

Curriculum Vitae: Amira Mittermaier

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Department for the Study of Religion University of Toronto 170 St. George Street, 3 rd floor Toronto, Ontario M5R2M8 Canada	Phone: (416) 946-3347 Fax: (416) 978-3217 E-mail: amira.mittermaier@utoronto.ca
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EDUCATION

2006	Ph.D. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology Department, Columbia University, defense passed with distinction Thesis Title: "Dreams that Matter: An Anthropology of the Imagination in Contemporary Egypt" (Advisor: Brinkley Messick).
1999	M.A. in Socio-Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology Department, Columbia University
1997	Equivalent of B.A., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (completed during year abroad as exchange student from Eberhard-Karls-Universität, Tübingen, Germany)

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

2012-present	Associate Professor, Department for the Study of Religion and Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON ○ cross-appointed to Anthropology Department since 2007
2007-2012	Assistant Professor, Department for the Study of Religion and Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
2006-2007	Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University
2002	Instructor, Parsons New School for Design and Management, New York

HONOURS

2011	Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion (awarded by Society for the Anthropology of Religion)
2011	Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing, second place (awarded by Society for Humanistic Anthropology)
2011	Award for Excellence in the Analytical-Descriptive Studies category (awarded by American Academy of Religion)
2011	Chicago Folklore Prize (awarded jointly by the American Folklore Society and the University of Chicago)
2011	Dean's Merit Award, University of Toronto
2009	Dean's Merit Award, University of Toronto
2005	Best Graduate Student Paper Prize, Middle East Studies Association

RESEARCH GRANTS

2011-14	Standard Research Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, "The Ethics of Giving: Islamic Charity in Contemporary Egypt," \$95,945
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- 2011 New Researcher Award, Connaught Fund, University of Toronto, "The Ethics of Giving: Islamic Charity in Contemporary Egypt," \$10,000
- 2011 SSHRC Institutional Grant, University of Toronto, \$1,100
- 2010-12 Post-Ph.D. Research Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, "The Ethics of Giving: Islamic Charity in Contemporary Egypt," \$20,000
- 2010 Osmundsen Initiative supplement to Wenner-Gren Post-Ph.D. Research Grant, \$5,000
- 2007-10 Connaught Start-Up Grant and Matching Funds Research Grant, University of Toronto, \$20,000
- 2002 International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, "A Poetics of the Imagination: Dreams and Dream Interpretation in Contemporary Egypt," \$20,000
- 2002 Individual Dissertation Research Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, "A Poetics of the Imagination: Dreams and Dream Interpretation in Contemporary Egypt," \$13,860
- 1999 International Predissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (for a year as exchange student in Islamic Studies and Sociology Departments at al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, 1999-2000)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2012-13 Chancellor Jackman Research Fellow in the Humanities, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto (full salary plus \$5,000)
- 2011-12 Scholar Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), School of Social Science, Princeton University, "The Moral Economies of Islamic Charity," \$45,000 (declined)
- 2006-07 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University, \$53,000
- 2004 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, "Dreams and Visions in Contemporary Egypt: Toward an Anthropology of the Imagination," \$30,000
- 1997-2001 Faculty Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University

SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

Books

- 2011 Amira Mittermaier. *Dreams that Matter: Egyptian Landscapes of the Imagination*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 328 pages. Winner of Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion, Award for Excellence in the Analytical-Descriptive Studies Category awarded by the American Academy of Religion, Chicago Folklore Prize, and Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing (second place).

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Forthcoming Amira Mittermaier. "How To Do Things With Examples: Of Dreams and the Imagination in a Sufi Community." Forthcoming in 2015 special issue of *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* on "The Power of Example," edited by Andreas Bandak and Lars Hoejer.
- 2014 Amira Mittermaier. "Death and Martyrdom in the Arab Uprisings: An Introduction." *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*, 1-22.
- 2014 Amira Mittermaier. "Bread, Freedom, Social Justice: The Egyptian Uprising and a Sufi Khidma." *Cultural Anthropology* 29(1):54-79.
- 2014 Amira Mittermaier. "Beyond Compassion: Islamic Voluntarism in Egypt." *American Ethnologist* 41(3).
- 2012 Amira Mittermaier. "Dreams from Elsewhere: Muslim Subjectivities beyond the Trope of Self-Cultivation." *Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute* 18(2): 247-265.
- 2012 Amira Mittermaier. "Invisible Armies: Reflections on Egyptian Dreams of War." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52(2): 392-417.
- 2007 Amira Mittermaier. "The Book of Visions: Dreams, Poetry, and Prophecy in Contemporary Egypt." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 39 (2): 229-47.

