

Beverly A. Tsacoyianis

Assistant Professor
Department of History
The University of Memphis
Memphis, TN 38152-3450

btscynis@memphis.edu
TEL: 901.678.2520
FAX: 901.678.2720

Education

Ph.D Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO, USA)

History, May 2014

Dissertation: "Making Healthy Minds and Bodies in Syria and Lebanon, 1899-1961"

Committee: Profs. Nancy Reynolds (chair), Tim Parsons (co-chair), Ahmet Karamustafa, Hillel Kieval, Nancy Berg

Examination fields: Modern Middle East. Secondary fields in pre-modern Islamic science, medicine, and government, and in Global and Comparative History

MA Washington University in St. Louis, History, Oct. 2009

Lebanese American University (Beirut, Lebanon), Summer 2006

Summer Institute for Intensive Arabic Language and Culture (SINARC) language study, modern standard Arabic: advanced (Fourth year) level. Lebanese dialect: intermediate level

Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT, USA), Summer 2005

Arabic Language School, GPA 4.0

BA Brandeis University (Waltham, MA, USA), 2000 – 2004

Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, high honors. Minors in Legal Studies Program, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

Senior Thesis: *Women's Rights in the Shari'a Court in Israel: Personal Status Laws of Marriage and Divorce* (2004, Brandeis University Archives)

Languages

English (native), Spanish (bilingual-native), modern Hebrew (advanced reading, writing, speaking), modern standard Arabic (advanced reading, writing, speaking), Syrian and Lebanese Arabic (intermediate knowledge, reading, speaking), Egyptian Arabic (working knowledge reading, speaking), research proficiency qualification in Arabic, French, and Hebrew

Fellowships and Grants

Professional Development Award, University of Memphis, Fall 2018

Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities Freeburg Faculty Fellowship, University of Memphis, Spring 2017

College of Arts and Sciences Travel Enrichment Grant, University of Memphis, 2014, 2017

P.E.O. Scholar Award, 2011-2012

R.W. Davis Travel Grant, Washington University, 2010, 2011

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, 2009-2010

Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Washington University International and Area Studies, 2008

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Grant, Washington University, 2006, 2007, 2008

National Security Education Program David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship 2006-2007 (declined)

Washington University Chancellor's Fellowship, 2005-2013

Teaching and Training

Assistant Professor, University of Memphis

HIST 1120: as Science and Technology in World History since 1500, Spring 2020, Fall 2020 (remote hybrid), Spring 2021 (as honors, remote hybrid), online Summer 2021

HIST 1120: as World History since 1500, Fall 2019

HIST 3273: Islamic History to 1405, Fall 2017

HIST 3273 (title until end of 2016): Islamic Civilization, Spring 2015, Spring 2016

HIST 3724: Islamic History since 1405, Spring 2019

HIST 4054/6054: The Politics of Health in the Modern Middle East, Fall 2013

HIST 4057/6057: Understanding the Arab Spring and Uprisings in the Middle East, Spring 2014

HIST 4260: World Since 1945, Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2019, Spring 2020

HIST 4272/6272: Modern Middle East, Fall 2013, Fall 2017, Fall 2020 (and online: Fall 2014, Spring 2016)

HIST 4276/6276: Arab-Israeli Conflict, Spring 2014, Fall 2016, Fall 2019

HIST 4277/6277: Ottoman Empire, Spring 2015, online Summer 2020

HIST 7101/8101: Studies in Global History: Science, Empire, and Responses, Fall 2016

HIST 7272/8272: Historiography of the Modern Middle East, Spring 2018

Instructor, Washington University in St. Louis

L22-1520: Freshman Seminar in History: The Politics of Health in the Modern Middle East, Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant, Washington University in St. Louis

L22-102C: Western Civilization II, Spring 2008

L22-214C: Intro to Islamic Civilization, Fall 2006

Teaching Center Workshops, Washington University:

2011, October 13, "Designing Visuals to Enhance Learning and Interaction."

2006, November 13, "Designing a Course and Creating a Syllabus."

2006, September 25, "Effective Teaching Methods and Strategies."

2006, August 24, "Responding to Student Writing: Commenting on Drafts and Grading Papers."

Teaching Interests: modern Middle Eastern history, Islamic history, world history since 1450, history of science and medicine (Mediterranean Islamic world, comparative)

Publications

Disturbing Spirits: Mental Illness, Trauma, and Treatment in Modern Syria and Lebanon, June 2021, University of Notre Dame Press

"From Patient to Survivor: Mental Health and Disability Studies," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 51 (1) (Feb. 2019): 124-126.

"New Private Library Opens in Shaalan." *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter*, 15 (2) (Summer 2010): 9.

"Exploratory Archival Research in Syria: Practicalities, Affordability, and Advantages." *Syrian Studies Association Newsletter*, 14 (2) (Spring 2009): 17-18.

