

# **NUR AMALI IBRAHIM**

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*curriculum vitae*

## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Anthropology, New York University, 2011

M.A., Anthropology, New York University, 2006

B.A., Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, First Class Honors, 2001

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies and Department of International Studies, Indiana University, 2019 to date

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies and Department of International Studies, Indiana University, 2013-2019

Academy Scholar, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2011-2013

## **HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS (SELECTED)**

Faculty Research Support Grant, Tobias Center for Innovation in International Development, Indiana University, 2019

SGIS Faculty Research Grant, Indiana University, 2018 and 2016

Trustees Teaching Award, Indiana University, 2017

New Frontiers Experimentation Fellowship, Indiana University, 2017

Southeast Asian Studies Program Course Development Grant, Indiana University, 2015

Tilaar International Travel Grant, Indiana University, 2014

Harvard Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2011

Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, New York University, 2010

Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, 2008

International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, 2008

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, 2008

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Predoctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2007

Annette Weiner Predoctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2007

Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University, 2004-2008

Vice Chancellor's List, National University of Singapore, 2001

Dean's List, National University of Singapore, 1998-2001

Kernal Singh Sandhu Prize for Distinction in Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, 2001

Wee Mong Cheng Medal for Distinction in Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 2000

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Book**

Improvisational Islam: Indonesian Youth in a Time of Possibility. 2018. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

### **Articles**

Accounting for the Soul: Religious Improvisation in Democratic Indonesia. 2018. *Anthropological Quarterly*. 91(3):1001-1028.

Everyday Authoritarianism: A Political Anthropology of Singapore. 2018. *Critical Asian Studies*. 50(2):219-231.

Homophobic Muslims: Emerging Trends in Multireligious Singapore. 2016. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 58(4):955-981.

The Fag Warrior: How Queer Indonesians Endure Slow Violence. *Under review at American Ethnologist*.

### **Book chapters**

Genocide and Rape in Rwanda: A Case Study. Co-written with Sally Engle Merry. In Merry. 2008. *Gender Violence: A Cultural Perspective*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. Pp. 165-171.

Muslim Organizations and Mosques as Social Services Providers. Co-written with Enon Mansor. In Lai Ah Eng (ed.). 2008. *Religious Diversity in Singapore*. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Publishing. Pp. 459-488.

## **Supplementary writing**

The Law and Religious Intolerance in Indonesia. 2019. Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University. <http://blog.bakerinstitute.org/2019/08/23/the-law-and-religious-intolerance-in-indonesia/>

Review of Tom Pepinsky, Bill Liddle, and Saiful Mujani's "Piety and Public Opinion: Understanding Indonesian Islam." 2018. *Reading Religion* (a publication of the American Academy of Religion). <http://readingreligion.org/books/piety-and-public-opinion>.

Questioning the New Secularism of the West: A commentary on Elizabeth Hurd's "Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion." 2017. *Journal of Politics, Religion and Ideology*. 18(1):107-109.

The Problem with the "Moderate Muslim" Label. 2015. Spring Forum, Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society, Indiana University. [http://www.indiana.edu/~csres/past\\_forums/forum\\_charlie\\_hebdo.php#Ibrahim](http://www.indiana.edu/~csres/past_forums/forum_charlie_hebdo.php#Ibrahim).

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Conferences and workshops**

"The Law and Religious Intolerance in Indonesia," Workshop on Religion, Reverence, and Tolerance, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, 2019.

"The Law and Religious Intolerance in Indonesia," Politics at Home and Abroad Capstone Symposium, Indiana University, 2019.

"Accounting for the Soul: Religious Improvisation in Democratic Indonesia," Conference on Spirituality, Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society, Indiana University, 2019.

"Exposure as Endurance: Political Homophobia in Democratic Indonesia," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2018.

Roundtable participant, "From Margin to Center: Teaching Race in Times of Trump," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2017.

"Improvising Islam: Muslims and the Secular Liberal Encounter," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2016.

"Everyday Authoritarians: A Political Anthropology of Singapore," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, 2016.

"Accounting for the Soul: Religious Improvisation in Democratic Indonesia," Cultural Studies Conference on Capitalism, Indiana University, 2016.

"From Moderate Indonesia to Indonistan: The Indonesian Discourse of the Islamist Threat," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2015.

"Homophobic Muslims," Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting, 2015.

“When Transparency Fails: Perspectives from an Islamist Movement in Indonesia,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2014.

“When Transparency Fails: Perspectives for an Islamist Movement in Indonesia,” Mapping the Landscape of Islamic Studies Conference, Indiana University, 2014.

Panel participant, “Race and Religion Across Regions,” Harvard Academy Alumni Conference, Harvard University, 2014.

“Conversion Narratives in the Socialization of Islamists and Liberal Muslims in Indonesia,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2012.

Panel organizer, “The Shifting Borders of the Islamic Tradition,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2012.

“The Indonesian Trinity,” Inter-Asia Connections III, Social Science Research Council and Hong Kong University, 2012.

“Reading Circles and Conference Rooms: New Spaces for the Production of Islamic Religious Knowledge,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2011.

“Dynamics of Genders Relations in Two Rival Muslim Organizations: Perspectives from Indonesia,” roundtable discussion at the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, 2011.

“The ‘Born Again’ and the ‘Apostate’: Unexpected Biographies of Conservative and Liberal Muslim Youths in Indonesia,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, 2010.

“Religion and Local Culture: Islam in Southeast Asia,” seminar at the Southeast Asian Muslims for Freedom and Enlightenment Conference, Philippines, 2009.

