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Education

Princeton University Ph.D., Near Eastern Studies, 2013

American University in Cairo Arabic Certificate, Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA), 2003

Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) M.A., Middle East Studies and International Economics, 2002

New York University B.A., Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, 1998

Current Research

- Completing *Power and Anxiety in the Kingdom: the Saudi Clergy Across One Century* (Oxford University Press, 2026).
- Commencing work on a new biographical history of US intelligence in the twentieth century.

Past Research

Books

Knowledge, Authority and Change in Islamic Societies: Studies in Honor of Dale F. Eickelman, edited with Allen Fromherz (Leiden: Brill, 2021).

Of Sand or Soil: Genealogy and Tribal Belonging in Saudi Arabia (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015).

• First Runner Up Award, 2016 British Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize.

Selected Articles

"Poetry, Magic, and the Formation of Wahhabism," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 65, no. 1-2 (2021): 1-26.

"Competition in the Mid-20th Century Saudi Education System," Arabian Humanities 12 (2020).

"Saudi Primary Education and the Formation of Modern Wahhabism," Die Welt des Islams 58, no. 4 (2018): 442-460.

"Da'wa, Dynasty, and Destiny in the Arab Gulf," Comparative Studies in Society and History 58, no. 4 (2016): 935-54.

Selected Chapters

"Islam, Race, and Ethnicity in Saudi Arabia," The Routledge Handbook of Islam and Race (New York: Routledge, 2025).

"Parricide in the Kingdom: Genealogy, Nationalism, and the Islamic State Challenge," in *Salman's Legacy: The Dilemmas of a New Era in Saudi Arabia*, edited by Madawi al-Rasheed (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 197-213.

Invited Talks

- "Genealogy from Islamic History to Modern Saudi Arabia," University of Hamburg, Hamburg, October 2023.
- "Of Sand or Soil," King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, August 2020 (via Zoom).
- "Global Jihad: Winning the Battles, Losing the War?," Hoover Institution History Work Group Seminar, Stanford, November 2019.
- "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Past, Present, and Future," *The Aspen Institute* (lead organizer, four-day symposium), Aspen, July-August 2019.
- "Lineage Seeking in the Oil Kingdom: Genealogy and Modern Saudi Arabia," Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, November 2017.
- "Dartmouth College 2nd Annual Last Lecture Series," Dartmouth College, Hanover, May 2017.
- "The Islamic State Challenges Saudi Arabia," Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC, October 2016.
- "The Ceaseless Quest for Saudi Arabia: Central Arabian Nationhood and its Spillover Effects," Middle East Seminar, Harvard University, Cambridge, February 2016.

Past Teaching

Undergraduate and graduate courses on the modern Middle East, the Islamic world, and global history and politics, previously at Dartmouth College, New York University, and Hunter College.