

## Beverly A. Tsacoyianis

Assistant Professor  
Department of History  
The University of Memphis  
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### Education

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**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

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

### Fellowships and Grants

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

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

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Assistant Professor, The University of Memphis

HIST 3273: Islamic Civilization, Spring 2015

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

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

HIST 4260: World Since 1945, Fall 2014

HIST 4272/6272: Introduction to the Modern Middle East, Fall 2013 (and online, Fall 2014)

HIST 4276/6276: Palestine, Zionism, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Spring 2014

HIST 4277/6277: Ottoman Empire, Spring 2015

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

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"New Private Library Opens in Sha'alan." *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.

"Mental Illness and the Plural Medical Landscape in 20<sup>th</sup> century Syria." *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* (in progress)

## Presentations

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"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) 45<sup>th</sup> 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) 44<sup>th</sup> 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) 124<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Graduate Student conference, hosted by Sciences Politiques – Paris, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Graduate Student conference, hosted by Washington University in St. Louis, Sciences Po – Paris. St. Louis, MO, September 26, 2005

## Invited Talks

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- “Religion and Politics in the Arab Spring: A Case Study of the Islamic State.” Summer 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

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- 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 in the 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

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- Medieval European Search Committee, Department of History, 2014-2015
- Graduate Awards Committee, Department of History, 2014-2015
- Wilson Undergraduate Paper Prize judge, Department of History, Spring 2014
- National History Day faculty committee member and judge, 2013-2014
- Primary faculty advisor of the University of Memphis Muslim Students Association (MSA), a Registered Student Organization, Fall 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

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- 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's Syndrome, Kirkland & Ellis LLP Pro Bono case with the National Immigrant Justice Center (Chicago), Summer/Fall 2012

### Professional Memberships

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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

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Timothy Parsons, Ph.D Professor of History Washington University <a href="mailto:tparsons@wustl.edu">tparsons@wustl.edu</a>	Nancy Reynolds, Ph.D Associate Professor of History Washington University <a href="mailto:nreynolds@wustl.edu">nreynolds@wustl.edu</a>
Ahmet Karamustafa, Ph.D Professor of History University of Maryland <a href="mailto:akaramus@umd.edu">akaramus@umd.edu</a>	Jonathan Sadowsky, Ph.D Dr. Theodore J. Castele Associate Professor of Medical History Case Western Reserve University <a href="mailto:jonathan.sadowsky@case.edu">jonathan.sadowsky@case.edu</a>