



Amy Fallas

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EDUCATION

- 2025** **PhD., History (ABD), UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA**
Modern Middle East, Ottoman History, British Empire, U.S. Religion and the Cold War
Dissertation title: “Their Own Poor:” Charitable Societies, Communal Identities, and the
Making of Sectarianism in Modern Egypt, 1879-1939
- 2017** **M.A., History, Yale University, New Haven, CT**
- 2012** **B.A., Political Science, Grove City College, Grove City, PA**
Magna Cum Laude, High Honors in Political Science
Study Abroad at the American University in Cairo (AUC), 2010-2011

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2024-25 **Instructor of Record**, Santa Barbara City College (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
Affiliated Scholar, Orient Institute in Beirut (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
Affiliated Graduate, UCSB Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies (2024-25)
- 2024 **Teaching Assistant/Instructor of Record**, UC Santa Barbara (2019-2024)
- 2023 **Affiliated Scholar**, American University in Beirut (Fall 2023)
Affiliated Scholar, Orient Institute in Beirut (Fall 2023)
Scholar in Residence, The Center for Economic, Legal, and Social Studies and
Documentation (CEDEJ) in Cairo (Spring-Summer 2023)
- 2022 **Guest Scholar**, Netherlands-Flemish Institute (NVIC) in Cairo (Fall 2022)
Instructor of Record, Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts Studies (Spring 2022)

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2024 UCSB History Department Dissertation Fellowship, 2024-2025
Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies Research Fellowship, Summer 2024
Graduate Division Research Accelerator Award, 2024-2025
Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Finishing Fellowship Finalist, 2024-25
- 2023 Humanities & Social Sciences Research Grant, UCSB Graduate Division 2023-24
UCSB Graduate Division Internship Fellowship
American Academy of Religion (AAR) Conference Travel Award
Interdisciplinary Humanities Council Graduate Dissertation Fellowship 2023-24
- 2022 Coptic Orthodox Studies Fellowship, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham
University, 2022-23
University of California Humanities Research Institute’s Dissertation Support Grant
UCSB Graduate Division Summer Dissertation Writing Workshop
Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Research Fellowship 2022-23
- 2021 American Society for Church History (ASCH) Research Fellowship 2021-22

- American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) Dissertation Research Fellowship 2021-22
 Wadad Kadi Fellowship, Middle East Studies Association
 Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy 2021-22
 UCSB History Department Research Award 2021-22
- 2020 CMES at UCSB Fall Research and Language Award
 Orfalea Center for International Studies Graduate Fellowship, 2020-21 (renewed for 21-22)
 Borchard European Studies Research Fellowship, 2020-21
- 2019 UCSB Center for Middle East Studies Summer Research Fellowship
 Steven Hay Scholarship Award
 UCSB History Associates Graduate Fellowship
- 2017 Yale Center for Race, Indigenous, and Transnational Migration Research Fellowship, Cairo
 Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship Finalist in Arabic at Yale University
 Critical Languages Scholarship (CLS) in Arabic at Yale University in Oman
- 2016 Yale History Department, Oral History Fellowship
 Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) in Arabic at Yale University, in Morocco

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 “The First Duty of Charity:” Medical Philanthropy, Sectarian Infrastructures, and Legacies of the Coptic Hospital in Twentieth Century Cairo,” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 45(1), May 2025.
- 2024 “*Hermanos fi al-Muqawama*, Brothers in the Resistance,” *The North American Congress on Latin America* 56(4), Winter 2024: 428-434.
- “Death of a Prime Minister: The Assassination of Boutros Ghali and Mediating Sectarianism in Egypt, 1906-1911,” *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 35 (2): 117–35.
- “Sectarian Politics? Securitization, Urban Development, and Coptic Advocacy in Cairo,” in *Cairo Securitized: Reconceiving Urban Justice and Social Resilience*, edited by Paul Amar, 401-411, Cairo: AUC Press, 2024.
- 2023 “Sectarianism and Charity in Modern Egypt: The Coptic Case. Interview with Amy Fallas by Annalaura Turiano,” 42 *Revue Diasporas, Circulations, Migrations, Histoire* (2023).
- “Charity and Philanthropy in Middle East History,” *History Compass*, 21(3-4), e12760.
- 2022 “H-Diplo Article Review of Karine Walther, ‘Dorothy Thompson and American Zionism,’ *Diplomatic History* 46:2 (April 2022), 263-291.
- 2016 “From the Cedars to the Frontlines: Danbury’s Greater Syrian Immigrants and the Great War,” *Connecticut History Review Journal*, 55(2), Fall 2016: 140-152.

