

MAX JOHNSON DUGAN

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Instructor Professor, Religious Studies, Kenyon College 2023-Present

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Religious Studies, *University of Pennsylvania* (expected) 2024
Dissertation: “Feeling Authentically Islamic: Halal Consumption, Islamic Traditions, and Material Religion in a Gentrifying Philadelphia.”
Committee: Jamal J. Elias (Chair), Megan E. Robb, Donovan O. Schaefer.
- M.A.** Religious Studies, *University of Pennsylvania* 2020
- B.A.** Religious Studies, *Kenyon College* 2014
Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors in Religious Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- “Centering Islamic Tattooing: Embodying Healing, Materializing Relationships, and Mediating Islamic Tradition.” In *Across the Worlds of Islam: Muslim Identities, Beliefs, and Practices from Asia to America*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV, 67-98. New York: Columbia University Press, 2023.
- “Structuring Sports, Structuring Community: The Islamic Society of Chester County Debates a Basketball Court.” In *Religion and Sports in North America: Critical Essays for the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Randall Balmer and Jeffery Scholes, 81-102. New York: Routledge, 2022. Co-authored with Megan Eaton Robb.

Journal Articles

- “IRSAAL-Urdu: Multiscript Urdu Discourse and Question of Secularism for Postcolonial Digital Humanities.” Co-authored with Elliot Montpellier. (Under review with *Interdisciplinary Digital Engagement in Arts & Humanities*).
- “Ayat Al Kursi Round.” *Material and Visual Cultures of Religion Journal* 6, no. 2 (2022).

Book Reviews

- “Stephen C. Finley: In and Out of This World: Material and Extraterrestrial Bodies in the Nation of Islam. Duke University Press, 2022.” *Material Religion* 19, no. 3 (2023), 2-3.

- “Sophia Rose Arjana: Buying Buddha, Selling Rumi: Orientalism and the Mystical Marketplace. Oneworld Academic, 2020.” *American Journal of Islam and Society* 39, no. 3-4 (2022), 198-203.
- “Teren Sevea: Miracles and Material Life: Rice, Ore, Traps and Guns in Islamic Malaya. Cambridge University Press, 2020.” *American Journal of Islam and Society* 39, no. 1-2 (2022): 183-187.
- “Adam J. Frank and Elizabeth A. Wilson: A Silvan Tomkins Handbook: Foundations for Affect Theory.” *Capacious* 3, no. 3 (2021): 146-149.

Essays

- “The Potential of Religious Studies for Affect Theory’s ‘Structure-Bodies-Problem.’” *Affective Societies Blog*, June 21, 2023.
- “Muslim Fish Hoagies are a Philly Sandwich ‘Game Changer.’” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 3, 2023.
- “Rejuvenating a Weary Body through DH Summer Work at The Price Lab.” *Research & Digital Scholarship Blog*, 2021.
- “Pleasurable Secularism: Suspicion, Panic, and Parallel Orienting in Awalem Khafeya.” *Material Secularisms*, 2020.
- “Have We Ever Been Secular? (Im)materiality in Fernando’s ‘Supernatureculture.’” *Material Secularisms*, 2020.
- “Illuminating the Divine: Behnaz Karjoo’s ‘Immanence’ at Twelve Gates Arts,” *The Maydan*, 2020.
- “Inheriting More Than Nanny’s Sari Trunk: Nandini Chirimar at 12 Gates Arts,” *Kajal Mag*, 2017.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dissertation Completion Fellowship , University of Pennsylvania (declined)	2024-2025
Graduate Fellow , Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania	2022-2023
Dean’s Scholar , School of Arts & Sciences, University of Pennsylvania	2021-2022
Boardman Fellowship , Religious Studies Department, University of Pennsylvania	2021-2022
Israel Goldstein Prize , Religious Studies Department, University of Pennsylvania	2021
Research Fellowship , Lived Religion in the Digital Age, Saint Louis University	2021
Mellon Mid-Doctoral Fellowship in the Digital Humanities Price Lab for the Digital Humanities, University of Pennsylvania	2020-2021
Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship (Urdu) , South Asia Center, University of Pennsylvania	2019-2020
Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Urdu) , South Asia Institute, Columbia University	2018
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship , University of Pennsylvania	2017-2022

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Faculty Research Grant , Kenyon College, \$3000.	2023
Secondary Investigator , Art and Islam in Society, Templeton Religion Trust, \$222,000.	2022-2023
Summer Research Grant , Center for Religion and Cities, \$3000.	2022
Mellon Research Award , Housing and Urban Design Initiative, University of Pennsylvania, \$2000.	2021-2022

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Conference Presentations

- “Formations of Islamic Difference: Smelling "Suss" or "Intimate" at a Halal Butcher in Philadelphia,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio, November 2023.
- “Tasting and Feeling Clean: Inventively Transmitting Islamic Tradition through the Muslim Fish Hoagie,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Antonio, November 2023.
- “Devotional Resilience: Navigating Precarity with Islamic Tradition in North Philadelphia,” *Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Conference*, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, May 2023.
- “Feeling “Suss” or “Intimacy”: Formations of difference in two feelings about the smell of a Halal Butcher,” *Comparison, Affects, and Power*, March 2023 (online).
- “Devotional Resilience: Weathering Catastrophes with Islamic Tradition at a Halal Restaurant in North Philadelphia,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Denver, November 2022.
- “Asad, Authenticity, and Feeling with Islamic Tradition,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, Denver, November 2022.
- “Digital Secularism: Postcoloniality and Technological Transformation in Urdu Social Media,” *Critical Digital Humanities Initiative International Conference 2022*, September 2022. Co-presented with Elliot Montpellier (online).
- “Reading Emotion, Power, and Strategy in the Penn Museum’s Acquisition of an Egyptian Qur’ān Manuscript,” *Feeling(s) in the Archive: Emotions, Expressions, Experience*, April 2022 (online).
- “IRSAAL-Urdu: Multiscript Urdu Discourse and the Question of Secularism for Postcolonial Digital Humanities,” *Global Digital Humanities Symposium*, March 2022. Co-presented with Elliot Montpellier (online).
- “Space, Race, & Islam in Muslim Philadelphia,” *Annual Meeting of the American Anthropology Association*, November 2021 (online).
- “Multiple Scripts: regularizing social media discourse in Urdu and its (many) transliterations”, *Right-to-Left Conference at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute*, June 2021 (online).
- “The Qur’an as Decor: Modern Translations of Islamic Aesthetics,” *Troubling Translations(s)*, Philadelphia, February 2020.

Guest Lectures and Presentations

- “Smelling ‘Suss’ and Smelling ‘Intimate’: Affective Differentiation of Islamic Tradition in a Halal Butcher Shop,” Faculty Kenyon Seminar, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, March 2024.
- “Islamic Tattooing,” *Across the Worlds of Islam: A Celebration*, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, October 2023.
- “Islam in the United States: Diversity, Democracy, and Change,” Dialogue Institute SUSI Summer Program, Temple University, Philadelphia, June 2023.

- “Halal, Muslim Consumption, and Impossible Pork,” *God and Money*, University of Pennsylvania, April 2023.
- “Innovating Islamic Sensibilities through Two Halal Sandwiches,” *Religious Studies Graduate Student Workshop*, University of Pennsylvania, January 2023 (online).
- “The Transmission and Innovation of Islamic Taste in Two Halal Sandwiches,” *Mellon Research Seminar*, Wolf Humanities Center, University of Pennsylvania, January 2023.
- “Devotional Resilience: Weathering Catastrophes with Islamic Tradition at a Halal Restaurant in North Philadelphia,” *Religious Studies Colloquium*, University of Pennsylvania, November 2022.
- “Asad, Authenticity, and Feeling with Islamic Tradition,” *Religious Studies Colloquium*, University of Pennsylvania, November 2022.
- “Objects & Islam in North America,” *Introduction to Islam*, Brooklyn College, May 2022 (online).
- “Fieldwork, Ethnographic Writing, and Research Design,” *Religion & Sport*, University of Pennsylvania, April 2022.
- “Feeling Islamic Authenticity,” *Housing and Urban Design Initiative Seminar*, University of Pennsylvania, January 2022.
- “*Miracles and Material Life* by Teren Sevea,” *Graduate Student Book Review Colloquium on Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies*, December 2021 (online).
- “Halal Consumption in the Modern Islamic World,” *Islam in the Modern World*, University of Pennsylvania, November 2021
- “Studying Emotion Online,” *Happy, Sappy, Creepy: Social Media and Feeling*, University of Pennsylvania, June 2021 (online).
- “A History of Islam in North America,” *Introduction to Islam*, Brooklyn College, May 2021 (online).
- “Islam in America,” *Introduction to Islam*, University of Pennsylvania, April 2021 (online).
- “Digital Humanities and Religious Studies,” *Religious Studies Colloquium*, University of Pennsylvania, April 2021 (online).
- “Thin Affect, Thick Affects,” *Religious Studies Graduate Student Workshop*, University of Pennsylvania, February 2021 (online).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Kenyon College

Islam’s Diverse Paths: An Introduction to Islamic Tradition.	2024
Islam and Modernity.	2024
Religious Bodies, Objects, and Affects.	2024
Islam in North America.	2023
Encountering Religion in its Global Context.	2023

University of Pennsylvania

Islam and the West – Teaching Assistant to Professor Teren Sevea.	2020
Advised final projects, led discussions, gave feedback and grades on all assignments.	
Religion and Science – Teaching Assistant to Professor Donovan Schaefer.	2019
Graded written work and guided students during office hours.	
Religion and Sport – Teaching Assistant to Professor Megan Robb.	2019
Supervised final assignments and was responsible for all feedback and evaluation.	
Islam in the Modern World – Teaching Assistant to Professor Jamal J. Elias.	2018
Led three classes, mentored students, helped design class assignments, and graded written work.	

