

Simon A. Wood

Associate Professor
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Current Position:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Associate Professor, 2010–

Previous Positions:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Assistant Professor, 2004–2010
Lehigh University, Adjunct Assistant Faculty, 2000-2003
Franklin and Marshall College, Adjunct Assistant Faculty, 2002

Education:

PhD 2004 Temple University, Religion (Distinction)
BA (Hons) 1992 University of Otago, New Zealand, (1st Class Hons), History & Religious Studies

Expertise and Research Interests:

History of Islam, particularly modern Islam
Fundamentalism
Christian-Muslim Relations

Languages:

Arabic, French (reading), German (reading)

Courses:

Judaism, Christianity and Islam
Introduction to World Religions
Introduction to Islam
Islam in the Modern World
The Qur'an
Fundamentalism, Religion, and Politics

Arabic:

First and second year Arabic
Responsible for supervising all aspects of UNL's Arabic program 2005-2013, including UNL's participation in the Fulbright FLTA (Foreign Language Teaching Assistant) program. As of Fall, 2014, I no longer perform this role.

Memberships:

American Academy of Religion
Society of Biblical Literature

External Grant:

Partnered as an investigator on the Great Plains National Security Education Consortium (GP NSEC), 2009. Principal Investigator: Dr. Prem Paul, Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This is a \$3 million grant sponsored by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. It will fund academic, research, cultural immersion and outreach activities focused on national-security related topics for Nebraska students.

Other Research Grants and Awards:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts & Sciences “Enhancing Research Excellence,” 2013

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Grant in Aid, 2010

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Grant in Aid, 2007

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Layman Award, 2005

Other Awards:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts and Sciences “Academic Star,” 2010

University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award, 2009

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Teaching Council & Parents Association Recognition Award, 2008

International Teaching:

“Islam in the Modern World” – an intensive weeklong seminar.

University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, February, 2011

Teaching Development:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Peer Review of Teaching Project, 2007-08

Target Course: RELG 398 The Qur’an. Portfolio available online: <http://www.courseportfolio.org/>

Refereed Publications – Books:

- *Rashid Rida: The Caliphate* (under contract: Yale University Press, 120,000 words).

A preliminary manuscript is with the press. I have received some preliminary feedback from series editor, which is very positive.

- *Fundamentalism: Perspectives on a Contested History* (University of South Carolina Press, 2014). Lead editor: Simon A. Wood; co-editor: David Harrington Watt. Introduction and Afterword by Wood and Watt.

reviewed in *Choice*, February, 2015

- *Christian Criticisms, Islamic Proofs: Rashid Rida's Modernist Defence of Islam* (Oxford: Oneworld, 2008). Reprinted 2010; paperback edition 2012.

reviewed in *Journal of Islamic Studies* 20 (2009): 103-105.

Refereed Publications - Articles:

- “Capturing Islam Religion, Identity, and the Turn to Islamism” *Journal of Religion and Society* (Supplement 13, 2016): 90-112.
- “The Concept of Global Fundamentalism: A Short Critique,” in *Fundamentalism: Perspectives on a Contested History* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press), eds. Simon A. Wood and David Harrington Watt, 125-143.
- “The Reign of Grace: Liberalism and Heresy in the New World” *Journal of Religious History* 38:4 (2014): 535-560.
- “Rethinking Fundamentalism: Ruhollah Khomeini, Mawlana Mawdudi, and the Fundamentalist Model.” *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 11.2 (Spring 2011): 171-198.
- "Researching "The Scripture of the Other": Niqula Ghabriyal's Researches of the Mujtahids and Rashid Rida's Rejoinder." *Comparative Islamic Studies*: 6 (2010): 181-216.

Book Review:

- Gabriele Marranci. *Rethinking Fundamentalism: Understanding Muslim Identity* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2009). *Comparative Islamic Studies* 8.1 (January, 2014): 81-85.
This review was published online in August, 2012

Selected Conference Papers:

“Capturing Muslim Identities”

2015 Creighton University Symposium on Religion and Identity, Omaha, 02/20/15

“Rashid Rida’s The Caliphate and the Islamization of Governance”

2013 American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Baltimore, 11/26/13

“The Wahhabis and the Shi‘ites: Factionalism and Rapprochement in Modern Islam”

2012 Midwest American Political Science Association National Meeting, Chicago, 04/14/12

“The Qur’an in the Classroom: Pedagogical Challenges and Opportunities”

2009 Society of Biblical Literature National Meeting, New Orleans, 11/23/09

“Islam and Modernity”

2008 National Meeting of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists of North America (AMSS), University of Nebraska-Omaha, 04/19/08

“Egypt 1898-1914: Christian Tafsiir, Muslim Biblical Criticism”

2007 American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Nat. Meeting, San Diego, 11/18/07

“Rethinking the “Fundamentals” of Fundamentalism: Dualism, Literalism, Golden Age-ism”
2006 American Academy of Religion National Meeting, Washington DC, 11/19/06

“Fundamentalism Revised: Mawdudi, Khomeini, and the Fundamentalist Paradigm”
2006 Midwest American Political Science Association National Meeting, Chicago, 04/20/06