Chapters in Edited Books

- Forthcoming Amira Mittermaier. "Dreams and the Miraculous." Forthcoming in Soraya Altorki (ed.) *Companion to the Anthropology of the Middle East*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2014 Amira Mittermaier. "Dreams." In C. Fritzpatrick and A. Walker (eds). *Muhammad in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia of the Prophet of God*. ABC-CLIO, 151-153.
- 2013 Amira Mittermaier. "Trading with God: Islam, Calculation, Excess." In Michael Lambek and Janice Boddy (eds.) *Companion to the Anthropology of Religion*. Wiley-Blackwell, 274-294.
- 2010 Amira Mittermaier. "A Matter of Interpretation: Dreams, Islam, and Psychology in Contemporary Egypt." In *After Pluralism: Reimagining Religious Engagement*, edited by Courtney Bender and Pamela Klassen. New York: Columbia University Press, 178-200.

- 2008 Amira Mittermaier. "(Re)Imagining Space: Dreams and Saint Shrines in Egypt." In *Dimensions of Locality: Muslim Saints, their Place and Space (Yearbook of the Sociology of Islam 2008)*, edited by Georg Stauth and Samuli Schielke. Bielefeld: Transcript, 47-66.

Non-Refereed Publications

- 2010 Amira Mittermaier. "Visions in Contemporary Egypt." In *The 'Vision Thing': Studying Divine Intervention*, edited by William A. Christian Jr. and Gábor Klaniczay. Budapest: Collegium Budapest Institute for Advanced Studies, Collegium Budapest Workshop Series Vol. 18, 523-4.

Book Reviews

- 2014 Amira Mittermaier. Review of *Questioning Secularism: Islam, Sovereignty and the Rule of Law in Egypt* by Hussein Agrama. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 46(1):214-216.
- 2014 Amira Mittermaier. Review of *The Perils of Joy: Contesting Mulid Festivals in Contemporary Egypt* by Samuli Schielke. *American Ethnologist* 40(4), 804-805.
- 2013 Amira Mittermaier. Review of *The Anthropology of Islam Reader*, edited by Jens Kreinath. *Anthropos* 108.2013(2):676-677.
- 2012 Amira Mittermaier. Review of *An Islam of Her Own: Reconsidering Religion and Secularism in Women's Islamic Movements* by Sherine Hafez. *Social Anthropology* 20(2): 207-208.

Invited Lectures

- 2013 "Beyond Compassion: Islamic Voluntarism in Egypt." *Anthropology Colloquium/Speaker Series*, McMaster University, Oct 1.
- 2013 "Alms-Giving and Social Justice in Revolutionary Egypt." *Ramadan Lecture & Iftar Series*, Noor Cultural Centre, Toronto, 20 July.
- 2013 "Islamic Charity in Revolutionary Egypt." *Anthropology of Islam Talk Series*. Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University, 11 March.
- 2013 "Social Justice, Islamic Charity, and the Egyptian Revolution." *Colloquium Series*, Anthropology Department, Johns Hopkins University, 26 February.
- 2013 "Islamic Charity and Social Justice in Revolutionary Egypt." *Studies in National and International Development Lecture Series*. Queen's University. 10 January.
- 2012 "The Poor in Revolutionary Egypt: On Islamic Charity and Social Justice." *Public Lecture*, Department of Religious Studies. Memorial University of Newfoundland, 18 October
- 2012 "Islamic Charity in Revolutionary Egypt." *New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies Symposium*, 26 April
- 2012 "Islamic Charity in Revolutionary Egypt." *Religious Studies Forum*, Arizona State University, 12 April.
- 2011 "Beyond Self-Cultivation: Egyptian Dreams and Subjectivities." *Department*

- of Anthropology Seminar Series*, sponsored by Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas, Austin, 28 March.
- 2011 “Dreams and Visions in Egypt: Of Religious and Secular Imaginations.” Public Lecture, University of Chicago Divinity School, 1 March.
- 2010 “Dreams from Elsewhere: Muslim Subjectivities Beyond the Trope of Self-Cultivation.” *Mind, Medicine, and Culture Discussion Group*, Anthropology Department, co-sponsored by Center for Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, 1 March.
- 2009 “Imagined Communities: Three Dream-Stories from Egypt.” *Human-in-Difference Workshop*, Concordia University, Montreal, 13 February.
- 2008 “Of Dreams, Dreamers, and the Dead: Ethical Imaginations in Egypt.” *Anthropology Monday Seminar*, University of Chicago, 3 November.
- 2008 “Dreaming in Un-Dreamy Times: On Ethics and the Imagination in Contemporary Egypt.” *Kevorkian Center Research Workshop*, New York University, 21 April.