ACADEMIC REVIEWS

- 2020 “The Chaldeans: Politics and Identity in Iraq and the American Diaspora,” Book Review, *Arab Studies Journal* 28, no. 1 (Spring 2020), 122-126.
- “Orthodox Religion and Politics in Contemporary Eastern Europe,” Book Review, *Journal for Religion, State and Society* 48, no. 2 (Summer 2020).

2019 “Between Christ and Caliph: Law, Marriage, and Christian Community in Early Islam,”
Book Review, *Reading Religion*.

SELECT EDITORIALS AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

2024 “The Palestinian Connection in El Salvador’s Politics,” *The New Arab*

2023 “The Power of El Salvador's Palestinian Diaspora,” *Institute of Palestine Studies*

“Palace Intrigue,” *Contingent Magazine*

“Rebelling Against Time in Cairo,” *Mada Masr*

2022 “When Unity Discourse Dismisses Systemic Sectarianism in Egypt,” *Tabrir Institute for Middle East Policy* – also translated into Arabic and Spanish

“The Faith-Based Politics of El Salvador’s Millennial President,” *Religion and Politics*

“The Forbidden Photographs,” *Rusted Radishes Beirut Literary Magazine*

“Beyond Sectarian Violence: Socioeconomic Challenges for Copts in Egypt,” *Tabrir Institute for Middle East Policy*

2021 “The Great History of Small Things,” *Contingent Magazine*

“El Pueblo de Dios: Latino Evangelicals and Christian Zionism,” *The Revealer*

“How I Met My Mother (and Billy Graham),” *The Revealer*

2020 “Some Textbooks Still Parrot Donald Trump’s Skewed Version of U.S. History,”
Washington Post

“American Protestantism’s Commodification of the Middle East’s ‘Holy Lands,’” *Sojourners*

“In the Garden of Eden with Shakira,” *Sojourners*

2019 “Ramy Kamel, Mada Masr, and Seeing Coptic Issues as Civil Liberties in Egypt,” *Tabrir Institute for Middle East Policy*

“What the Taming of Christian Spaces Reveals about Egypt’s Security Complex,” *Jadaliyya*.

“El Salvador’s Bukele at Crossroads in Relations with Ancestral Land,” *Palestine Square*

2018 “The Landmark 85-Year-Old Report Absent from Debates over Missionary’s Death,”
Religion Dispatches

“Pence’s Empty Promises to Christians in the Middle East,” *Yale Journal of International Affairs*

“Syria’s Christians Reckon with Survival,” *Sojourners*

- 2017 “Targeted Yet Faithful: Egypt's Copts, Wary of Restrictions, Celebrate Virgin Mary Feast,”
Sojourners

ARCHIVE GUIDES

- 2020 “Researching Modern Egypt Online,” Digital Archives Review, *HAZINE*

Research under Covid Lockdowns, or How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love Online Resources,” *Egypt Migrations*
- 2019 “Researching Modern Coptic History: A Guide to the Archives in the US and Egypt,”
Archives Review, Coptic Canadian History Project
- 2016 “The Armenian-Syrian Relief Fund in World War I-Era Connecticut,” *Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project*

SELECT CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “*Hermanos fi al-Muqawama* (Brothers in Resistance): Schafik Handal and Forging Resistance from Palestine to El Salvador,” Interactions and Interdependencies between Arab Diaspora Communities in Latin America and their Communities/Countries of Origin Exploratory Workshop in Leipzig, Nov 2024
- “Death of a Prime Minister: The Assassination of Boutros Ghali and Mediating Egyptian Sectarianism, 1906-1911,” Muslim Philanthropy Initiative Symposium in Istanbul, Oct 2024
- “Making Ancients Modern: Sect-Based Societies and the Search for Egyptian Racial, Linguistic, and Cultural Origins, 1908-1938,” Thamarat al Funun Colloquium, American University in Beirut, Oct 2024 (*postponed due to the war*)
- “Sectarian Politics? Securitization, Urban Development, and Coptic Advocacy in Cairo,” Security in Context Conference, Feb 2024
- 2023 Medical Philanthropy and the Sectarian Question in Egypt: On Sources and Method, American Academy of Religion Conference, Nov 2023
- “Demolishing the Past: The Politics of History and Recovering Loss in Egypt’s Private Archives,” CMES Spotlight Series, Nov 2023
- “The First Duty of Charity:” Medical Philanthropy, Sectarian Infrastructures, and Legacies of The Coptic Hospital in Twentieth Century Cairo, Middle East Studies Association Conference, Nov 2023
- “Becoming Sectarian in Egypt: Charitable Societies and the Politics of Ta’ifa in Twentieth Century Cairo,” The archival journey of entrenched post-Ottoman minorities, Istanbul, Oct 2023
- “The Sectarian Question,” Beirut Summer School at the American University in Beirut, July 2023

