

About the Contributors

Sara Ababneh is a lecturer in international relations at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sheffield. Before Sheffield she was associate professor at the Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. She earned her DPhil in politics and international relations from St Antony's College, University of Oxford, where she wrote her dissertation on female Islamists in Hamas in occupied Palestine and the Islamic Action Front in Jordan. She has conducted research on the Jordanian women's movement, the Arab Uprisings, Mandate Palestine, gender and Islamism, Muslim family laws and labour movements. Her research interests include class, gender and struggles for liberation and change. She was selected as the Carnegie Centennial Fellow at the Middle East Institute at Columbia University. Currently, she is working on a manuscript on the popular protest movement in Jordan.

Faqihuddin Abdul Kodir teaches Hadith and legal injunction in the faculty of Islamic Law at Syekh Nurjati State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN), Cirebon, and the Fahmina Institute for Islamic Studies (ISIF). He is one of the founders of the Fahmina Institute, an Indonesian NGO working on gender, democracy and pluralism from an Islamic perspective. He is the author of several books, including *Qirā'ah Mubādalāh* (2019), *Sunnah Monogami* (2017) and *Hadith and Gender Justice* (2007). He is also the founder of Mubadalah.id, an Islamic portal about gender justice. He completed his Islamic boarding school (*pesantren*) education at Dar al-Tauhid Arjawinangun Cirebon, undergraduate studies at Damascus University Syria, master's degree at International Islamic University Malaysia and PhD at Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta. He is engaged with Muslim NGOs across South-east Asia to formulate how gender justice can be culturally negotiated and

adopted within Islamic perspectives. He is an advocate for progressive Islam in Indonesia, especially concerning gender justice and democracy.

Omaima Abou-Bakr is a professor of English and comparative literature at Cairo University (Egypt), a founding member of the Women and Memory Forum and a member of the Musawah Knowledge Building team. She specializes in medieval Sufi poetry and comparative topics in medieval English and Arabic literature. Her scholarly interests also include women's mysticism and female spirituality in Christianity and Islam, feminist theology, Muslim women's history and gender issues in Islamic discourse.

Amira Abou-Taleb sought to pursue her passion for examining the interplay between reason, ethics and beauty by switching from a long career in international advertising agencies to earn an MA in Islamic studies from the American University in Cairo (AUC). Following graduation, Amira designed a course titled 'Beauty & Reason in the Arab/Islamic Civilization', which became very popular at AUC for five years before it was introduced at the University of Helsinki in Finland in 2019. Amira is currently a doctoral fellow in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki researching the concept of *ihsān* in the Qur'anic worldview. She is keen on understanding the impact this *weltanschauung* has and can have on informing both ethics and aesthetics. She is the author of the chapter 'Constructing the Image of the Model Muslim Woman: Gender Discourse in Ibn Sa'd's *Kitāb al-Ṭabaqāt al-Kubrā'* in *Islamic Interpretive Tradition and Gender Justice: Processes of Canonization, Subversion, and Change* (2020).

Yasmin Amin is an Egyptian-German who received her PhD in Islamic studies in 2021 from Exeter University's Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies researching 'Humour and Laughter in the Ḥadīth'. She obtained a postgraduate diploma in Islamic studies in 2006 and an MA in Islamic studies in 2010, both from the American University in Cairo. Her research covers various aspects of gender issues, early Muslim society and culture as well as the original texts of Islamic history, law and Hadith. She is the author of the forthcoming *Musnad Umm Salama and the Factors Affecting Its Evolution*, co-translator of *The Sorrowful Muslim's Guide*, and co-editor (with Nevin Reda) of *Islamic Interpretive Tradition and Gender Justice: Processes of Canonization, Subversion, and Change* (2020).

Zainah Anwar co-founded two groundbreaking women's groups that engage with Islam from a rights perspective to promote the rights of women living in Muslim contexts: Sisters in Islam (SIS) in Malaysia, which she led from 1999–2008, and Musawah, the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, which she led from 2009–2021. Her other work experience includes chief programme officer, Political Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London; senior analyst, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Kuala Lumpur; political and diplomatic writer, *The New Straits Times*, Kuala Lumpur. She was also a member of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia from 2000–2004. Her book, *Islamic Revivalism in Malaysia: Dakwah Among the Students* (1987), has become a standard reference in the study of Islam in Malaysia. She was educated at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston University and the MARA Institute of Technology, Malaysia, in the fields of international relations and journalism.

