology of War in Abû Yûsuf’s *Kitâb al-Kharâj*,” paper presented at the MESA Convention, Phoenix, Arizona, November 19-22, 1994.

“The Ethnography of Legal Discourse: Status of a Research in Progress,” paper presented at “The Middle East History & Theory Workshop,” The University of Chicago, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, February 22, 1995.

“Lecture d’un waqf maronite du Mont Liban au XIX^e siècle,” in *Le waqf dans l’espace islamique, outil de pouvoir socio-politique*, Randi Deguilhem, ed. (Damascus: Institut Français d’Études Arabes de Damas, 1995), 101-120.

“A ‘Crime of Passion’ in Aleppo in 1987: Questions on the ‘Autonomy’ of the Syrian Legal System,” paper presented at the MESA Convention, Washington D.C., December 6-10, 1995.

“Judicial Writing and Property Transfers in Nineteenth-Century Mount Lebanon,” paper presented at the 206th Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Philadelphia, March 17-20, 1996.

“The Practice of Judicial Writing in the Ottoman Religious Courts of Beirut and Damascus,” paper presented at the 12th Symposium of the Comité International d’Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes, Prague, 9-13 September 1996.

“Honor-Crimes in Syrian Courts: The Art of Finding Good Reasons to Kill Your Wife,” paper presented at the MESA Convention, Providence, Rhode Island, November 21-24, 1996.

“Discursive Formations and the Gap Between Theory and Practice in Ottoman Shari‘a Law,” paper presented at the *Second Joseph Schacht Conference on Theory and Practice in Islamic Law*, Granada, December 16-20, 1997.

“From Anger on Behalf of God to ‘Forbearance’ in Medieval Islamic Literature,” in *Anger’s Past: The Social Uses of Anger in the Middle Ages*, Barbara Rosenwein, ed. (Ithaca & London: Cornell University Press, 1998), 203-30.

“The contractual basis of crime settlements: cases from Nineteenth-Century Beirut and Damascus shari‘a courts,” paper presented at the *13e symposium du Comité international d’études pré-ottomanes et ottomanes*, Vienna, 21-25 September 1998.

“Modes of Adjudication in Ottoman Syria,” *Scuola di Studi Islamica*, Istituto Universitario Orientale, Napoli, May 8, 2002.

“A History of Islamic Adjudication: Methodology and Practice,” al-Baath University (Hims, Syria), 28 April 2004; Tishrine University (Latakia, Syria), 29 April 2004.

“Towards an anthropology of the Syrian courts: preliminary methodological observations,” *La Syrie au présent*, Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Damascus, Syria, 10-11 December 2004.

“Thomas Edward Wilson,” *The Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle east and North Africa*, 2nd edition, Macmillan USA, 2004.

“Alawis,” *The Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle east and North Africa*, 2nd edition, Macmillan USA, 2004.

“Textile Industry,” *The Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle east and North Africa*, 2nd edition, Macmillan USA, 2004.

“The ‘Ulama’: status and function,” *The Companion to the History of the Middle East*, Youssef Choueiri, ed., Blackwell, 2005.

“The insane shepherd-who-writes: Is he competent to stand trial?” in Baudouin Dupret, ed., *Narratives of Truth in Islamic Law*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2008.

“Violence and legal responsibility: the construction of criminal narratives in contemporary Syria,” *Concepts of collective and individual legal responsibility in the Islamic world*, Danish Institute in Damascus, 6-7 May 2005.

“Between avowal and confession: techniques of interrogation and criminal procedures in contemporary Syria,” *ACI: Action Concertée Incitative* (collective work whose purpose is the praxeology of legal and political negotiations within a multi-culturalist perspective), Damascus, 6-7 October 2005; 3 vol. on political and parliamentary negotiations, judicial negotiations, and methodology, are in preparation.