- “The First Duty of Charity:” The Coptic Hospital and the Making of a Sectarian Corridor in Twentieth Century Cairo, Impossible Archives: Rewriting the Contemporary in Egypt, Cairo, June 2023
- “Transnational Paper Trails: A Palestinian Charitable Society in Bethlehem, Cairo, and San Salvador,” Global South-South conference in Mexico City, May 2023
- “Between Cross and Crescent: Coptic Christian Mobilization in Egypt’s Revolution of 1919,” American Historical Association, Jan 2023
- 2022 “Death of a Prime Minister: The Assassination of Boutros Ghali and Mediating Egyptian Sectarianism, 1906-1911,” Middle East Studies Association, Dec 2022
- “Extranjeros Indeseables:” Migration, Religion, and Racialization of Palestinians in 20th Century El Salvador,” American Academy of Religion, Nov 2022
- “Extranjeros Indeseables: Migración, Religión y Racialización de los Palestinos en El Salvador del Siglo XX,” Semana de Medio Oriente y Norte de África, Aug 2022
- “Modern Coptic History and the Specter of the Sectarian Question in Egypt,” International Coptic Congress, Brussels, July 2022
- “The International Ecumenical Movement and the Friends of the Bible Coptic Society,” Coptic Education Conference, Cairo, Feb 2022
- 2021 “Death of a Prime Minister: The Assassination of Boutros Ghali and the Origins of Egyptian Sectarianism, 1906-1911,” CMES Spotlight Series, Nov 2021
- “Imperial Diplomacy and Esther Fahmy Wissa’s Advocacy in Interwar Egypt,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal—*online due to COVID-19*, Nov 2021
- “The Gospel of Wealth: Charity and the Making of Modern Egypt, 1879-1939,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Nov 2021
- 2020 “El Olor de La Berenjena: “The Palestinian Diaspora, Racialized Migration, and State-Making in Interwar El Salvador,” Semana de Medio Oriente y Norte de África, CIDE, Dec 2020
- “Between Heaven and Empire: Esther Fahmy Wissa’s Advocacy in Interwar Egypt,” UCSB Gender and Sexuality Workshop, June 2020 – *online due to COVID-19*
- “The Gospel of Wealth: Charity and the Making of Ecumenical Elites in Egypt, 1881-1931,” Post- Sectarianism Workshop, University of Cambridge, Jan 2020
- 2019 “Vanguard of the Persecuted? Middle East Christians and American Statecraft under Trump,” Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, Nov 2019
- “Refusal, Agency, and Modernity: Complicating Coptic Reform through the International Student Movement, 1919-1939,” International Coptic Studies Symposium, June 2019

“For the Life of the World”: Christian Activism and the Ecumenical Student Movement in the Global Sixties,” Graduate Student Cold War Conference, George Washington University, May 2019

2018 “Scandalizing the Nation: Islamic Law, Religious Diplomacy, and the Struggle over Sovereignty in Interwar Egypt,” Southern California Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, Oct 2018

“A Theology of American Evangelical Saviorism: Political Imagination, Religious Salvation, and the Plight of Christians in the Contemporary Middle East,” Religion, Populism & Pluralism Conference, Yale University, May 2018

“That They All May Be One:” Global Ecumenism, National Coptic Reform, and the Egyptian Student Movement, 1900-1922,” Second Annual Coptic Canadian History Project Conference, York University, Apr 2018

ORGANIZED PANELS AND LECTURES

2024 “Transnational Palestine,” Organizer and Moderator, March 2024

2023 “Loss, Recovery, and Community Engagement: Archiving the MENA,” Middle East Studies Association, Organizer and Presenter, Nov 2023

2022 “New Directions in the Latin East: Between Latin America and the Middle East,” Middle East Association Studies, Organizer and Presenter, Dec 2022

“Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Christianity in the Midst of Catastrophes,” American Academy of Religion, Presider, Nov 2022

“Archives and Community Building: A 3-part Webinar Series,” grant-funded collaboration between Egypt Migrations and the Orfalea Center, Organizer and Presenter, Jan-April 2022

2021 “Finding Funding in Middle East Studies,” UCSB Center for Middle East Studies, Organizer and Discussant, June 2021

“New Directions in Middle East Christianity,” American Academy of Religion, Organizer and Discussant, Nov 2021

