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Education

- Ph.D., History, UC-Berkeley, May, 1992.
- M. A., Near Eastern Studies, UC-Berkeley, May, 1986.
- Licentia Docendi, Magna cum Laude, Studi Arabi e Islamistica, Pontificio Istituto di Studi Arabi e d'Islamistica, Rome, June, 1983. Thesis on Shi'ism in Iraq.
- B.A., With Highest Honors, Arabic and Islamic Studies, UC-Berkeley, 1982.

Teaching Career

- Associate Professor, Department of History, UW-Madison, Fall, 1997-present.
- Assistant Professor, Department of History, UW-Madison, Spring, 1992-Spring-1997.
- Acting Assistant Professor, Department of History, and Resident Fellow, Stanford University, 1989-1991.

Administration

- Director, Middle East Studies, UW-Madison, 1998-2003

Publications

Books:

- Knowledge and Social Practice in Medieval Damascus, 1190-1350 (Cambridge University Press, 1994, paperback 2002).

Articles and Book Chapters:

- “Military patronage states and the political economy of the frontier, 1000-1250,” Yousseff Choueiri ed., Blackwell Companion to the History of the History of the Middle East (London, 2005).
- “The Ayyubids and the Crusader Era,” The Cambridge History of Egypt, Carl Petry ed. (Cambridge, UK, 1998).
- “The Production of Knowledge and the Reproduction of the A`yân in Medieval Damascus,” in M. Gaborieau and N. Grandin eds., Madrasas: La transmission du savoir dans le monde musulman (Paris: 1997), pp. 1-36.

Major Professional Service:

- Board of Directors, Middle East Medievalists, 1997-2001
- Fulbright committee for Egypt, 2002-present
- Editorial Board, History Compass
- Major University Service:
- Director, Middle East Studies Program, 1997-2002.

Major Awards and Fellowships, Post-Ph.D.

- Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad, 1995-1996.
- Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, member, 1994-95.
- Social Science Research Council, Near and Middle East Research Grants, 1994-1996.

Conference Papers and Invited Lectures, post-Ph.D.:

- “‘Private wealth and public office’ as a problem in comparative history,” Erasmus Center inaugural conference, Rotterdam, 2005
- “What can Middle East historians do for comparative history?” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, March, 2004
- “Heresy and Politics on Mamluk Damascus and Cairo,” Stanford University conference, May, 2003.
- “Warlord Politics and Urban Institutions in Medieval Syria, Egypt, and Mesopotamia: the Emergence of the Lesser Version of the Great Man” invited lecture, University of Chicago, 2002.

- “The Uses and Utility of Collections of Original Documents in Medieval Islamic History and Historiography,” invited lecture, Princeton University, 2000.
- “Family, Household, and Politics in the Medieval Middle East and Europe: an Exploratory Attempt at Comparison,” invited lecture, Smith College, 2000
- “The Eunuch Household and Comparative Family History,” Leffler lecture, Carleton College, 2000.
- “The Production of Knowledge and the Political Uses of Religious Authority in the Contemporary Middle East,” JCIS conference on Islam and politics, Milwaukee and Madison, 1999.
- “Medieval Family History in Comparative Perspective,” invited lecture, French Institute of Damascus, 1997.
- “Eunuchs and Politics in Ayyubid and Zengid Syria and Egypt,” Middle East Studies Association, 1997.
- “The Document, the Archive, and the Politics of Revenue Assignment in Ayyubid and Mamluk Syria and Egypt,” Conference on the Historiography of Islamic Egypt, St. Andrews University, 1997
- “‘Political Eunuchism’ in Ayyûbid and Early Mamlûk Syria and Egypt,” Distinguished University Lecturer, University of Michigan, 1996.
- “Eunuchs and Politics in the Medieval Middle East,” Invited Lecture, University of Chicago, 1996.
- “Fitna, Sexuality, and Politics in Medieval Syria and Egypt,” Invited Lecture, French Institute of Damascus, 1996.
- “Fitna and the Historiography of the Medieval Middle Eastern State,” Invited Lecture, Princeton University, 1995.
- “The ‘Civilization of Garrisons’: Orientalism and Anti-Orientalism,” Invited Lecture, The University Seminar, Columbia University, 1994.
- “The Production of Knowledge and the Reproduction of Elites in the Later Medieval Islamic World,” Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Conference on Medieval Islamic Education, Paris, December, 1992.
- “Writing, Ritual, and the Uses of Books in Medieval Damascus,” Conference: Uniting the Worlds of Judaism and Islam, Berkeley, March, 1993.