

# LAUREN E. OSBORNE

345 Boyer Ave | Walla Walla, WA 99362 | (509) 527-5809 | [osbornle@whitman.edu](mailto:osbornle@whitman.edu)

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2020-present Associate Professor of Religion and Department Chair, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA
- 2014–2020 Assistant Professor of Religion, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA
- 2013–2014 Visiting Instructor of Religion, Carleton College, Northfield, MN
- 2012–2013 Visiting Instructor of Religion, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

## EDUCATION

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- 2014 Ph.D. | Divinity School | University of Chicago | Chicago, IL  
Dissertation: "From Text to Sound to Perception: Modes and Relationships of Meaning in the Recited Qur'an"  
Committee: Michael Sells, Philip Bohlman, and Hussein Agrama
- 2005 A.M. | Divinity School | University of Chicago | Chicago, IL  
Exam Fields: Qur'an, Sufi Literature, Modern Islam and Power, Jews in the Medieval Islamic World
- 2002 B.A. | Religious Studies | Lawrence University | Appleton, WI  
*Cum Laude*
- 2002 B.Mus. | Flute Performance | Lawrence University | Appleton, WI  
*Cum Laude*

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS

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Islamic Studies; the Qur'an and Qur'anic Studies; Religion and the Body; Affect; Islam and Music; Sound Studies; Sensory Studies; Islamic Mysticism

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Books*

- 2025 *Hearing Islam: The Sounds of a Global Religious Tradition*. New York: Routledge.  
<https://www.routledge.com/Hearing-Islam-The-Sounds-of-a-Global-Religious-Tradition/Osborne/p/book/9780367768829>

### *Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters*

- 2024 "Qur'anic Orality and Textual Epistemologies of the Humanities," *ReOrient*. 9, number 1, (2024): 114-130. <https://www.scienceopen.com/hosted-document?doi=10.13169/reorient.9.1.0114>
- 2022 "Sound-History of the Qur'an. A Study of Mūsā b. 'Ubayd Allāh Ibn Ḥāqān's *Qaṣīda fī-l-Taḡwīd*," *MIDÉO. Mélanges de l'Institut dominicain d'études orientales*. 37 (2022): 87-114. <http://journals.openedition.org/mideo/7989>
- "The *Qaṣīda fī al-taḡwīd* by Mūsā ibn 'Ubayd Allāh ibn Ḥāqān (or al-Ḥāqānī) (d. 325/937). An Annotated Translation," *MIDÉO. Mélanges de l'Institut dominicain d'études orientales*. 37 (2022): 115-125. <http://journals.openedition.org/mideo/8048>
- "Qur'an Recital," *The Routledge Handbook of Islamic Ritual and Practice*, edited by Oliver Leaman. New York: Routledge. <http://doi.org/10.4324/9781003044659-20>
- 2021 "The Relationship of the Oral and the Written," *The Routledge Companion to the Qur'an*, edited by Daniel Madigan, Maria Massi Dakake, and George Archer. New York: Routledge.
- "The Mediated Qur'an: Religious Education and Recitation via Online Distance Learning in the Sultanate of Oman," in a special issue of the *Yale Journal of Music & Religion on Sound and Secularity*. Guest edited by Margarethe Adams and August Sheehy. 3, number 2, (2021): 74-88. <https://doi.org/10.17132/2377-231X.1170>
- 2019 "Aural Epistemology: Hearing and Listening in the Text of the Qur'an," *Body and Religion* 3, number 1, (2019): 71-93. <https://doi.org/10.1558/bar.16810>
- 2019 "Feeling the Words: Sayyid Qutb's Affective Engagement with the Qur'an in *Al-Taswir al-Fanni fī al-Qur'an*," *Religion Compass* 13, issue 10 (October 2019). <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12338>
- 2016 "Textual and Paratextual Meaning in the Recited Qur'an: Analysis of a Performance of Surat al-Furqan by Sheikh Mishary bin Rashid al-Afasy." *Qur'anic Studies Today*, edited by Angelika Neuwirth and Michael Sells. New York: Routledge, 2016.

