

ALESSANDRA L. GONZÁLEZ, Ph.D.

Research Fellow, Institute for the Studies of Religion, Baylor University

Email: Alessandra_Gonzalez@baylor.edu

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Ph.D. in Sociology with a specialization in Religion and Gender; 3.96; May 2011

Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Dissertation Title: “Variations in the Sociology of Islam and Gender: A Multi-Level Analysis of Islam and Gender in Majority Muslim Contexts.”

Dissertation Summary: This dissertation answers two main questions: First, what is the relationship between Islam and gender? Second, is Islam as a social force repressive or empowering to women’s rights? The findings indicate that at the macro-level (using cross-national data from the World Values Survey) gender attitudes are embedded in Islamic culture in historically path-driven ways. At the mezzo-level, or congregational level (using original survey data of Kuwaiti college students), variation in gender attitudes can be explained by gender and variation in types of Islamic religiosity. And at the micro-level (using data from original interviews of elites), women activists seeking progressive rights routinely and successfully utilize their Islamic faith in their efforts.

Presidential Scholar, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Graduate Fellow, Institute for the Studies of Religion (ISR).

Project Director, Islamic Social Attitudes Survey Project (ISAS).

Selected Participant, “Expressions of Diversity” Summer Graduate Programme, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, B.C., CANADA, July 2010.

Selected Listening Participant, First-Ever Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge University, ENGLAND, July 2010.

Selected Participant, First-Ever Graduate Research School on Pluralism, Danish Institute in Damascus, Workshop led by Dr. Jorgen Nielsen, University of Copenhagen
Damascus, SYRIA, May 2010.

Invited Participant, Young Scholars in the Sociology of Religion (YSSR) Workshop hosted by Dr. Christian Smith, University of Notre Dame, April 2009.

M.A. in Sociology, 3.9; May 2008

Baylor University, Waco, TX

Comparative Religion I & II, December 2007

Islamic Studies Academy, Doha, QATAR

B.A. in Sociology and Policy Studies, 3.5; January 2005

Rice University, Houston, TX

FIELD RESEARCH

May – August 2008: Conducted in-depth interviews with experts on religion, politics, and women’s rights in Qatar and Yemen.

May – August 2007: Designed and managed the distribution, collection, and data entry of 1100 surveys of Kuwaiti College Students’ Social, Religious and Political Attitudes. Additionally conducted 30 in-depth interviews with experts on religion, politics, and women’s rights.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

González, Alessandra L. 2011. “Measuring Religiosity in a Majority Muslim Context: Gender, Religious Salience, and Religious Experience Among Kuwaiti College Students - A Research Note.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 50(2):339-350.

Book Chapters:

González, Alessandra L. (forthcoming). “Who is an Islamic Feminist and What Does He Look Like?” Chapter for inclusion in the edited volume “Islam and International Relations: Mutual Perceptions,” edited by Nassef Adiong, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

González, Alessandra L. (forthcoming). “Choosing through the Iron Veil: Gender and Power Among Elite Women in Kuwait,” Chapter in “Women’s Encounter with Globalization”, edited by Samir DasGupta, Robyn Driskell, Nicola Yeates and Yvonne Braun; UK: Frontpage Publications.

Solicited Writing:

González, Alessandra L and Lubna Al-Kazi. 2011. "Complicating the 'Clash of Civilizations': Gender and Politics in Contemporary Kuwait." Chapter in the *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion*, Vol. 2 edited by Patrick Michel and Enzo Pace; Boston: Brill.

González, Alessandra L., Contributing Editor. 2004. *The ISI Guide 2005: Choosing the Right College: The Whole Truth about America's Top Schools*, 4th edition. ISI Books. ISBN: 1-932236-34-1, ISSN: 1548-4068.

Book Reviews:

González, Alessandra L. 2009. Review of *African Immigrant Religions in America*, edited by Jacob Olupona and Regina Gemignani. *Sociology of Religion* 2009 70(2):198-200.

Print Media:

González, Alessandra L. 2007. "A New Look at Islamic Feminism." *The Dallas Morning News*, Opinion Viewpoints Section. November 28, 2007.

BOOK PROPOSAL

González, Alessandra L. *Legitimate Horizons: In Search of Islamic Feminism on the Arabian Peninsula*. Book proposal currently under review.