“Introduction: recherches sur la Syrie au présent,” in Baudouin Dupret and Zouhair Ghazzal, eds., *La Syrie au présent*, Paris: Actes Sud, 2007.

“Droit et société,” in Baudouin Dupret and Zouhair Ghazzal, eds., *La Syrie au présent*, Paris: Actes Sud, 2007.

“Les religions du Baath,” in Baudouin Dupret and Zouhair Ghazzal, eds., *La Syrie au présent*, Paris: Actes Sud, 2007.

“La rareté du crime: une lecture anthropologique des documents criminels ottomans syriens du XIXe siècle,” *Lire et écrire l'histoire ottomane*, Institut Français du Proche-Orient, Damascus, 5-6 June 2006; the conference book will be published by IFPO Damascus in 2009.

“From Microstoria to Ethnomethodology: crime-in-action in contemporary Syria,” *Law in Action and Context: Historical and Contemporary Practices in the Mediterranean Area*, Mediterranean

Programme at the European University Institute, Florence, 21-25 March 2007; the conference papers are to be published in a collective volume in 2009.

“Auto-biographical Elements in Syrian Criminal Records: Do judges take them seriously?” *ACI: Action Concertée Incitative*, Barcelona, 24 & 25 April 2007. Collective book in preparation.

“Civil Society in the Arab World,” *Civil Society in Comparative Perspective*, Robert Dibley, ed., in preparation.

“Zones illicites d’Alep,” *Marginalité et précarité urbaine*, Damascus: IFPO, 4-5 June 2007.

“Crime-in-Action in Contemporary Syria,” *Making Law and Making Use of Law in the Middle East: Ethnographic Perspectives*, Berlin, 24-28 July, 2007.

“Law-in-action in Asian societies and civilizations,” *International Conference on Inter-Asian Connections*, Dubai, UAE, February 21-24, 2008.

“The consecration of norms in Aleppo’s illicit neighborhoods,” Mediterranean Programme at the European University Institute, Florence, March 2008.

“Documenting monopolistic strategies and capital accumulation in the dissolution of waqfs: cases of executive trials in contemporary Aleppo, Syria,” in Randi Deguilhem, ed., *Waqfs in the Muslim World*, Institut Français du Proche-Orient & Harvard Center of Islamic Law, in preparation.

The Grammars of Adjudication: The economics of judicial decision making in fin-de-siècle Ottoman Beirut and Damascus (Beirut: IFPO, 2007).

Consultant, *The World and Its Peoples*, 50 vol., Brown Reference Group, London & New York.

“The rarity of crime, the phantom of the victim, and the murder triangle,” Workshop for the study of strategies for reading Ottoman qadi court documents, Harvard University, May 18–20, 2008.

“Current Developments in Syrian Legal and Judicial Affairs,” *Demystifying Syria*, edited by Fred H. Lawson, London: Saqi Books, in preparation.

book reviews

Reviewed Waddah Sharara, *al-Silm al-abli al-barid. Lubnan al-mujtama‘ wal-dawla, 1964-1967* [*The Cold Civil Peace. Lebanon: Society and the State, 1964-1967*], Beirut: Ma‘had al-Inma’ al-‘Arabi, 1980, in *Dirasat ‘Arabiyya*, XVI(12), October 1980, 150–160.

Reviewed *Économie et sociétés dans l’Empire ottoman (Fin du XVIII^e-Début du XX^e siècle)*, Actes du colloque de Strasbourg (1er au 5 juillet 1980), published by Jean-Louis Bacqué-Grammont and Paul Dumont (Paris: CNRS, 1983), in *Dirasat Tarikhiyya*, 15/16(1984), 207–217.

Reviewed *Land Tenure and Social Transformation in the Middle East*, edited by Tarif Khalidi, Beirut: American University of Beirut, 1984, in *An-Nahar*, 21 January 1985.

Reviewed Colette Establet & Jean-Paul Pascual, *Familles et fortunes à Damas: 450 foyers damascains en 1700*, Damascus: Institut Français de Damas, 1994, in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 28/3 (August 1996), 431–32.

