

Emily Regan Wills

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Research Interests

- The relationship between discourse and politics, in particular the workings of political discourse situated in everyday spaces
- The role of gender in political relations, from the state to the interpersonal
- Geographically: the Middle East and North Africa; secondarily, South Asia and the United States (especially in relation to the Middle East)

Education

New School for Social Research, The New School, New York, NY, PhD expected Jan. 2012.

- Dissertation: "Political Discourse in Motion: Social and Political Contestation in Arab New York."

Abstract: The Arab-American community lies at the nexus of intersecting lines of political power, and is subject to pervasive discursive misrecognition, that is, the limiting of members' ability to act as persons capable of taking any position in ongoing social and political discourses. Engaging seriously with Arab-American political discourses is a critical political-ethical task for the non-Arab American political community. I argue that taking Arab-American political discourse seriously undermines three commonly-held positions about the community: that they are apolitical, that they are 'just like' any other American ethnic community, or that they are entirely alien to the American political experience. This dissertation develops a detailed analysis of political discourse in Arab New York around three important social fields: education, particularly community-driven educational programming; Palestine, particularly two major pro-Palestinian activist groups; and gender, particularly the experiences of young women with social surveillance.

- Dissertation Committee: Chair: Courtney Jung. Committee members: Timothy Pachirat, Nancy Fraser, Karam Dana.
- Field exams in comparative politics (major), political theory (minor)

New School for Social Research, The New School, New York, NY. MA, 2007

- MA papers: "Transnational Exit: Gender-Based Asylum in a Multicultural World"; "Muslim Preference and Women's Honor: Shared Understandings and Migratory Flows from South Asia to the Arab Gulf"

Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2000-2004

- BA magna cum laude, with distinction in the majors of Political Science & Women's and Gender Studies
- Senior Essay Title: *Power, Identity, and the Transnational: The Feminist Anti-Occupation Movement in Israel/Palestine, 1987-1990, 2000-2004*; advisors, Ellen Lust-Okar, Vron Ware, Hala Nassar

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, January 2008

- Two-week program in qualitative research techniques, multi-method research design, and logics of inference; included workshop time focused on critiquing existing research designs.
- Topics covered included: interpretation as a method in the social sciences, necessity and sufficiency of causes, process tracing, narrative analysis, discourse analysis, and experimental methods
- Selected to attend by Department of Politics

Honors and Awards

- Dissertation Fellowship, 2010-2011, New School for Social Research
- Prize Fellowship in Political Science (highest fellowship given), New School for Social Research
- Donnelly Scholarship, New School for Social Research
- Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Yale University
- Trumbull College Pro Bono Publico Prize, Yale University
- Undergraduate Research Grants: Frank M. Patterson Work-Study Grant, Dept of Political Science; Dean's Research Fellowship; Elizabeth Winstead Rouse Fund for Peace Fellowship, Council on Middle Eastern Studies; Trumbull College Richter Fellowship; Trumbull College Mellon Grant, Yale University

Teaching Experience

Visiting Instructor, Political Science, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, July 2011-June 2012

- Teaching Introduction to Comparative World Politics, Introduction to Feminist Political Theory, Gender and Politics in the Middle East and North Africa, and Arab Migrations

Teaching Fellow, The New School, September 2008-December 2010

- Taught Politics: An Introduction, Democracy and Development, The Middle East in Diaspora, Gender and Politics in the Middle East

Teaching Assistant, The New School, September 2008-December 2008

- Taught India: A History

Departmental and Other Service

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Transformative Works and Cultures*. June 2011-present

- Peer reviewer for articles about politics in media & cultural studies journal

Search Committee Member, *NSSR Politics Dept.* September-December 2010

- Student representative on joint search committee for senior positions in comparative politics and global politics

Faculty Advisor, Global Gender and Sexuality Working Group, *Global Studies Program, The New School*

Sept. 2010-May 2011

- Assist in formation and planning of undergraduate group to design classes, reading groups, and lecture series; mentor students and assist with planning

Research Experience

Research Assistant, *Nancy Fraser, NSSR Politics Dept.*

June 2009-June 2010

- Course support for courses in critical theory and critiques of capitalism
- Research on political economy and cultures of capitalism to support forthcoming book on feminism and capitalism

Research Assistant, *Ellen Lust-Okar, Yale Political Science Dept.*

May 2004-June 2006

- Tracked political unrest in Arab countries from 1950s until present; extended data set by a decade; found missing information on cases, using multiple sources, including monographs, online news indexes, and microfiche collections, in French and English
- Created web site of resources on Islamism in approximately 20 countries, including scholarly analysis and movement web sites, for use in a upper-level course on Islamism and politics
- Edited and completed chart on political opposition groups in three Arab countries, using monographs and online resources, for publication in supervisor's book (published by Cambridge UP)
- Assisted with the compilation of syllabi

Research Intern, *Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom, UN Office* June-August 2002,
Jan-March 2004,
June 2004-Mar. 05

- Lobbied for women's rights in conflict zones at: 48th Session of Commission on Status of Women; the ten-year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action at 49th Session of CSW; Women, Peace, and Security Month; and between sessions as needed
- Wrote and edited: reports on women, peace and security; newsletter for NGO delegates; resources on Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, and Security Council Resolution 1325; detailed analyses of previous UN language; advance communications to delegates and members; lobbying materials; web resources on Afghanistan and the United Nations system
- Briefed other NGO delegates on issues and lead discussions of lobbying tactics; participated in International Planning Group