#### *Publications in Preparation*

- Books: *Recite! Aesthetics and Experience of the Recited Qur'an* (manuscript drafted and in preparation for submission and review for the Routledge Qur'an Series, edited by Walid Saleh)
- The Quranic Sensorium: Textual and Affective Epistemologies* (preliminary research stage)
- Translation: Selected excerpts from Sayyid Qutb's *Al-Taṣwīr al-Fannī fī al-Qur'ān*, for reader on Islam and the senses, edited by Christian Lange.

#### *Contributions to Edited Volumes, Handbooks, Roundtables, and Encyclopedias*

- 2024 "Breath, bodies, and sacred text: Thinking about recitation with al-Ghazālī and Kūkai," a dialogue collaboratively published with Charlotte Eubanks. *postmedieval* 15, issue 2 (June 2024): 373–389. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41280-024-00314-5>
- "Mahmoud Khalil al-Husary," in *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, edited by Johanna Pink. Brill. <https://referenceworks.brill.com/display/entries/EQO/EQCOM-054169.xml>

- 2022 “Reading/Recitation/Memorization,” in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, edited by William Schweiker, Maria Antonaccio, Elizabeth Bucar, and David A. Clairmont. Volume 1. Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2019 “The Qur’an and Affect,” introduction to *Body and Religion* 3, number 1 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1558/bar.17844>
- 2018 “Response to Thesis 16,” “Religion” in *Theory and Practice: Demystifying the Field for Bourgeois Academics*, edited by Russel McCutcheon. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing Ltd.
- 2016 “The Experience of the Recited Qur’an.” Invited contribution for “Bringing Sound into Middle East Studies,” a roundtable organized by Carole Woodall and Andrea Stanton. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 48, issue 01 (February 2016): 124–128.

#### Public Scholarship

- 2023 “Freedom, Tradition, and Precarity at Hamline University. It’s not either/or at Hamline; it’s both/and,” *Sightings*, January 19, 2023. [Link](#).
- 2012 “Believing, Belonging, and Laughing in Little Mosque on the Prairie,” *Sightings*, March 15, 2012. [Link](#).

#### Edited Works

- 2019 Guest editor, *Body and Religion* 3, number 1 (2019). Special Issue on the Qur’an and affect. [Link](#).
- 2019 Syndicate Symposium on Karen Bauer’s *Gender Hierarchy in the Qur’an*. *Syndicate Network*. [Link](#).

#### Reviews and Academic Blog Posts

- 2022 Review of *Muslim American City: Gender and Religion in Metro Detroit*, by Alisa Perkins. *Reading Religion*, February 28, 2022. [Link](#).
- 2021 Review of *The Qur’an and Late Antiquity: A Shared Heritage*, by Angelika Neuwirth, translated by Samuel Wilder. *The Journal of Religion* 101, no.3, July 2021, 421-423. [Link](#).
- 2020 Review of *Muslim Environmentalisms: Religious and Social Foundations*, by Anna Gade. *American Journal of Islam and Society* 37, no. 3-4, 2020, 116-119. [Link](#).
- 2019 Review of *Sounding Islam: Voice, Media, and Sonic Atmosphere in an Indian Ocean World*, by Patrick Eisenlohr. *Reading Religion*, May 18, 2019. [Link](#).
- Review of *Singing God’s Words: The Performance of Biblical Chant in Contemporary Judaism*, by Jeffrey A. Summit. *Musica Judaica Online Reviews*, March 31, 2019. [Link](#).
- 2017 Review of *Gender Hierarchy in the Qur’ān: Medieval Interpretations, Modern Responses*, by Karen Bauer. *Reading Religion*, April 6, 2017. [Link](#).

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Review of *The Logic of Law Making in Islam: Women and Prayer in the Legal Tradition*, by Behnam Sadeghi. *The Journal of Religion* 97, no. 1, January 2017, 142–143.

2016 Review of *Qur'an in Conversation*, by Michael Birkel. *The Journal of Religion* 96, no. 4, October 2016, 550–551.

Review of *God Is Beautiful: The Aesthetic Experience of the Quran*, by Navid Kermani, translated by Tony Crawford. *Review of Qur'anic Research* 2, no. 3.

Review of *Prayer in Islamic Thought and Practice*, by Marion Holmes Katz. *The Journal of Religion* 96, no. 1, January 2016, 144–145.

“Academe as Labor,” *The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion, The Official Blog of the University of Chicago Divinity School’s Craft of Teaching Program*, April 20, 2016. [Link](#).

“The Balancing Act of Major Design,” *The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion, The Official Blog of the University of Chicago Divinity School’s Craft of Teaching Program*, March 14, 2016. [Link](#).

2015 “Teaching Religion Beyond Texts,” *The Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion, The Official Blog of the University of Chicago Divinity School’s Craft of Teaching Program*, November 30, 2015. [Link](#).

2013 “Understanding Meaning in the Sound of the Recited Qur’an,” *International Qur’anic Studies Association Blog*, April 15, 2013. [Link](#).

## TEACHING

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2014–present Whitman College

Shifting Meanings: Forms of Translation (first-year experience course), Religion and the Senses, Understanding Religion, The End Times, Islamic Traditions, The Qur’an, American Islam, Comparative Scriptures, What Is Religion? (theory and methods in the study of religion), Islamic Mysticism, Mediating Religions, Hearing Islam, Muslim Bodies, Senior Seminar in the Academic Study of Religion

2013–2014 Carleton College  
Religion and the Senses, Understanding Religion, Introduction to Islam, The Qur’an, Hearing Islam

2012–2013 University of Illinois  
The Qur’an: Structure and Exegesis; Islamic Mysticism

2010–2013 University of Chicago  
Writing Intern in the Humanities Core, 9/2010–6/2013  
Writing Tutor, 1/2011–6/2011  
Teaching Assistant, “Introduction to the Study of Religion,” 9/2008–12/2008

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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*Invited Talks*

- 2024 “The Sounds of the Past in the Language of the Present: Translating Didactic Poetry on the Recitation of the Qur’an,” at *Recited Ink: Written Representations of the Oral Aspects of the Qur’ān*, a workshop organized under the auspices of “The European Qur’an” project, Università l’Orientale di Napoli, May 21, 2024.
- “الروائح المقدمة: حاسة الشم في نص القرآن الكريم” (presentation given in Arabic: “Sacred Scents: The Sense of Smell in the Text of the Qur’an”), Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Moulay Ismail University, Meknes, Morocco, May 9, 2024.
- “الشعر التعليمي كأداة للتفكير في أصوات الماضي: أبحاث علمية عن المنظومة الرائية في التجويد لابن خاقان” (presentation given in Arabic: “Didactic Poetry as a Tool for Thinking about the Sounds of the Past: Scientific Research on ‘The Ra’iyya on Tajwid’ by Ibn Khaqan”), Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Tangier, Morocco, April 19, 2024.
- “تفاعل الحواس والأحاسيس في استشعار القرآن: حاسة السمع نموذجاً” (presentation given in Arabic: “The Interaction of the Senses and Feelings in Feeling the Qur’an: The Sense of Hearing, A Case Study”), Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco, February 23, 2024.
- 2021 “Who Recites the Qur’an: Gender, Nation, and Authority in American Islam,” Jerry Jackson Lecture in the Humanities, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC, November 30, 2021. (on zoom)
- “Who Recites the Qur’an?: Gender, Nation, and Performance at the Annual Islamic Society of North America Convention,” Whitman College Faculty Forum, Walla Walla, WA, September 1, 2021.
- “Breath,” Annual Whitman College Convocation Address, Walla Walla, WA, August 30, 2021. [Video](#).
- “Theories of Qur’anic Orality,” Symposium on Qur’an and Humanities, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 9-10, 2021. (on zoom)
- 2020 “مقدمة أحكام التجويد لطلاب اللغة العربية” Introduction of The Rules of Tajwid for Students of Arabic,” Arabic Circle, الندوة العربية, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, January 17, 2020. (Talk given in Arabic.)
- 2019 “Sound at a Distance: Qur’an Recitation in Online Distance Learning in Oman,” Sound and Secularity Symposium, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, April 12, 2019.
- “Pitch, Melody, and Aesthetics in the Recited Qur’an: Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Styles and Discourses,” LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY, February 18, 2019.
- 2018 “Sound and Meaning in the Recited Qur’an,” Whitman College Faculty Forum, August 29, 2018.
- “أحكام تجويد القرآن لطلاب اللغة العربية, بواسطة قصيدة الجزرية” The Rules of Tajwid al-Qur’an for Students of Arabic, by way of the Jazariyya Poem,” Arabic Circle, الندوة العربية, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 11, 2018. (Talk given in Arabic.)

“Evenly Spaced Teeth: Orality and the Qur’an’s Self-Presentation,” Martin Marty Center Senior Fellows Symposium, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 27, 2018.

“Hearing and Feeling the Recited Qur’an,” Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, January 23, 2018.

2015 “Locating Experience and Emotion in the Recited Qur’an,” Islam, Music, and the Sublime, Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative, University of Chicago, February 20, 2015.

2013 “Sound Meaning: Understanding the Recited Qur’an,” Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Brown Bag Lecture Series, University of Illinois, March 26, 2013.

#### *Conference Presentations*

2021 “Affective Economies in Sayyid Qutb’s Thought on the Qur’an,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2021. (on zoom)

“Qur’anic Orality and Sound,” for the North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS) conference, “Approaches to Qur’anic Studies in the Western Academy,” online, November 12, 2021.

2020 “The Sound-History of the Qur’an,” for the conference “From the Back of the Heart: Reciting in the Early Islamic Empire (7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> centuries),” Institut dominicain d’études orientales (IDEO), online and in Cairo, October 16-18, 2020.

2018 “Affective Reading in Sayyid Qutb’s *Al-Taṣwīr al-fannī fī al-Qur’ān*,” for the panel “Emotion and Affect in and around the Qur’an,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Denver, CO, November 17, 2018.

2017 “Feeling the Recited Qur’an: Affect and Engagement in Reciting and Listening,” invited paper for the panel, “‘Ilm and Knowledge Production in the Islamic World: Reconsidering the Everyday,” American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Washington DC, November 30, 2017.

2016 “Fluidity in Sound: The Soundscape of Surat al-Kahf,” International Qur’anic Studies Association annual meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 19, 2016.

2015 “Listening in the Qur’an: The Semantic Field of S-M-’,” International Qur’anic Studies Association annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 21, 2015.

“Hearing the Qur’an,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 22, 2015.

“‘Listen to What Is Revealed’: Hearing and Listening in the Qur’an,” 30th Annual Middle East History and Theory Conference (MEHAT), Chicago, IL, May 2, 2015

“Iqra’!: Revealing, Reciting, and Listening in the Qur’an,” Pacific Northwest American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Portland, OR, March 28, 2015.

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- 2012 "Textual and Paratextual Meaning in the Recited Qur'an: Analysis of a Performance of Surat al-Furqan by Sheikh Mishary bin Rashid al-Afasy," American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Chicago, IL, November 18, 2012.
- 2009 "The Recited Qur'an: Possibilities for Research," Midwest American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, April 4, 2009.

*Workshop Presentations and Guest Teaching*

- 2021 Invited guest scholar in REL 236, "Reading the Qur'an," Williams College, Williamstown, MA, April 19, 2021. (on zoom)
- Invited guest scholar in TH 4300, "The Religious Body as Battleground: Martyrs and Ascetics," St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX, April 12, 2021. (on zoom)
- 2018 Invited guest scholar in ANTH 21338, "Sounding Out Ethnography: Writing Auditory Worlds," University of Chicago, February 20, 2018.
- "Should Islam challenge how we think of holy scriptures?" Guest lecture in REL-R 152 "Jews, Christians, Muslims," Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, January 23, 2018.
- 2016 Panelist on "Teaching Islamic Studies Across the Institutional Field," for the Islamic Studies Workshop and the Craft of Teaching Program at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 19, 2016.
- 2015 "The Recitation on Recitation: Discursive Meaning within the Qur'an," Invited participant, Workshop on Book History in Religious Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, September 30–October 2, 2015.
- 2014 "Teaching Islamic Studies in the Liberal Arts," invited presentation for the Islamic Studies Workshop and the Craft of Teaching Program in the Divinity School, University of Chicago, December 11, 2014.
- 2013 "Should Islam challenge how we think of holy scriptures?" Guest lecture in REL-R 152 "Jews, Christians, Muslims," Indiana University Bloomington, January 30, 2013.
- "Religion and the Senses," Theology Workshop, University of Chicago, January 28, 2013.
- 2005 "Sacred Sound: Qur'anic Recitation and Maqam," Middle East History and Theory Workshop and EthNoise! Ethnomusicology Workshop, University of Chicago, March 2005.