Mariam Al-Attar holds a PhD in Islamic Ethics from the University of Leeds. She currently teaches Arabic heritage and Islamic philosophy at the American University of Sharjah. Before that she taught courses in philosophy at the University in Jordan and various courses at King's Academy in Madaba, where she was also head of the Department of Ethics, Philosophy and Religion. Her book *Islamic Ethics: Divine Command Theory in Arabo-Islamic Thought* traces the development of ethical thought in Islam and focuses on the work of the Mu'tazilite judge 'Abd al-Jabbār al-Asadabādī. Her more recent work includes chapters and journal articles that reflect her research interest in metaethical theories, *kalām* (speculative theology) and *uṣūl al-fiqh* (principles of jurisprudence) in a way that relates to contemporary normative concerns. Prior to her academic career, she was a physicist working as a clinical scientist. Her initial research was related to her earlier career and is reflected in her master thesis, in Arabic, that focused on the scientific methodology and philosophy of 'Abd al-Laṭīf al-Baghdādī.

Zahia Jouirou is a professor of Islamic and religious comparative studies in the University of Manouba (Tunis) and the director of the Institute of Translation of Tunis. She specializes in family laws, *fiqh*, *fatāwā* and *uṣūl al-fiqh*. She writes and researches on the historicity of the Islamic legal and

jurisprudential system; the roots of discriminatory provisions against women; and the reformist approaches to Muslim family laws, norms and practices. She has published more than twenty academic articles and four books on the status of women in *fiqh*-based laws, polygamy and inheritance rights. She is also a member of an active Tunisian network of women's groups and was engaged in the campaign to safeguard women's rights in the Tunisian constitution after the revolution. She is the recipient of several awards and distinctions related to her work on women's issues.

Mohsen Kadivar is a theologian and a leading public intellectual. He has been a research professor of Islamic studies at Duke University (Durham, NC, USA) since 2009. He was a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, University of Virginia and University of North Carolina; a global ethics fellow with the Carnegie Council; research fellow with the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin, Germany; and a fellow of National Humanities Centre in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. His interests span both classical and modern Islamic thought, with a special focus on Islamic philosophy and ethics, Shi'i theology and jurisprudence, Qur'anic studies, Shi'i political thought and Islam and human rights. His latest publications are *Human Rights and Reformist Islam* and *Blasphemy and Apostasy in Islam* (both published by University of Edinburgh Press in 2021), and two forthcoming books: *Governance by Guardianship: Rule and Government in the Islamic Republic of Iran* (Cambridge University Press) and *Islamic Theocracy in the Secular Age* (University of North Carolina Press).

Asma Lamrabet is a haematologist at the Avicenna Public Hospital in Rabat. She was director of the Center for Women's Studies in Islam in the Rabita Mohammadia des Oulémas du Maroc from 2011 to March 2018. She has studied women's issues in Islam for many years and has delivered lectures on this topic at various conferences around the world. From 2004 to 2007, she was the coordinator of a research and reflection group on Muslim women and intercultural dialogue in Rabat. She is also the founding member of the Fatéma Mernissi Chair at Mohammed V University in Rabat since 2017 and member of the Nordic Center Advisory Board since May 2020. She is currently the Gender Studies Chair in the Euro-Arab Foundation for higher studies in Granada, Spain, and a member of the scientific committee of the Moroccan Driss Benzekri National Institute for Human Rights. She is the author of several books; *Women and Men in the Qur'an* (Palgrave

Macmillan) received the Social Sciences Awards 2013 by the Arab Woman Organization.

Sarah Marsso is a feminist and anti-racism activist engaging with the Islamic tradition to promote gender equality in Muslim contexts. She has coordinated the activities of Musawah's Knowledge Building Working Group since 2015. She co-authored two Musawah reports entitled *Women's Stories, Women's Lives: Male Authority in Muslim Contexts* (2016) and *Who Provides? Who Cares? Changing Dynamics in Muslim Families* (2018), and has contributed to many other publications. She is a graduate of SciencesPo in European studies and international relations and holds an MA in development and cooperation in the Middle East & North Africa from l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Lyon.