“Islamic *Da'wah* and "the Religion of the Other": Rashid Rida's Revision of Islamic Exclusivism”
2004 American Academy of Religion National Meeting, San Antonio, TX, 11/23/04

“Teaching Islamic Fundamentalism After 9/11”
2003 American Academy of Religion Mid-Atlantic Meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, 03/14/03

Selected Panels – National Conferences:

“Reading in Tandem: Pedagogical and Hermeneutical Issues in Analyzing Parallel Biblical and Qur’anic Texts with Lay Persons and Students” – Panel Moderator and Discussant
2012 American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature National Conference, Chicago, 11/18/2012

“Politics of the Middle East: Regional Security in the Middle East,” Panel Discussant
2012 Midwest American Political Science Association National Meeting, Chicago, 04/14/12

“Islam and Ecology: A Reassessment Ten Years after the Earth Charter,” Panel Moderator
2010 American Academy of Religion National Conference, Atlanta

“Christian-Muslim Debate and Dialogue in Post-industrial Society,” Panel Moderator
2009 Society of Biblical Literature National Conference, New Orleans, 11/22/09

“Islam, Human Rights, and the State,” Panel Moderator & Discussant
2009 Midwestern Political Science Association National Conference, Chicago, 04/04/09

Selected Invited Lectures and other Panels:

Panelist on “The Arab Spring.” University of Nebraska-Lincoln panel on “Global Matters.” 3/31/14.

“The Politics of Religious Diversity”
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, NET building, Lincoln, NE, 10/24/13

“Fundamentalism: Perspectives on a Contested History”
Symposium Organizer and Panelist, UNL, 03/07-03/08/12

Governor’s 2012 Lecture in the Humanities; E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues
30 minute “pre-lecture” foregrounding the Governor’s Lecture “American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us” by Robert Putnam, Harvard University
Lied Center, Lincoln, NE, 10/02/2012

“Diversity in World Religions”

Invited lecture, UNMC, Omaha, NE, 10/22/2012

“The Arab Spring, Islam, and Islamism in Egypt”

Invited lecture, Winter Lecture Series, Lincoln Unitarian Church, Lincoln, NE, 02/12/12

“Reading the Scripture of the Other”

Invited lecture, Temple Israel, Omaha, NE, 03/02/2012

“The Arab Spring: Uprising in the Middle East – Egypt and Bahrain”

Panelist, UNL, 04/11/2012

“Religion in American Life: Islam”

Doane College, Lincoln NE campus, 02/22/2012

“Theodicy in Islam”

Doane College, Lincoln NE campus, 07/09/2012

“Engaging Islam”

2011 Invited Lecture, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE, 02/27/11

“The Qur’an: Jihad, Peace and War”

2010 Invited Lecture, University of Nebraska-Omaha, 04/16/10

“Colonialism and Fundamentalism”

Two lectures delivered at the 2006 Midland Lutheran College Forum on the Arts & Humanities
Fremont, NE, 07/04/06-08/04/06

Presenter and Panelist on “Islam in the Middle East”

Lincoln Unitarian Church, Lincoln, NE, 01/20/05 and 01/27/05

Theology for Lunch: three lectures on Islam

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Union, Fall 2004

“Christian Criticisms, Islamic Proofs: Rashid Rida’s Rationalist Defense of Islam”

Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA, 02/26/04

“Jihad in Islam”

Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, 05/07/02

(respondent to keynote address by R. Scott Appleby)

“Islamic Modernities”

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, 04/26/02

“Rethinking the “fundamentals” of Islamic Fundamentalism”

St Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, 09/23/01

Manuscript Reviewer:

Yale University Press
Oxford University Press
Cambridge University Press
Routledge
Journal of the American Academy of Religion
Journal for Religion and Society

Selected Outreach Activities, Committees, and Service:

- Undergraduate Advisor, Fall 2008; Fall 2015-
- 2015-2016, Chair, Search Committee, hire in American Religions.
- 2014: agreed to serve on UNL's academic rights and responsibilities panel.
- 2015-2016: Grievance Committee (Alan McCutcheon).
- Service in a National Organization: Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Qur'an and Biblical Literature Unit Steering Committee, 2011-
- UNL College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee, 2012-13 (including Fall, 2013).
- "Fundamentalism: Perspectives on a Contested History"
Organized and presented at a two-day symposium at UNL that brought three distinguished speakers to our campus: David Harrington Watt, Shaul Magid, and Lynda Clarke. 03/07-03/08/12.
- Interviewed by Jerry Johnston of NPR on the topic of the above symposium. The resulting story was played on Nebraska NPR.
- Coordinator and Supervisor: Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA), 2009-2014.
- Search Committee: cluster hire in Digital Humanities, 2011-2012.
- Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program, 2011: PI on UNL's application to secure federal funding for expanded Arabic instruction.
- Digital Humanities Task Force, 2011.
- Great Plains National Security Education Consortium, (GP NSEC), 2009-

- Department course scheduler, Fall 2008–2010.
- Search Committee 2008-09, hire in Asian Religions.
- Academic Senate, 2004-07.
- Classics and Religious Studies Assessment Committee, 2006-07.