“Central Asian Pilgrims and the Ottoman Hajj at the End of Empire,” UCSB Center for Middle East Studies, Discussant, June 2021

2020 “Social Welfare in Modern Egypt,” Middle East Studies Association, Organizer and Presenter “Mahjar Matters: Writing a History of World War I from the Syrian Diaspora,” UCSB Center for Middle East Studies Lecture, Discussant, Sept 2022

2019 “The Politics of Suffering:” Minorities and the State in the Modern Middle East, Middle East Studies Association panel, Organizer, Dec 2019

INVITED LECTURES

- 2023 “Becoming Sectarian in Egypt: Charitable Societies and the Politics of Religious Difference in Twentieth Century Cairo,” University of Buffalo
“Becoming Sectarian in Egypt: Charitable Societies and the Politics of Religious Difference in Twentieth Century Cairo,” Orient Institut in Beirut
- 2022 “Researching in Cairo,” Invited lecture, Leiden University in Cairo
- 2019 “The Politics of Protection: Middle East Christians and American Statecraft Under Trump,” invited lecture, University of California, Santa Barbara
“Middle Eastern Christianity: Between Antiquity and Modernity,” invited lecture, University of Bridgeport
- 2017 “Lest They Perish: Refugee Resettlement in Connecticut,” televised lecture, Connecticut Old State House Lecture Series
- 2016 “Coming to America: The Story of Danbury’s Lebanese Immigrants,” special guest lecture, Danbury History Museum

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Instructor of Record, History Department, Santa Barbara City College*** ***2023-2025***
- HIST138 (History of the Modern Middle East), Spring 2024 & Spring 2025
- Teaching Assistant, History Department, UC Santa Barbara*** ***2019-2024***
- HIST 2C (World History), Spring 2024
- HIST46MI (Modern Iran and Global Politics), Winter 2024
- HIST 2A (World History), Summer 2023
- HIST 46A (The Middle East from Muhammad to the Nineteenth Century), Spring 2021
- HIST 46B (Modern Middle East History), Fall 2020
- HIST 4C (Modern Europe), Spring 2020
- HIST 46A (The Middle East from Muhammad to the Nineteenth Century), Winter 2020
- HIST 56 (Intro to Mexican History), Fall 2019
- Instructor of Record, Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences (Cairo, Egypt)*** ***2022***
- Archives of Memory and Forgetting in the Middle East, Winter 2022
- Instructor of Record, Religious Studies Department, UC Santa Barbara*** ***2021***
- MES 45 (Intro to Middle East Studies), Summer 2021
- Reader, History Department, UC Santa Barbara*** ***2019-2021***
- HIST166 C (US History during the “Sixties,”) Winter 2021
- HIST 168N (Interracial Intimacies, Reader, UCSB, Winter 2020
- HIST167 D (US History since Watergate), Winter 2019

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2023-Present American Academy of Religion, Religion and Migration Steering Committee
2021-Present American Academy of Religion, History of Christianity Steering Committee
American Academy of Religion, Middle East Christianity Steering Committee
UCSB Library, Graduate Student Representative for Middle East Librarian Search
2020 UCSB Center for Middle East Studies, Executive Committee Graduate Representative
History Department, Library Committee Graduate Representative
Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Nominating Committee
2019-2020 Graduate Student History Graduate Student Association, VP of Communication
2018-2020 UCSB Center for Middle East Studies, Graduate Committee

PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Editor, *Arab Studies Journal* July 2019-Present
Editorial Intern, *Journal for Palestine Studies* June-July 2019
Graduate Assistant, Center for Middle East Studies (CMES), UCSB Nov 2018- June 2019
Photo Essay Editor, *Yale Journal of International Affairs* May 2017-May 2018
Communications Assistant, Council on Middle East Studies (CMES), Yale University Aug 2017-Jan 2018

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Egypt Migrations May-Sept 2023
Research Assistant, UCSB History Department Jan 2020-April 2020
Freelance Research Assistant, Yale History Department Oct 2017-May 2018
Archival Consultant, St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo August 2017
Subject Research Writer, Connecticut State Library Nov 2015-May 2016
Curatorial Assistant, Gunn Memorial Museum July 2014-May 2015
Researcher and Archival Assistant, Town of Newtown, Historians Office Aug 2012-Jan 2015

LANGUAGES

Native proficiency in English and Spanish
Advanced proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic (OPI score advanced high for MSA), Egyptian Colloquial
Intermediate reading proficiency in Turkish, French, and Portuguese
Beginner Persian

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Middle East Studies Association
American Historical Association
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations