

**ELIZABETH M. BUCAR**

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**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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2012-present Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion (tenured 2014)

2015-present Dean's Leadership Fellow  
Northeastern University, Boston, MA

2007-2012 Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Program Faculty in Women's and Gender Studies  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

2006-2007 Post-doctoral Fellow  
Department of Islamic Studies  
Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Summer 2004 Resident Fellow  
Institute for Women's Studies and Research, Tehran, Iran

**EDUCATION**

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**University of Chicago, The Divinity School**

Ph.D., Religious Ethics, 2006.

M.A., Religious Studies, 2001.

**Harvard University**

B.A., Government, 1996.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Books**

*Pious Fashion: How Muslim Women Dress* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017).  
Winner of the 2018 Costume Society of America Millia Davenport Publication Award

*The Islamic Veil: A Beginner's Guide* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2012).

*Religious Ethics in a Time of Globalism: Shaping a Third Wave of Comparative Analysis*, ed. E.  
Bucar and A. Stalnaker (New York: Palgrave, 2012).

*Creative Conformity: The Feminist Politics of U.S. Catholic and Iranian Shi'i Women*  
(Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2011).

*Does Human Rights Need God?* ed. E. Bucar and B. Barnett (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005).

### **Op-eds and popular print**

“Three things we can learn from contemporary Muslim women’s fashion,” *The Conversation* (Nov. 5, 2018). [republished by *Religion News Service, Independent, World Economic Forum, The Wire, San Francisco Chronicle, and Scroll.in*]

“This Woman Is Giving a Voice to Muslims in the #MeToo Movement,” co-reported with Amanda Randone, *Teen Vogue* (June 26, 2018).

“This Ramadan ‘Believers Bail Out’ Wants Muslims to Address Prison Abolition,” co-reported with Amanda Randone, *Teen Vogue* (June 11, 2018).

“How Iranian Women Turn ‘Pious Fashion’ into Under-the-Radar Dissent,” *Zolaco Public Square* (Feb. 14, 2018).

“How Muslim women use fashion to exert political influence: The rebellious potential of an apparently conservative style,” *The Atlantic* (Feb. 1, 2018).

“Islamic style is showing up on catwalks, in mainstream stores and on non-Muslim women,” *L.A. Times* (Oct. 1, 2017).

### **Academic refereed articles**

“Secular Fashion, Religious Dress, and Modest Ambiguity: The Visual Ethics of Indonesian Fashion-Veiling,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 44.1 (2016b): 68-90.

“The Ethics of Visual Culture,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 44.1 (2016a): 7-16.

- Subject of Comment, William Barbieri, “One Good Turn Deserves Another,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 45.1 (2017): 194-205

“Comment: On Comparative Religious Ethics as a Field of Study,” with Aaron Stalnaker, *Journal of Religious Ethics* 42.2 (2014): 359-384.

- Subject of Response, John Kelsay, “Response to Bucar and Stalnaker,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 42.3 (2014): 571-584.

“Representation of Muslim Sexual Subjectivities: The Hidden Ethical Judgments of Journalistic Rhetoric,” *Contemporary Islam: Dynamics of Muslim Life* 7.2 (2013): 191-205.

“Saving Face: Navigating Land Mines with Ritual Politeness in Iran,” *History of Religions* 52.1 (2012): 31-48.

“The ‘Invention’ of Lesbian Acts in Iran: Interpretative Moves, Invisible Assumptions, and

Emerging Categories of Sexuality,” with F. Shirazi, *The Journal of Lesbian Studies*, special issue on Islam 16.4 (2012): 416-434.

“‘Unlikely Sex Change Capitals of the World:’ Trinidad, USA and Tehran, Iran as Twin Yardsticks of Homonormative Liberalism,” with A. Enke, *Feminist Studies* 37.2 (2011): 301-328.

“Bodies at the Margins: The Case of Transsexuality in Catholic and Shi‘i Ethics,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 38.4 (2010): 601-615.

“Sexing Comparative Ethics: Bringing Forth Feminist and Gendered Perspectives,” with I. Oh and G. Kao, *Journal of Religious Ethics* 38.4 (2010): 654-659.

“Dianomy: Religious Women’s Moral Agency as Creative Conformity,” *Journal of American Academy of Religions* 78.3 (2010): 662-686.

“Reading More Than Lolita in Tehran: Ethical Genre in the Digital Age,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 29.2 (2009): 141-156.

“Methodological Invention as a Constructive Project: Exploring the Production of Ethical Knowledge Through the Interaction of Discursive Logics,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 36.3 (2008): 355-373.

“Free Speech in Weblogistan? The Off-line Consequences of On-line Discourse,” with Roja Fazaali, *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 40.3 (2008): 403-419.

“Speaking of Motherhood: The Epideictic Rhetoric of John Paul II and Ayatollah Khomeini,” *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* 26.2 (2006): 93-123.

#### **Non-refereed (invited) academic articles**

“The Ambiguity of Moral Excellence: Response to Aaron Stalnaker’s Virtue as Mastery,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 38.3 (2010): 429-435.

“Negotiation Feminist and Gender Studies,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 26.1 (2010): 132-134.

“Review Essay of Charles E. Curran’s *The Moral Theology of Pope John Paul II*,” *The Journal of Religion* 86:3 (2006): 484-485.

#### **Book chapters**

“Islamic Virtue Ethics,” *The Oxford Handbook of Virtue*, ed. Nancy Snow (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

“Cultivating Virtues Through Sartorial Practices: The Case of the Islamic Veil in Indonesia,”

in *Character: New Directions from Theology*, ed. C. Miller and A. Knobel (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015): 590-602.

“Methodological Invention as a Constructive Project: Exploring the Production of Ethical Knowledge Through the Interaction of Discursive Logics,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 36.3 (2008): 355-373 reprinted in *Comparative Religious Ethics*, Vol. III “Meaning and Understanding in Comparative Religious Ethics,” Routledge Major Works Collection, ed. C. Matthews, M. Puffer, and M. Storslee (New York: Routledge, 2015).

“Islam and the Cultivation of Character: Ibn Miskawayh’s Synthesis and the Case of the Veil,” in *Cultivating Virtue: Multiple Perspectives*, ed. N. Snow (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 197-226.

“Feminist Contributions to Traditional Moral Knowledge: Rhetorical (Inter)Play of Clerics and Women,” in *Feminist Catholic Theological Ethics: Conversations in the World Church*, ed. L. Hogan and A. Orobator (Maryknoll, NY Orbis Press, 2014), 243-257.

“Gauging the Status of Public Theologies: Rhetorical Analysis of the Media Construction of Political Islam,” in *Political Theology for a Plural Age*, ed. M. Kessler (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 161-180.

“Veiling: Historical Discourse” *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women*, ed. N. DeLong-Bas, 2013.

“Development: Nongovernmental Organization-Iran,” *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, ed. A. Joseph, vol. 4 (The Netherlands: Brill, 2006): 99-100.

### **Radio interviews and podcasts**

*Conversations with Creative Women*. Interviewed by Sandi Klein (Oct. 24, 2017).

*Blueprint for Living* (Australian Broadcasting Corporation). Interviewed by Jonathan Green (Sept. 24, 2017).

*New Books Network*. Interviewed by Nadirah Mansour (Dec. 25, 2017).

### **Blog posts**

“Learning with Saba Mahmood,” *Berkley forum*, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs (April 2018).

“Interview with the author of *Pious Fashion*,” UVA’s *Publics and its Publics* blog (Nov. 2017).

“*Pious Fashion: Designing Modern Muslim Citizens*,” Decolonizing Narratives, Denaturalizing Modernity Symposium. *Contending Modernities* blog (Oct. 2017).

- “Interview: How Muslim Women Dress,” *Harvard University Press* blog (Aug. 2017).
- “Enhancing Life Through a Journey,” *Enhancing Life Project* blog (Oct. 2016).
- “What Does Caitlyn Jenner Have to do with Enhancing Life?” *Enhancing Life Project* blog (Dec. 2015).
- “Sexual Reassignment Surgery in Iran: A Q&A with Dr. Elizabeth Bucar,” *Enhancing Life Project* blog (Dec. 2015).
- “3Qs: Why Pope Francis has been so influential,” news@Northeastern (Dec. 2013).
- “3Qs: Benedict XVI Resigns the Papacy,” news@Northeastern (Feb. 2013).

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **International**

- “Modest Fashion as Contemporary Design,” Artistic Expressions and Intercultural Styles in Public Space, hosted by École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France (Feb. 2019). Invited.
- “What Does Caitlyn Jenner Have to do with Enhancing Life?” Enhancing Life Project Residency Seminar, Liebenberg, Germany (Aug. 2016). Invited.
- “Methodological Traps in Comparative Religious Ethics,” Enhancing Life Project Residency Seminar, Banff, Canada (Aug. 2015). Invited.
- “Religious Diversity and the Ethics of Sex: Comparing the Creation Narratives in the Bible and Qur’an,” Theology and Religion Faculty, Oxford University (Jan. 2013). Invited.
- “The Good of Ambiguous Bodies: Transsexuality in Catholic Ethics,” Second Conference of Catholic Theological Ethics and the World Church, Trento, Italy (July 2010).
- “Saving Face: Navigating Land Mines with Ritual Politeness in Iran,” American Academy of Religion, Comparative Religious Ethics Group, Montreal Canada (Nov. 2009).
- “Weblogging in Tehran,” Keynote address, From Samizdat to Blogging: Globalization and New Forms of Political Expression, Sponsored by International Alternative Culture Center, OSA Archivum, and Central European University, Budapest, Hungary (Feb. 2008). Invited.
- “A Tight Rope Act Over Common Moral Ground: A Woman’s Freedom Within Obedience,” Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, International Society for Iranian Studies and London Middle East Institute SOAS, London (Aug. 2006).

“What is Feminism?” Lecture by invitation, Governor’s Mansion, Isfahan, Iran (Aug. 2004).  
Invited.

## **National**

“Workshop Session on *Pious Fashion*,” Respondent to panel on my book, Islam, Gender,  
Women program unit, 2018 AAR Annual Meeting in Denver, CO (Nov. 2018). Invited

“Can We Get Along? The Challenges of Scholar/Journalist Collaborations,” presentation for  
Religion and Media workshop, 2018 AAR Annual Meeting in Denver, CO (Nov. 2018).  
Invited.

“Demystifying grants and fellowship in the humanities,” presentation during Mentoring Session  
for Scholars Studying Muslims/Islam, 2018 AAR Annual Meeting in Denver, CO (Nov.  
2018). Invited.

“Muslim Women and Pious Fashion,” Ziffern lecture at The GW Textile Museum, Washington,  
DC (April 2018).

“Fit to Print: Lessons I learned from public scholarship,” presentation at *Research Fellows  
Colloquy, Catholicism and the Common Good Project*, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh,  
PA (April 2018). Invited.

“Response to Michal Raucher’s Ultra-Orthodox Women’s Embodied Agency,” Taft Center,  
University of Cincinnati (Feb. 2018). Invited.

“Response to Sumner Twiss’s Legacies of Christian Ethics for Comparative Religious Ethics,”  
Society for Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Portland, OR (Jan. 2018) [read by  
colleague when extreme weather prevented my travel].

“What do Muslim Women Wear?” lecture for Women and Religion Program, Claremont  
Graduate University (Oct. 2017). Invited.

“Pious Fashion,” day long workshop, Department of Religion, University of Virginia (Oct.  
2016). Invited.

“Human Dignity and Comparative Religious Ethics,” Respondent, American Academy of  
Religion, Comparative Religious Ethics Group and Humanist Group, Atlanta, GA (Nov.  
2015).

“Why Do Bodies Matter?” Castelfranco Lecture, University of California Davis, Davis,  
California (Nov. 2015). Invited.

“Pious Fashion in Iran,” Chicago Writer’s Group, Society for Christian Ethics Annual Meeting,  
Chicago, IL (Jan. 2015).

- “Feminist Virtue Ethics: The Case of Everyday Islamic Practices,” Society for Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington (Jan. 2014).
- “The Islamic Veil and Women’s Everyday Lives: Law, Employment and Fashion,” part of Middle East semester course, “The Middle East: A Mosaic of Culture, Art, and History,” Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA (Nov. 2013). Invited.
- “Pious Fashion,” The Character Project, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC (June 2013). Invited.
- “Ethics, Aesthetics, and Ambiguity: The Cultivation of Virtues Through Visual Culture,” lecture for Re-Orienting the Veil, co-sponsored by Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Durham, NC (Feb. 2013). Invited.
- “The Cultivation of Mimesis: Lessons for Islamic Ethics,” lecture by invitation, Human, Truly Human: Theological Ethics and the Integrity of Life, The Divinity School, University of Chicago, IL (Nov. 2012). Invited.
- “Creative Conformity: The Feminist Ethics of US Catholic and Iranian Shi‘i Women,” Breakfast with the author, Society of Christian Ethics, Washington, DC (Jan. 2012).
- “Making Transsexuals In Tehran: Discourses, Performances, and the Ontology Of Gender,” American Academy of Religion, Islam Section, San Francisco, CA (Nov. 2011).
- “Exploring ‘Visual Ethics’: Book Symposium on Kenneth George’s *Picturing Islam: Art and Ethics in a Muslim Lifeworld*,” Panelist, American Academy of Religion Comparative Religious Ethics Group, San Francisco, CA (Nov. 2011).
- “Cowboys, Mullahs, and Transsexuals, Oh My! Media Speculation on Sex Change Capitals of the World,” Workshop, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA (March 2010). Invited.
- “Constructing Muslim Subjects with Liberal Illogics: Tehran as “The Unlikely Sex Change Capital of the World,” Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics, San Jose, CA (Jan. 2010).
- “Capacities, Skills, and the Ambiguity of Moral Excellence,” Response to A. Stalnaker lecture, Moral Worlds and Religious Subjectivities, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA (Feb.2009). Invited.
- “Ethical Genre in the Digital Age: The Case of Reading Weblogs in Tehran,” Society of Christian Ethics, Chicago, IL (Jan. 2009).
- “‘Transing’ Sex in Islam: The Case of Sex Change Operations in Iran,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Religion and Sexuality Consultation, Chicago, IL (Nov. 2008).