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2024 Scholar fellow, CASA III (Center for Arabic Study Abroad), Fulbright-Hays, Meknes, Morocco
- 2020 Thomas D. Howells Award for Distinguished Teaching in Humanities and Arts, Whitman College
- 2018 "Embodied Learning in the Academic Study of Religion," Fellowship Grant, Wabash Center for Teaching & Learning in Theology & Religion

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- 2017–2018 Senior Fellow, Martin E. Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago
- 2016–2017 Participant in the Wabash Center Workshop for Early Career Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities
- 2016 Whitman College Aid to Scholarship and Instructional Development (ASID) award in support of summer research in Muscat, Oman
- 2013–2014 Junior Fellow, Martin E. Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School, (declined)
- 2013 Karen DiNal Memorial Award, for excellence in the teaching of academic writing to first year undergraduates, University of Chicago
- American Academy of Religion International Dissertation Research Grant
- Graduate Student Affairs Travel Award, University of Chicago
- Perrin Fund Travel Grant, University of Chicago
- 2012 Critical Language Scholarship, United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, (declined)
- 2008 Fellow, The Jerald Brauer Seminar, Martin E. Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago  
Topic: The Buddha in Barcelona  
Paper: “Ascetic Piety in Translation, across Traditions: The Frame Narrative of Kitāb ibn al-malik wa al-nāsik”
- 2007 Provost Summer Fellowship, University of Chicago

#### ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- 2020–present Co-Chair, Societal Qur’an Unit, International Qur’anic Studies Association
- 2019–present Member, editorial board, [The Global Qur’an book series](#), Open Book Publishers
- 2019–2021 Features editor, [The Religious Studies Project](#)
- 2019 Respondent, “Sound, Orality, and the Qur’an,” panel for the Qur’an Unit, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, San Diego, CA, November 23, 2019
- 2018–present Co-Chair, Qur’an Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2018–2021 Member, editorial board, [Reading Religion](#)
- 2018 Organized a panel, “Emotion and Affect in and around the Qur’an,” American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Denver, CO, November 17, 2018.



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- 2017 Invited discussant, “The Call” panel, Society for Ethnomusicology annual meeting, Denver, CO, October 27, 2017
- 2012 Chair, “Typologies” panel, Qur’anic Studies Today, a day-long workshop of the Mellon Islamic Studies Initiative, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, November 9, 2012
- 2011–2014 Founder and Chair, Islam Section, Midwest American Academy of Religion

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#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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American Academy of Religion (AAR)

International Qur’anic Studies Association (IQSA)

Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

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#### LANGUAGES

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- Arabic: Advanced knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic, reading, writing, listening, and speaking  
CASA III fellow, 2024 (Center for Arabic Study Abroad, Arab American Language in Morocco, Meknes, Morocco)  
Moroccan Darija, low intermediate  
some Gulf dialect (Omani)  
Four years of study at the University of Chicago  
Intermediate Certificate, 2007, San‘a’ Institute for the Arabic Language, San‘a’, Yemen  
Advanced Certificate, 2013, Center for International Learning, Muscat, Oman
- French: Reading and basic conversational knowledge  
High pass on University of Chicago French Reading Exam, 2004
- German: Reading knowledge  
High pass on University of Chicago Divinity School German for Reading Exam, 2008

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#### REFERENCES

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Michael A. Sells  
John Henry Barrows Professor of  
Islamic History and Literature  
Emeritus  
University of Chicago  
Divinity School  
[msells@uchicago.edu](mailto:msells@uchicago.edu)

Kathryn Kueny  
Professor of Theology  
Fordham University  
Lincoln Center Campus  
Lowenstein 924-F  
113 W. 60th St.  
New York, NY 10023  
[kueny@fordham.edu](mailto:kueny@fordham.edu)

Jonathan S. Walters  
Ball Endowed Chair of Humanities  
Professor of Religion  
Whitman College  
345 Boyer Ave  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-5246  
[walterjs@whitman.edu](mailto:walterjs@whitman.edu)