Ziba Mir-Hosseini is a legal anthropologist who specializes in Islamic law, gender and Islamic feminism. She is a founding member and current board member of Musawah. She is professorial research associate at the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, SOAS, University of London, and Hauser Global Law visiting professor at NYU Law School, a position she has held since 2002. She has published books on Islamic family law in Iran and Morocco, Iranian clerical discourses on gender, Islamic reformist thinkers, and the revival of *zina* laws. She is the author of *Journeys Toward Gender Equality in Islam* (2022) and the co-editor of *Gender and Equality in Muslim Family Law* (with Kari Vogt, Lena Larsen and Christian Moe, 2013) and *Men in Charge? Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition* (with Mulki Al-Sharmani and Jana Rumminger, 2015). Ziba co-directed (with Kim Longinotto) two award-winning feature-length documentary films on Iran: *Divorce Iranian Style* (1998) and *Runaway* (2001). She received the American Academy of Religion's 2015 Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion.

Nur Rofiah is a lecturer of methodology of Qur'anic interpretation at the graduate and postgraduate levels at the Islamic State University Syarif Hidayatullah and at the Institute for Qur'anic Studies (PTIQ) in Jakarta. She is also a women's rights activist who promotes gender justice within Islam as a writer, facilitator and resource person. She has authored books in Indonesian whose titles translate in English as *Breaking the Silence: Religion Hears the Voices of Women Victims of Violence*, *Islam as Human Religion: Reinterpreting*

Qishas and Hudud, and *Muslimah's Critical Thinking*. She is a board member of Alimat and Rahima, two of the three institutions that initiated and arranged the first Congress of Indonesian Women Ulama in 2017.

Shadaab Rahemtulla is a lecturer in Islam and Christian–Muslim relations at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. A Canadian Muslim from Vancouver/Coast Salish Territories, he completed his doctorate in contemporary Islamic thought at the University of Oxford. He is the author of the book *Qur'an of the Oppressed: Liberation Theology and Gender Justice in Islam* (Oxford University Press, 2018). His primary interest lies in how religion can be (re)interpreted as a liberating force to confront contexts of oppression, including patriarchy, empire, poverty and racism. His second book project, which is tentatively titled *Islam and Native American Suffering: Decolonising Islamic Liberation Theology* (Oxford University Press), seeks to reread the Qur'an in the light of Native American rights, occupation, and indigenous struggles against settler colonialism. Before joining the University of Edinburgh, he was an assistant professor at the University of Jordan in Amman, where he taught for six years.

Nevin Reda is an associate professor of Muslim studies at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto. Her research interests include the poetics and hermeneutics of Qur'anic narrative structure, Hebrew Bible and Qur'an, spiritually integrative approaches to the Qur'an, Islamic feminist hermeneutics, Islamic ethical-legal theory (*uṣūl al-fiqh*) and Islamic political theory. She has published one monograph, *The al-Baqara Crescendo: Understanding the Qur'an's Style, Narrative Structure, and Running Themes* (2017). She also co-edited (with Yasmin Amin) *Islamic Interpretive Tradition and Gender Justice: Processes of Canonization, Subversion, and Change* (2020). She has published many articles, one of the most recent of which is "The Qur'an and Domestic Violence: An Islamic Feminist, Spiritually Integrative Reading of Verse 4:34" (2019). At Emmanuel, she teaches a variety of courses in core Islamic disciplines, including the Qur'an, the Prophet Muhammad's biography, Shari'a, Islamic spirituality and classical and modern Islamic thought.

Jana Rumminger is a legal researcher and writer whose scholarship and activism focus on human rights issues related to gender, race/ethnicity and religion. She has been involved with Musawah in a variety of roles since 2007 and as a member of the Knowledge Building Working Group since 2010. She has

played a lead role in many Musawah publications, including co-editing *Men in Charge? Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition* (with Ziba Mir-Hosseini and Mulki Al-Sharmani, 2015). She has also worked with several local and international women's rights organizations in South and Southeast Asia and non-profit organizations in the United States. She holds an AB from Princeton University and a JD and MS in law, policy and society from Northeastern University.

Hoda El Saadi is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Arab and Islamic Civilization at the American University in Cairo (AUC) and a co-founder of the Woman and Memory Forum. She received her BA and MA from the American University in Cairo and her PhD in Islamic History from Cairo University. She specializes in early and medieval Islamic history, with a particular focus on women's changing roles and positions from pre-modern to modern history and women's presence in public life. Her aim is to use history (and its interpretations) to strengthen the position of Muslim women in the present, as well as formulate a culturally Islamic discourse that incorporates women's perspective and an awareness of gender. She considers her work to be a form of resistance against the process of exclusion and marginalization from which women suffered in various historical periods. Some of her recent publications also include: 'Islamic Feminism in Egypt: Between Acceptance and Rejection', and *Questions and Answers about Gender and Feminism* (co-authored with Aya Sami, 2016).