FUNDING AND GRANTS

Baylor University Dissertation Research Grant \$500. Matching Sociology Department Grant \$500 to attend the First-Ever Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge University, July 2010.

Travel Grant to present original data at the Annual Conference. \$450. - The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, July 2008.

Seed Grant for data collection of Religion and Politics Study in Qatar, the UAE, and Yemen. \$4,300 – Baylor Institute for the Studies of Religion, March 2008.

Seed Grant for data collection of Religion and Politics Study in Kuwait. \$5,000 – Baylor Institute for the Studies of Religion, March 2007.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

November 2011: "Islamic Feminism: A View from the Arab Gulf Region," for the Sociology of World Religions class by Dr. Helen Rose Ebaugh, The University of Houston, TX (Invited Presentation).

April 2011: "Faith-Based Initiatives in Majority-Muslim Countries: Examples from the Gulf," for the Association for the Study of Religion and Economics Conference; Washington, D.C.

August 2010: "Gender and Mosque Networks in a Majority Muslim Context: The Case of Kuwait," for the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting; Atlanta, GA.

July 2010: "Aisha and the King: Practically Assessing the Value of Islamic Feminism in Yemen and Other Developing Contexts," for the University of Exeter 2010 Gulf Studies Conference; Exeter, England.

January 2010: "Public Roles of Women Worldwide" for the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue, Houston, TX (Invited Panelist along with Dr. Helen Rose Ebaugh, Dr. Marie Cornwall, Dr. Nancy Nason-Clark, and Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund).

November 2009: "Conducting Sociological Research on Feminism in an Islamic Context" for the Baylor Living and Learning Center Global Community Class (Invited Presentation).

October 2009: "Not At All Religious: A Look at Social Deviance in the Majority Muslim Context," for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, Denver, CO.

April 2009: "Understanding Islamic Religiosity," for the Association for the Study of Religion and Economics Conference, Washington, D.C.

September 2008: "The Veil and Contemporary Islamic Feminism in the Arabian Gulf," for the SOC336L Class on Global Gender Inequality by Dr. Mounira Maya Charrad, The University of Texas at Austin (Invited Presentation).

April 2008: "Exploring Measures of Islamic Religious Tradition in Majority-Muslim Countries," for the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies Annual Conference; Washington, DC.

April 2008: "Western Feminism and Its Discontents: Learning from Islamic Feminists," for the Christian Scholars Forum; University of Texas, Austin, TX.

March 2008: “Women of the Middle East and North Africa: Literacy, Employment, and Political Rights” Poster Presentation, Southwestern Social Science Association Conference; Las Vegas, NV.

April 2007: “Spiritual Capital of Politically Engaged Women in Kuwait” for the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy Conference on “The Rights of Women in Islam.” Washington, D.C. (Paper printed in the CSID Report)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2012: Introduction to Sociology, Lone Star Community College, Cypress, TX.

Fall 2011: English as a Second Language, YMCA International Services, Houston, TX.

Spring 2010: Senior Colloquium, Baylor University. A capstone course required for Senior Sociology majors.

Spring 2009: “Faithful Feminism” Seminar, Honors College, Baylor University. A one-time intensive seminar required for Honors College students.

Fall 2009: Statistics for Social Science, Teaching Assistant, Baylor University.

SPECIAL SKILLS

Languages: English, Spanish, and Portuguese (Fluent); French and Italian (Working Knowledge); Chinese and Arabic (Intermediate).

HONORS

Omicron Delta Kappa Society, Lifetime Membership, April 2010.

Presidential Scholar, Baylor University, August 2006 – May 2011.

Benjamin Franklin Service Award, US Department of State, April 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association, Member.

Association for the Sociology of Religion, Member.

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Member.

Religious Research Association, Member.

American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies, Member.

Southwestern Sociological Association, Member.

Middle Eastern Studies Association, Member.

SERVICE

2009-2010 President, Baylor Graduate Student Association.

2008-2009 Vice-President, Baylor Graduate Student Association.

2008-2010 Graduate Fellow to the Undergraduate Honors Program, Baylor University.

2007-2008 Baylor Graduate Student Association (GSA) Sociology Department Representative

Reviewer, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Reviewer, *Journal of Church and State*.

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request.