### **Academic talks**

“The Time I Met the Prophet Muhammad,” keynote lecture, Undergraduate Religious Studies Association Annual Symposium, Indiana University, 2019.

“Liberal Islam: Religious Play in Democratic Indonesia,” King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies and Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas, 2018.

“Improvisational Islam: Indonesian Youth in a Time of Possibility,” Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society, Indiana University, 2018.

“Accounting for the Soul: Religious Improvisation in Democratic Indonesia,” Southeast Asian Studies Council, Yale University, 2016.

“Accounting for the Soul: Religious Improvisation in Democratic Indonesia,” Department of Comparative Studies, The Ohio State University, 2016.

“Accounting for the Soul: Religious Improvisation in Democratic Indonesia,” Department of Anthropology, University of Cincinnati, 2016.

“On Reading: The Socialization of Liberal Muslims in Indonesia,” Comparative Muslim Societies Program, Cornell University, 2012.

“Islamic Education in Southeast Asia,” Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University, 2008.

“Conservative and Liberal Muslim Student Activism in Indonesia,” Institute for the Study of Religion and Philosophy, Indonesia, 2008.

### **Public talks**

“Improvisational Islam: Indonesian Youth in a Time of Possibility,” Wardah Books, Singapore, 2019.

“Gagalkah Demokrasi Melindungi Kelompok Marginal? (Has Democracy Failed to Protect Minorities?)” Public talk at Suara Kita, an LGBT non-governmental organization in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2018.

## **TEACHING**

### **Courses, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University**

Introduction to Islam (introductory undergraduate lecture, 90-120 students, course offered in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Islam (combined advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar, 10 students, course offered in 2018)

Religion and Media (combined advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar, 15 students, course offered in 2017)

Islam in America (intermediate undergraduate class, 40 students, course offered in 2016)

Islam and the Politics of Satire (advanced undergraduate seminar, 20 students, course offered in 2015)

The Politics and Cultures of Islamic Education (combined advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar, 15 students, course offered in 2014)

### **Courses, Department of International Studies, Indiana University**

Peace and Conflict (introductory undergraduate lecture, 60-90 students, course offered in 2017, 2018, 2019)

International Studies Capstone Seminar (advanced undergraduate seminar, 15 students, course offered in 2018)

Youth and Politics (advanced undergraduate seminar, 15 students, course offered in 2014, 2016)

Neoliberalism in Crisis (intermediate undergraduate class, 30 students, course offered in 2015, 2016, 2017)

Re-examining Islamic Fundamentalism (intermediate undergraduate class, 20 students, course offered in 2014)

**Member of PhD dissertation committee**

Maidah Khalid, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University

Dale Spicer, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University

Ayesha Butt, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University

Katherine Cierniak, School of Education, Indiana University. 2017. Education in Dhaka's Slums: Understanding the Complex Factors Influencing School-going Behavior.

**Member of MA thesis committee**

Caren Crossen, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University. 2015. Truth and Contradiction in Ibn Ishaq's *Sirat Rasul Allah*.

**Supervisor for undergraduate thesis (Department of Religious Studies)**

Sarah Biggs. 2018. Caffeinated Ethics: An Ethnography of Coffee Shops in Bloomington, IN.

**Mentor for capstone project (Department of International Studies)**

Mitchell Trachtenberg. 2018. Hezbollah in the Tri-border Region of South America.

Morgan Galang. 2017. The Rise of French Nationalism and Insecurity amidst Mass Immigration.

Brenna Lotka. 2017. Cultural and Religious Integration as a Tool in Tourism Promotion: A Case Study of the Mosque-Cathedral in Córdoba, Spain.

Aysha Ahmed. 2016. Where are the Good Muslims? An Analysis of the US "Countering Violent Extremism" Policy.

Jessica Albright. 2014. Female Suicide Bombers in Hamas.

**SERVICE**

**Peer reviewer**

Institute for Southeast Asian Studies Publishing (Singapore)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada)  
American Ethnologist  
Anthropological Quarterly  
Journal of Asian Studies  
Journal of Religious History  
Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute  
Visual Anthropology Review

**Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University**

Community and Engagement Committee, 2013-2014, 2016-2017  
Faculty secretary, 2014-2015, 2016-2017  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2014-2015, 2017-2018  
Salary and Review Committee, 2015-2016  
Faculty colloquium organizer, 2016-2017  
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2018-2019

**Department of International Studies, Indiana University**

International Communication and the Arts Taskforce, 2015-2016  
Graduate Affairs Committee, 2017-2018  
Executive Committee, 2018-2019

**School of Global and International Studies, Indiana University**

Organizer, Southeast Asian Film Series at IU Cinema, on behalf of the Southeast Asian and ASEAN Studies Program, 2014  
Organizer, Anti-Islamophobia Panel and Teach-ins, 2016  
Diversity Committee, 2016  
Diversity, Collaboration, and Inclusion Working Group, 2016-2017  
Faculty Research Grants Committee, 2018 to date  
Member of advisory board of *Muslim Voices*, Center for the Study of Global Change, 2018 to date

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Anthropological Association  
Society for Cultural Anthropology  
American Ethnological Society  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion  
Association for Asian Studies  
International Studies Association

## REFERENCES

Michael Gilsenan

David B. Kriser Professor of the Humanities, Departments of Anthropology and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University

[michael.gilsenan@nyu.edu](mailto:michael.gilsenan@nyu.edu)

Winnifred Sullivan

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[wfsulliv@indiana.edu](mailto:wfsulliv@indiana.edu)

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