“What We Can Learn From Obama’s Muslim Problem,” Political Theologies, Past: Present and Future, Georgetown University, Washington, DC (Oct. 2008). Invited.

“Comparing Changing Sex: A Case Study for Religious Ethics,” Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy Group, Religious Studies Department, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (Jan. 2008). Invited.

“Good Hijab, Bad Hijab: Material Discourse at Political Participation in Iran,” Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (Jan. 2008). Invited.

“Reading Weblogs in Tehran: An Emergent Genre of Religious Ethics,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Ethics Section, San Diego, CA (Nov. 2007).

“Good Hijab, Bad Hijab: The Politics of Religious Dress in Iran,” Engaging Islam: Feminisms, Religiosities, and Self-Determinations, UMass Boston, Boston, MA (Sept. 2007).

“Muslim-Christian Dialogue: The Case of Marriage and Family Law,” Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN (April 2007). Invited.

“Material Discourse at Political Participation in Iran,” Georgetown University, Washington, DC (March 2007). Invited.

“Bad Hijabi Lessons for (Bad) Feminist Scholarship,” Breaking Apart the Monolith: The Many Ways of Being Muslim, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (March 2007). Invited.

“What ‘Good’ is Changing Sex? Considering the Case of Transsexuality in Comparative Religious Ethics,” Comparative Ethics Workshop, Society of Christian Ethics, Dallas, TX (Jan. 2007).

““Bad Hijab and Chadori Women: The Construction of Gender Through Imperfect Obedience” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Contemporary Islam Consultation, Washington, DC (Nov. 2006).

“Beyond Bully Pulpits: Charismatic Authority, Clerical Persuasion, and Comparative Religious Ethics,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Comparative Religious Ethics Group, Washington, DC (Nov. 2006).

“Between Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights: Reform of Custody Laws in Iran,” All in the Family: Islam, Women and Human Rights, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA (March 2006).

“Good Hijab, Bad Hijab: Veiling as a Form of Political Dissent,” Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA (March 2006). Invited.

“Speaking of Motherhood: The Epideictic Rhetoric of John Paul II and Ayatollah Khomeini,” Society of Christian Ethics, Phoenix, AZ (Jan. 2006).



“Talking Back in Iran: Religious Discourse, Women’s Agency, and a Rhetorical Turn,”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Feminist Theories Working Group,  
Philadelphia, PA (Nov. 2005).

### **Regional/local**

“Pious Fashion Reading,” *Friday Forum* series, Harvard Bookstore, Cambridge, MA (Nov. 2017). Invited.

“Unlikely Sex Change Capitals of the World,” Hazel Dick Leonard Symposium, Simmons College, Boston, MA (March 2017). Invited.

“The Burkini and Beyond: Pious Dress and the Religious-Secular Divide,” Mahindra Humanities Center seminar, “Art, Popular Culture, and Civic Life,” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Oct. 2016). Invited.

“Secular Shaming,” By Design Fellows Public Presentation, The Humanities Center, Northeastern University (March 2016).

“Secular Fashion, Religious Dress, and Modest Ambiguity: The Ethics of Iranian Fashion-Veiling,” Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, Boston University, Boston, MA (April 2015). Invited.

“Pious Fashion: Women’s Ethical Negotiations of Aesthetic Authorities in Tehran,” Muslim Women’s Voices, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT (Dec. 2014). Invited.