Publications

- “Review of The Contemporary U.S. Peace Movement,” *Societies Without Borders: Human Rights and the Social Sciences* 6:1 (Fall 2011).
- “Tigh/Roslin 2008: When Politics Turn Fictional,” FlowTV, 8.10 (October 2008), Special Issue: Sarah Palin and the Media. Available online, <http://flowtv.org/?p=2055>
- “Notes on the Politics of Knowledge in the Israeli Feminist Anti-Occupation Movement,” *Michigan Feminist Studies*, Issue 20, 2006-2007.
- “Review: Pomegranate Hearts,” *Journal of International Women’s Studies*, Volume 8, #4 (May 2007).
- “Religious Fundamentalism,” “Islamic Feminism,” “Irshad Manji,” in Heywood, Leslie, ed., *The Women’s Movement Today: Encyclopedia of the Third Wave, Volume One*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2005.
- “Woman in Black,” *Yale Israel Journal*, Issue 2, Fall 2003.

In Press

- “Polemics, Political Racism, and Misrecognition: Naming and Analyzing Prejudice Against Arab-Americans.” *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*.

Accepted Pending Revisions

- “Democratic Paradoxes: Women’s Rights and Democratization in Kuwait.” *Middle East Journal*.

Under Consideration

- “Arab-American Women Organizing,” as part of a volume edited by Michael Suleiman; currently, undergoing revise-and-resubmit at Syracuse University Press.
- “*Bilad wa Dawla*: Articulations of America and the Homeland in an Arab Women’s ESL Classroom.” Currently under consideration, *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*.

In Preparation

- Ethical and Methodological Challenges to Conducting Interpretive Research on Facebook, co-authored with Renee Cramer, Drake University
- Discourses and Differences: A Case Study Of Pro-Palestine Activism in New York City
- Identity and Discourse in Pro-Palestine Activism: Arabs, Jews, and Movement Identities

Conference Presentations

- Middle Eastern Studies Association 2011, Washington, DC: will give a paper entitled “Party on Steinway Street: How Arab New York Interpreted The 2011 Egyptian Revolution.”
- Contemporary Research in Arab American Studies: New Trends and Critical Perspectives, November 2011: will give a paper entitled “Education and Identity in Arab New York.”

- Western Political Science Association 2011, San Antonio, TX: organized and chaired a panel entitled “It's not Facebook, It's Fieldwork! Conducting Interpretive Research Using Social Networking Technology.”
- Coming Out In The Developing World: Insurgent Queer Identities in the Middle East, sponsored by the Global Studies Program and the Transnational Center for Democratic Studies, The New School, March 2011: invited presenter on transnational queer politics in Lebanon.
- American Political Science Association 2010, Washington, DC: presented “From the (East) River to the Sea: Palestine and Palestinians in New York's Arab Community.”
- American Political Science Association 2009, Toronto, ONT: presented “Polemics, Political Racism, and Misrecognition: Naming and Analyzing Prejudice Against Arab-Americans”
- Midwest Political Science Association 2009, Chicago, IL: Presented two papers, “Re-authorizing Scully: Transformational Discourses of Gender and Power in X-Files Fandom,” and “The Making of Arab New York: Discourse and Politics in Bay Ridge”
- Arab-American Women Conference 2009, Kansas State University: Presented “Arab-American Women Organizing”
- Middle Eastern Studies Association 2008, Washington, DC: Presented “Visuality and Politics in Arab New York: Community and Representation”
- New England Political Science Association 2008, Providence, RI: presented “Muslim Preference: How Shared Discursive Concepts Shape Migratory Flows from South Asia to the Arab Gulf States”
- Middle East Studies Association 2007, Montréal, QUE; presented “Democracy, Citizenship and Women's Rights: Kuwait, 1999 and 2005”
- National Women's Studies Association 2007, Chicago, IL: presented “Tense Feminisms: Arab-American Feminists and their Audiences”; organized panel on migrations to/from/within the Arab world.
- NWSA 2006, Oakland, CA: Presented “Feminist Research Ethics in the Study of Feminist Movements”
- Women & Society Conference 2005, Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY: Presented “Feminist Narratives of the Homeland: The Lebanese Civil War and the Politics of Location”
- NWSA 2005, Orlando, FL: Presented “The Beijing +10 Review: Transnational Feminist Organizing”
- NWSA 2004, Milwaukee, WI: Presented “Feminist Anti-Occupation Movements in Israel/Palestine”

Languages: French: fluent reading and speaking, proficient writing; Spanish: proficient; Arabic: basic proficiency

References:

Prof. Courtney Jung, University of Toronto, 416-978-6393, courtney.jung@utoronto.ca

Prof. Timothy Pachirat, New School for Social Research, 212.229.5747 x 3382, pachirat@newschool.edu

Prof. Nancy Fraser, New School for Social Research, 212.229.5747, ext. 3090,
frasern@earthlink.net

Prof. Ellen Lust-Okar, Yale University, 203.432.3648, ellen.lust-okar@yale.edu