Sa'diyya Shaikh is an associate professor in the Department for the Study of Religions at the University of Cape Town. Her areas of research include gender-sensitive readings of Hadith, Qur'anic exegesis and Sufi texts; theoretical and political debates on Islam and feminism; religion and gender-based violence; contemporary Muslim women's embodied, experiential and everyday modes of understanding Qur'anic teachings. Her books include *Sufi Narratives of Intimacy: Ibn 'Arabī, Gender, and Sexuality* (2012), *The Women's Khutbah Book: Contemporary Sermons on Spirituality and Justice from around the World* (co-authored with Fatima Seedat, 2022), and *Violence Against Women in Contemporary World Religions: Roots and Cures* (co-edited with Daniel Maguire, 2007). Her forthcoming book project is provisionally entitled *The Breath of Merciful: Jamali Ethics, Gender and Spirituality*. In her work as well as her spiritual life, Sa'diyya draws on several contemporary Sufi teachers including Shaykh Muhammad Rahim Bawa Muhaiyaddeen (*rahmatullah 'alayhi*), Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri and

Shaykha Cemal Nur Sargut. She is mother to Nuriyya, a feisty, opinionated 19-year-old woman, and Ismael, an impish, entertaining 14-year-old, and wife to Ashraf Kagee, academic, novelist and fun life partner.

Marwa Sharafeldin is an Egyptian scholar activist. She has a PhD in law from the University of Oxford and is the senior technical advisor and MENA region expert in Musawah. She is currently a visiting fellow in Harvard Law School's **program on law and society** in the Muslim World. Her work covers the intersection between Islamic law, international human rights law and feminist activism. She has been published in several academic books and media platforms covering those topics. In addition to her work with Musawah, she co-founded and/or served on the Advisory Boards of several feminist organizations worldwide such as the Global Fund for Women, the Young Arab Feminist Network and the Network for Women's Rights Organizations in Egypt. She has contributed to publications such as the UN's flagship *Progress of the World's Women Report* and the UN's *Gender Justice and Law Arab Region Report*. She believes in the power of art for social transformation, and is a story collector, performer and writer.

Mulki Al-Sharmani is an associate professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern studies, University of Helsinki. Mulki is also a member of the Musawah Knowledge Building Working Group and coordinated the Global Life Stories Project (2011–16) as part of Musawah's 'Knowledge Building Initiative on *Qiwamah* and *Wilayah*'. Mulki's research interests include Qur'anic ethics and Islamic feminist exegesis; contemporary Muslim women's engagements with the Qur'an and Islamic interpretive tradition in Finland and Egypt; Muslim family laws and gender in Islamic legal tradition; and modern diasporas and gender relations in the family domain, with a focus on transnational Muslim families. She authored *Gender Justice and Legal Reform in Egypt: Negotiating Muslim Family Law* (2017); and co-authored (with Oaima Abou-Bakr) the book chapter 'Islamic Feminist *Tafsir* and Qur'anic Ethics: Rereading Divorce Verses' (2020). She co-edited *Men in Charge? Authority in Islamic Legal Tradition* (with Ziba Mir-Hosseini and Jana Rumminger, 2015) and *Wellbeing of Transnational Muslim Families: Marriage, Gender and Law* (with Marja Tiilikainen and Sanna Mustasaari, 2019). She is currently working on a manuscript titled *Islamic Feminism: Tradition, Authority, and Hermeneutics* (Bloomsbury).

Lynn Welchman is a professor of law at SOAS, University of London, specializing in law and society, Muslim family laws, women's rights and human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. She has published widely, including the books *Al-Haq: A Global History of the First Palestinian Human Rights Organization* (2021), *Women and Muslim Family Laws in Arab States* (2007) and *Beyond the Code: Muslim Family Law and the Shar'ī Judiciary in the Palestinian West Bank* (2000). Before joining SOAS, she worked in human rights, primarily with Palestinian NGOs in the West Bank, but also with international human rights organizations. She is a board member of the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Support of Human Rights Defenders, a member of the International Advisory Board of the Open Society Foundations' MENA office, and a founding co-editor of the *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights* and the Oxford Islamic Legal Studies Series. At the end of 2021, she was appointed to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic by the president of the UN Human Rights Council.