Other Papers Presented at Meetings and Symposia

- 2014 “All Thanks Belong to God: On (In)Gratitude in Egypt.” Paper presented at Anti-Gift Symposium, Oberbozen, September 3-5.
- 2013 “Dreaming Tahrir.” Paper presented at panel *Affects of Activism*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, 21 Nov.
- 2013 Participated in panel *Crossroads of the Imaginative and the Material in a Muslim Context: A Discussion of Amira Mittermaier’s Dreams that Matter: Egyptian Landscapes of the Imagination*. “American Academy of Religion, Eastern International Regional Meeting, 10 May.
- 2013 “Islamic Charity: The Poor as Medium.” Paper presented at Symposium *Mediating Religion – Emotional, Material, and Ideological Practices*, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany, 6 April.
- 2012 “Food Distribution and Alms-Giving in Contemporary Egypt.” Talk given at the Jackman Humanities Institute, 8 November
- 2012 “Trading with God: Islam, Calculation, Excess.” Paper presented at *Workshop on the Companion to the Anthropology of Religion*. Anthropology Department, University of Toronto, 25 April.
- 2011 “Of Examples, Likeness, and the Imagination.” Paper presented at conference *The Power of Example: Anthropological Explorations in Persuasion, Evocation and Elucidation*, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 9 September 2011 (invited).
- 2010 “Islamic Studies and the Anthropology of Islam.” Presentation at *Building Islamic Studies Working Group*, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, 8 October.
- 2009 “Desiring the Divine: On Dreams and Visions in Egypt.” Paper presented at conference *Feeling the Divine: Emotions in Religious Practice: Historical and Cross-Cultural Approaches*, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Center for the History of Emotions, Berlin, Germany, 24 July (invited).

- 2009 “The Politics of Dreaming in Egypt.” *Social-Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology Discussion Series*, University of Toronto, 26 March (invited).
- 2008 “Virtual Realities and the Reality of Visions: On Mass Mediated Islam in Egypt.” Paper presented at panel *Saints in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, 22 November (invited).
- 2008 “An Anthropology of Reason: On Dreams in Modern Egypt.” Paper presented at panel *Egyptian Modern: Norms, Forms, and Sources of the Social Environment*, Middle East Studies Association Annual Meetings, Washington, DC, 24 November (refereed).
- 2008 “Dream-Visions: Altered States or Encounters with Alterity?” Paper presented at *Altered States of Mind Symposium*, University of Toronto, 29 March (invited).
- 2007 “Between Prophecy and Superstition: Dream Interpretation in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at *Society of Fellows Lecture Series*, Columbia University, 26 April.
- 2007 “A Matter of Interpretation: Dreams, Islam, and Psychology in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at *After Pluralism Workshop*, University of Toronto, 13 March (invited).
- 2006 “The Politics of Dreaming in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at panel *Political Dreams in the Middle East and the Muslim World*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, San Jose, 17 November (refereed).
- 2006 “Seeing the Invisible: Everyday Imaginings in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at panel *Experiential Horizons: On the Intermingling of Imagination, Fantasy, Memory, and Emotion in the Practice of Everyday Life*, Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meetings, Montreal, 10 May (refereed).
- 2005 “Royal Road into the Unknown: Muslim and Freudian Dream Discourses in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at panel *Localities and Subjectivities*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Washington, DC, 3 December (refereed).
- 2005 “Imagination: Dream-Visions and the Islamic Tradition in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at Luncheon Seminar *Rethinking the Anthropology of Islam: A Panel Discussion*, Kevorkian Center, New York University, 18 March (invited).
- 2004 “The Prophetic Poet: Divine Inspiration and the Evidential Nature of Dream-Visions.” Paper presented at *Middle East Workshop*, Anthropology Department, Columbia University, 17 December.
- 2004 “Royal Road into the Unknown: Islamic Dream Interpretation in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at panel *Encounters between divers medical epistemologies*, German Congress of Oriental Studies/DAVO congress, Halle, Germany, 22 September (refereed).
- 2003 “The Prophet Came to Me: Women’s Dreams and Visions in Contemporary Egypt.” Paper presented at Institute of Gender and Women’s Studies,

Amira Mittermaier C.V., September 2014

American University in Cairo, Egypt, October.

Other Professional Activities

Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Geertz Book Award Committee (2012, 2013, 2014)

Manuscript reviewer for *American Ethnologist*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Middle East Law and Governance: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Anthropological Theory*, *Transnational Social Review*, *Religion and Gender*

Working Groups

- 2010-13 Co-organizer of Jackman Humanities Institute Working Group
“(Un)Disciplining Islamic Studies,” University of Toronto
- 2008-11 Co-organizer of Jackman Humanities Institute Working Group “The Foucault Project,” University of Toronto
- 2007-2010 Member of Working Group The Vision Thing (meetings in Palo Alto, Budapest, Berlin, and Tübingen)