Replied to André Raymond's criticisms on the Review of *Familles et fortunes à Damas*, in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 30/3 (August 1998), 474–75.

Reviewed Amnon Cohen, *A World Within: Jewish Life as Reflected in Muslim Court Documents from the Sijill of Jerusalem (XVIth Century)*, 2 vol., Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, Center for Judaic Studies, 1994, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 116/4 (October–December 1996), 781–82.

Reviewed 'Abdullah Ibrahim Sa'd, *Ashkal al-milkiyya wa-anwa' al-aradi fi Mutasarrifiyyat Jabal Lubnan wa-Sahlu-l-Biq'a*, Beirut: Maktabat Bisan, 1995, in *Islamic Law & Society*, 4:1 (January 1997), 114–120.

Reviewed Richard van Leeuwen, *Notables and Clergy in Mount Lebanon: The Khazin Sheikhs and the Maronite Church (1730-1840)*, Leiden-New York: E.J. Brill, 1994, in *Islamic Law & Society*, 4:1 (January 1997), 114–120.

Reviewed Amy Singer and Amnon Cohen, eds., *Aspects of Ottoman History*, Jerusalem: The Hebrew University, 1994, in *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 117.4 (1997), 765–768.

Reviewed Amos Elon, *A Blood-Dimmed Tide. Dispatches from the Middle East*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1997, H-Net Book Review, May 1998.

Reviewed Yassine Essid, *A Critique of the Origins of Islamic Economic Thought*, Leiden-New York: E.J. Brill, 1995, in *Islamic Law & Society*, 5 (3), October 1998, 456–460.

Reviewed Waddah Sharara, *al-Umma al-qaliqa*, Beirut: Dar al-Nahar, 1996, in *Islamic Law & Society*, 5 (3), October 1998, 448–456.

Reviewed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, *al-Masa'il al-fiqhiyya*, Beirut: Dar al-Malak, 1995, in *Islamic Law & Society*, 5 (3), October 1998, 448–456.

Reviewed *al-'Alaqat al-'Arabiyya al-Turkiyya*, Istanbul, 1991, 1993, *Turkish Studies Association Bulletin*, 24:1 (Spring 2000), 121–28.

Reviewed Barber Johansen, *Contingency in a Sacred Law: Legal and Ethical Norms in the Muslim Fiqh* (Leiden: Brill, 1999), *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, 14 (2), Winter 2000, 193–96.

Reviewed Ussama Makdisi, *The Culture of Sectarianism* (University of California Press, 2000), *Turkish Studies Association Bulletin*, 25:1 (Spring 2001), 90–7.

Reviewed Richard van Leeuwen, *Waqfs and Urban Structures* (Brill, 1999), *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 33:4 (2001), 618–20.

Reviewed Patricia Crone, *God's Rule: Government and Islam* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004), *The Historian*, vol. 67, Winter 2005.

grants & fellowships

- Fall 1991–Spring 1992: Rockefeller Foundation Fellow, Washington University in St. Louis, The Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations. Research Project: “The Status of Law vis-à-vis the Power-Relations in the Syrian Cities of the Ottoman Empire.”
- Summer 1995: Loyola University of Chicago Summer Stipend. Research Project: “The Ethnography of Court Documents: The Practice of the Shari‘a Courts in Ottoman Beirut and Damascus.”
- Fall 1996–Spring 1997: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for University Teachers. Project: “The Ethnography of Court Documents: The Practice of the Shari‘a Courts in Ottoman Beirut and Damascus.”
- Paid Leave of Absence, Loyola University Chicago, Fall 1997.
- Fall 2003–Spring 2005: Fulbright lecturing-research grant for Syria: “The ideal of punishment: the Syrian judiciary and its procedures.”
- September 2008–June 2009: Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Science, Princeton.