“Virtue and Veiling,” Middle East Beyond Borders Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Feb. 2014). Invited.

“Cultivating Virtues Through Bodily Acts: The Case of the Islamic Veil,” Religion and Critical Thought Workshop, Brown University, Providence, RI (April 2013). Invited.

“The Power of Pious Fashion: The Islamic Veil as Political Critique,” American Association of University Women, Greensboro Branch, Greensboro, NC (Nov. 2011). Invited.

“Veiling in the Qu’ran,” Greensboro Ladies Guild, Greensboro Country Club (Oct. 2011). Invited.

“Ethics Within a Theocracy?” 2005 Ethics Lecture Series, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (May 2005).

“Catholic Moral Permissibility of Emergency Contraception After Rape: A Feminist Reading,” University of Chicago Graduate Student Ethics Conference, Chicago, IL (April 2001).

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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Position: PI

Title: Sacred Writes: Public Scholarship on Religion (title of original proposal was Fit to Print)

Purpose: Train scholars to do public-facing scholarship and create media partnerships

Funding agency: The Henry Luce Foundation

Dates: June 2018–June 2022

Total award: \$750,000

Position: Senior Fellow (PIs are Charles Mathewes and Paul Dafydd Jones, University of Virginia)

Title: Religion and Its Publics, a University of Virginia Research Project

Purpose: Explore various publics of religious studies to increase impact of scholarship

Funding agency: The Henry Luce Foundation

Dates: Sept. 2016–June 2019

Total award: \$1,000,000

Position: PI

Title: Reporting Religion

Purpose: Increase religious literacy of journalists through a workshop and course development

Funding agency: Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs

Dates: Sept. 2016–May 2018

Total award: \$60,000

Position: Fellow (PIs are William Schweiker, University of Chicago and Günter Thomas, Ruhr-University Bochum)

Title: Enhancing Life Early Career Fellowship

Purpose: Support research on “enhancing life”

Funding Agency: John Templeton Foundation

Dates: July 2015–August 2017

Total award: \$4.6 million

Amount of my award: \$50,000

Position: Fellow (PI Christian Miller, Wake Forest University)

Title: Theology of Character Fellowship

Purpose: Support research on character formation

Funding Agency: John Templeton Foundation

Dates: June 2012–June 2013

Total award: \$403,000

Amount of my award: \$57,000

Position: Postdoctoral Fellow

Title: American Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Purpose: Supported research leave

Funding Agency: American Association of University Women

Dates: August 2011–June 2012

Total award: \$35,000

Position: Postdoctoral Fellowship

Title: Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs

Purpose: Supported research and teaching residency

Funding Agency: Georgetown University

Dates: August 2006–May 2007

Total award: \$49,000

**Internal: funded**

- 2018 Asian Studies Curriculum Award, Northeastern (\$2,500).
- 2016 Peer Mentoring Grant from Provost, Northeastern (\$3,000).
- 2015 Humanities Center Research Fellow, Northeastern (course release).  
Honors Portz Award, recognition of a faculty member who made significant contributions to the Honors Program during the academic year, Northeastern.  
University Honors Faculty Fellow (\$1,500).
- 2014 Humanities Center Collaborative Research Cluster, Northeastern (\$2,000).
- 2013 CSSH Research Development Grant, Northeastern (\$5,000).
- 2011 Dean's Match to AAUW travel funds, UNCG (\$5,000).  
Kohler International Travel Award for Turkey, UNCG (\$1,000).  
Linda Arnold Carlisle Research Grant, Women's and Gender Studies, UNCG (\$1,000).  
Proposal Preparation Fellowship, UNCG (\$3,000).  
Regular Faculty Grant, UNCG (\$5,000).  
Scholars' Travel Fund, UNCG (\$500).
- 2010 Kohler International Travel Award for Indonesia, UNCG (\$1,000).  
Nominee for NEH Summer Stipend.  
Scholars' Travel Fund, UNCG (\$500).  
Summer Faculty Excellence Award, UNCG (\$5,000).
- 2009 Course Development Grant, Honors College, UNCG (\$3,000).  
Summer Faculty Excellence Award, UNCG (\$5,000).
- 2008 Kohler International Travel Award for Italy, UNCG (\$1,000).  
New Faculty Award, UNCG (\$5,000).  
Nominee for the Carnegie Scholar Program in Islamic Studies.  
Nominee for NEH Summer Stipend.  
Summer Faculty Excellence Award, UNCG (\$5,000).