Book Reviews

Mental Health and Palestinian Citizens in Israel, edited by Muhammad M. Haj-Yahia, Ora Nakash, and Itzhak Levav, *Journal of Palestine Studies* 2021

The Empire of Depression: A New History, by Jonathan Sadowsky, *History: Review of New Books*, July 2021

Disability in the Ottoman Arab World, 1500-1800, by Sara Scalenghe. *Arab Studies Journal* XXIV (1) (2016): 310-314.

Projects in Progress

- “Mental Illness and the Plural Medical Landscape in Greater Syria, 1900-1946”, in preparation for submission to the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*
- “Memory and Trauma in Syrian and Lebanese Fiction and Film, 1989-2011”, in preparation for submission to *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*
- “Committed: Madness and Duty in Palestinian and Israeli Fiction and Film, 1948-1998,” in preparation for submission to the *Journal of Palestine Studies*

Presentations

- “From Patient to Survivor: Enriching Palestinian and Israeli Psychiatric History through Disability Studies Approaches.” “Disability Studies in the Middle East: New Approaches, New Possibilities” Panel. Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 53rd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 16, 2019
- “‘Violence that would consume it whole and eventually damage the collective mental health of its people’: Lebanese and Syrian narratives of trauma, war, and treatment, 1900-2018.” “Politics of Mental Health and Psychiatry in the Emerging State” Panel. Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 52nd Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 15-18, 2018
- “The Trouble with Spirits: Mental Illness and Treatment in Modern Syria and Lebanon.” Middle Eastern Disability History workshop, University of Maryland, November 12, 2015
- “Madness, Story-telling, and Gender in 20th century Syrian literature.” Migration, Identity, and States Research Collective, St. Louis, MO, March 1, 2012
- “Mental Illness and the Plural Medical Marketplace in Syria, 1922-1956.” “Public Health, Wellness, and the Emerging Nation-State” Panel. Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 45th Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., December 1-4, 2011
- “In Good Spirits: Madness and Deviancy in 1920s-1950s Syria.” “Bodies Marking Deviance, Disgust, and Protest” Panel. Washington University Graduate Conference on the History of the Body, St. Louis, MO, October 20-22, 2011
- “Treating Minds and Spirits: Psychiatry and non-Biomedical Healing Practices in 1920s-1960s Syria.” “Histories of Disability in the Middle East” Panel, speaker and panel organizer. Middle East Studies Association (MESA) 44th Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 18-21, 2010
- “Disability and Difference in Syria Under the French Mandate.” “Transatlantic Perspectives on the History of Disability” Panel. American Historical Association (AHA) 124th Annual Meeting, San Diego, January 7-10, 2010. Sponsored by the AHA Professional Division and the AHA Task Force on Disability
- “Religion and Ethnicity in the Late Ottoman Period: A Case Study of Maronites Under Vatican and Parisian-Influenced Leadership.” Pluralism, Politics and Religion Initiative 2nd Joint Graduate Student conference, hosted by Sciences Politiques – Paris, l’Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes GRSL – Sorbonne and Washington University in St. Louis. Paris, France, June 6, 2007
- “Positions of Power: The Impact of Religious Association, Status, and Culture on Former Soviet Union Immigrants to Israel.” “Cultural Separation and Interaction” Panel. Washington University in St. Louis, Graduate Student History Department Colloquium, March 24, 2006
- “Muslim Women in Israeli Courts: A Study of Personal Status Laws.” Pluralism, Politics and Religion Initiative 1st Joint Graduate Student conference, hosted by Washington University in St. Louis, Sciences Po – Paris. St. Louis, MO, September 26, 2005

Invited Talks and Workshops

- NEH Summer Institute, “Understanding Middle Eastern Millennials through Literature, Culture, and the Media,” University of Arizona’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Aug. 4-10, 2019
- “Syria, Trauma, and the Politics of Intervention,” Kiwanis club of Memphis presentation, July 24, 2019
- Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) Faculty Development Seminar to Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Haifa, June 14-25, 2019
- Twelfth Annual Tel Aviv University Workshop on Israel and the Middle East, sponsored by the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, July 9-20, 2017
- “Arabo-Islamic Approaches to the Use of Herbs, Potions, and Fragrances for Physical and Spiritual Healing and Magic.” Dixon Gallery & Gardens Munch & Learn Series, Memphis, June 7, 2017
- Women of Color in the Academy workshop participant, Stanford University, March 9-11, 2017
- Kay Usdan Saslawsky Institute for Ethical Leadership participant, Jewish Community Center of Memphis, Spring 2017
- “The Impact of Globalization on Food, Culture, Fashion, and Music in Memphis” panelist, Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, June 2016
- “Religion and Politics in the Arab Spring: A Case Study of the Islamic State.” Sumner Levine Speaker Series, Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South, December 7, 2014
- “Fruits of the Arab Spring: Leadership, Society, and Current Events in the Middle East and North Africa.” Current Events series in the Migration, Identity, and State Research Collective of the International and Area Studies Department. Invited speaker, Washington University in St. Louis, November 14, 2011
- “The Pursuit of Happiness in the Middle East.” Dessert with Dialogue series, sponsored by undergraduate student groups J Street U, Controversy n' Coffee, and the Student Union. Invited speaker and facilitator on discussion of war trauma, stress and emotional well-being in Israel and Palestine, Washington University in St. Louis, October 27, 2011
- “Fruits of the Arab Spring: Understanding Leadership and Society in the Middle East and North Africa.” Invited speaker, Keynote address in panel, Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL, April 21, 2011

Service to the Profession

- Blind reviewer, *Jerusalem Quarterly*, May 2019
- Book Review Editor, Executive Board, Syrian Studies Association (SSA), 2010-2013
- Syria Liaison, Executive Board, Syrian Studies Association (SSA), 2009-2010
- Graduate Student Member, Executive Board, Syrian Studies Association (SSA), 2008-2009
- Committee member, Graduate History Association at Washington University in St. Louis, 2006-2007
- Speaker, Washington University Chancellor’s Fellowship annual conference, introduced Dr. William Julius Wilson at his keynote address, Washington University Assembly Series, Mar. 27, 2012
- Speaker, Washington University Chancellor’s Fellowship recruitment panel on graduate school experiences, diversity, and benefits of the fellowship, Feb. 26, 2012
- Co-organizer and participant, Chancellor’s Graduate Fellows research mentoring meetings with Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows, Fall 2011
- Speaker, Washington University Chancellor’s Fellowship recruitment panel on graduate school experiences, diversity, and benefits of the fellowship, Feb. 2008
- Co-organizer and participant, mentoring dinner for Chancellor’s Graduate Fellows and Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows, Nov. 16, 2007

Service to the University, College of Arts and Sciences, and Department of History

Primary faculty advisor of the University of Memphis Muslim Students Association (MSA), a Registered Student Organization, Fall 2013 - Fall 2017

Historian and Cultural Expert on Curatorial Team, Desert to Delta exhibit at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (2017) and traveled as an invited participant on “culture and museum experts” trip to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) May 12-20, 2017 with visits to Saudi galleries, museums, and artist studios in Dammam, Dhahran, Riyadh, and Jeddah. Facilitated by Culturunners and sponsored by Saudi Aramco and the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture

Teaching and Mentoring Committee member, Department of History, 2016-2018

Center for Research on Women, The University of Memphis, Faculty Affiliate, 2016-Present

World History online instructor Search Committee member, Department of History, Spring 2016

Medieval European tenure-track Search Committee member, Department of History, 2014-2015

Graduate Awards Committee member, Department of History, 2014-Present

Wilson Undergraduate Paper Prize judge, Department of History, Spring 2014

National History Day faculty committee member, 2013-2014, and judge, 2013-Present

Helped organize and facilitate panel discussion and film screening of *Koran by Heart*, sponsored by the University Libraries, the Department of History, and the Muslim Student Association as part of the NEH-sponsored Bridging Cultures – Muslim Journeys bookshelf, University Center Bluff room, Nov 19, 2013

Helped organize and facilitate panel discussion of Eboo Patel's *Acts of Faith* for the Community Read program as part of the NEH-sponsored Bridging Cultures – Muslim Journeys bookshelf, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, November 10, 2013

Performed public reading from Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, McWherter Library Rotunda, September 25, 2013 for Banned Books Week

Mentoring and Community Outreach

Member of the Life-Long Jewish Learning Committee at Congregation Beth Sholom, contributing to the planning and facilitating of Memphis-area events, 2016-2018

Volunteer small donations fundraiser for Fall fundraising event of the Chicago branch of Minds Matter, a non-profit that advises high-achieving low-income high school students to help them secure admission and funding to top-tier universities, Fall 2008

Provided expert statement for novel legal claim in asylum case of Syrian woman with Down Syndrome, Kirkland & Ellis LLP Pro Bono case with the National Immigrant Justice Center (Chicago), Summer/Fall 2012

Professional Memberships

American Association for the History of Medicine 2012-Present	Syrian Studies Association, 2007-Present Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, Washington University in St. Louis chapter April 2013-present
American Historical Association, 2007-Present	
History of Science Society, 2012-Present	
Middle East Studies Association, 2007-Present	

References

Sara Scalenghe, Ph.D. Associate Professor of History Loyola University Maryland (410) 617-2017	Aram Goudsouzian, Ph.D. Professor of History Previous Department Chair University of Memphis
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sscalenghe@loyola.edu	(901) 678-2516 agoudszn@memphis.edu
Ahmet Karamustafa, Ph.D. Professor of History Director of Graduate Studies Department of History University of Maryland (301) 405-4267 akaramus@umd.edu	Nancy Reynolds, Ph.D. Associate Professor of History and of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Director of Graduate Studies in History and JINELC Washington University in St. Louis (314) 935-4167 nreynolds@wustl.edu