Lead Instructor, Chester County Community Hebrew High School

2017 to 2019

Developed syllabuses and led all classes for:

“Comparative Religions Pt. 1 and 2.”

“Religious Tolerance and Pluralism.”

“Religion and Film Pt. 1 and 2.”

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

Project Technical Lead – <i>Black Resistance Tour of Philadelphia</i>	2023-Present
Project Technical Lead – <i>Re/member Black Philadelphia</i>	2022-Present
Lead Designer & DH Specialist – <i>Unstable Archives</i>	2021-Present
Co-Lead Developer – <i>IRSAAL-Urdu</i>, with Elliot Montpellier	2021-Present
Lead Developer – <i>ISCC: Oral History</i>	2021-Present
Lead Developer, Researcher, and Writer – <i>The Provenance of NEP-80</i>	2021-Present
Digital Design Coordinator – <i>Re/member Black Philadelphia</i>	2020-2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Kenyon College

Muslim Studies Association, Faculty Assistant Advisor

Student-led Campus Organization, 2023-2024

***Networking and Professional Relationships*, Invited Panelist**

Training about networking for Kenyon students, September 2023

American Academy of Religion

Religion and Cities Unit, Steering Committee, 2022-2025

University of Pennsylvania

***The Scholar of Religion in the Public Sphere*, Technical Support**

Boardman Symposium, Department of Religious Studies, 2023

***Affects, Comparison, and Power*, Co-Organizer**

Workshop, 2023

***Heritage Symposium*, Co-Organizer**

Annual Symposium, Wolf Humanities Center, 2023

***Destabilizing Religion in the Medieval Middle East*, Co-Organizer**

Boardman Symposium, Department of Religious Studies, 2021-2022

Douglas Day, Technical Assistant

DH Transcription Initiative, Price Lab for Digital Humanities, 2022

***Placing Pakistan*, Co-Organizer**

Conference, 2021

Religious Studies Graduate Student Working Group, Coordinator

Workshop, Department of Religious Studies, 2021-2022

Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching Demonstrations, Facilitator

TA Training, School of Arts & Sciences, 2021 and 2022

DH Graduate Student Working Group, Co-Coordinator

Workshop, School of Arts & Sciences, 2020-2021
Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching Demonstrations, TA Trainer
TA Training, School of Arts & Sciences, 2020
Troubling Translation(s), Co-Organizer
Conference, 2020
Vernacular and Cosmopolitan in South Asian Islam, Co-Organizer
Conference, 2019
SASgov, Graduate Student Representative of Religious Studies
Student Government, 2018-2019

Interfaith Philadelphia

Fellow, 2019- to Present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Computers and the Humanities

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language.
Modern Standard Arabic: advanced reading, listening, and speaking.
Egyptian, Omani, and Levantine Arabic: proficient listening and speaking.
Urdu: advanced reading, intermediate speaking and listening.
French: reading.
Spanish: reading.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

GIS Institute Winter 2024

Center for Geographic Analysis (Harvard University), Cambridge, MA, 2024.

Collaborative Ethnographies: Researching (with) Affect and Emotion

Annual Transdisciplinary Winter School: Culture, Psychology, and Qualitative Research, Online, 2022.

Affects, Politics, and Religion

Museum of Jón Sigurðsson and Collaborative Research Centres (Freie Universität Berlin), Hrafnseyri (Iceland), 2022.

DReAM Lab

The Price Lab for Digital Humanities, Philadelphia, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Islamic Manuscripts Workshop

The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2020.

Wabash Center Doctoral Student Teaching Seminar

Wabash Center for Teaching & Learning in Theology and Religion, Philadelphia, 2019.

Summer Urdu Language Intensive

AIIS Language Program, Lucknow, 2018.

Summer Arabic Language Intensive

Sultan Qaboos College for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speaker, Manah (Oman), 2013.

Summer School (Arabic)

Middlebury Summer Language School, Oakland, 2012.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Interfaith Philadelphia (formerly “Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia”)

Group Leader – Walking the Walk West Chester, 2014-2019.

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture

Program Coordinator, 2014-2017

Program & On-Site Manager – Moffet Arab Arts After-School Program

Designed curricula, managed all program logistics, managed all daily activities, ran select classes.

Assistant Program Director – Arabic Language with Arts Summer Program, Culture Course for Educators (2015-2016)

Helped develop syllabus and course structure, assisted in leading classes, managed logistics.