

# Atalia Omer

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## Education

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA

**Ph.D.**, Study of Religion, November 2008

**Thesis:** *After Peace: How Does the Israeli Peace Camp Think about Religion, Nationalism and Justice?*

Dissertation Director: David Little.

Fields of General Exam (completed Spring 2005 with distinction): Theories & Methods in the Study of Religion, The Modern West, Religion & Society and Theories of Nationalism

**AM.**, Study of Religion, June 2004

**Harvard Divinity School**, Cambridge, MA

*MTS, 2002. Concentration: World Religions with a special emphasis on Judaism and Islam.*

**University of California Santa Barbara**

*BA, with highest honors, 2000. Islamic and Near Eastern Studies.*

**Santa Barbara City College**

*AA, with distinction, 1998. Major in Political Science.*

## Current Positions

Associate Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies (with tenure), (2014-present)

*University of Notre Dame (The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies & Sociology)*

Visiting Scholar, *Harvard Divinity School* (October 2018-May 2019)

Faculty Fellow, Groningen's Centre for Religion, Conflict, and Globalisation, Groningen, the Netherlands (since January 2019)

Co-Director, *Contending Modernities: Catholic, Muslim, Secular* (August 2015-present)

Faculty Affiliate and Founding Member of the Steering Committee, Ansari Institute for Global Engagement With Religion, University of Notre Dame (2018-ongoing)

Faculty Fellow, *The Center for the Study of Religion and Society*,  
*University of Notre Dame* (2008-present)

Concurrent Associate Professor - Leadership Seminars, *University of Notre Dame* (2015-present)

## **Prior Position:**

Associate Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies (Summer 2014), The University of Notre Dame at Tantur, Jerusalem

Assistant Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies (2008-2014)  
*University of Notre Dame (The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies & Sociology)*

## **Scholarship & Fellowships**

### **Harvard Divinity School**

Senior Fellow at the Religious Literacy Project (2018-2020)

**Carnegie Corporation of New York's Andrew Carnegie Fellowship** (2017)

### **The Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies**

Distinguished Fellowship (Fall 2011)

### **The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation**

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2007-8)

### **Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University**

Tuition and Stipends (2002-2008)

### **Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University**

Merit Fellowship for dissertation research (Fall 2006)

### **Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University**

Graduate Student Associate (2006-8)

### **Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University**

Summer Research Grant (2007, 2008)

### **The Center for the Study of World Religions in Harvard University**

Doctoral Studies Fellowship (2002-2004).

## **Distinctions, Honors, Awards**

### **Committee on the Study of Religion, Harvard University**

Comprehensive Exams (passed with distinction, 2005)

**Phi Beta Kappa** (2000)

**University of California, Santa Barbara**

Excellence in Arabic Language Studies (2000)

## **Professional Memberships**

### **The American Academy of Religion**

- Elected for the Religion & the Social Sciences Steering Committee (2013-2016)
- Serve on the Steering Committee of the *Religion, Social Conflict & Peace Group* (2009-2015)
- Co-chair, *The Religion, Social Conflict & Peace Group* (2015-present)
- Journal of the American Academy of Religion, editorial board (2013-present)

**The International Studies Association** (2008—present)

**American Political Science Association** (2014—present)

**The Association for the Sociology of Religion** (2010-present)

**The Association for the Study of Nationalism and Ethnicity** (2007-present)

## **Books and Monographs**

*Days of Awe: Reimagining Jewishness in Solidarity with Palestinians* (University of Chicago Press, 2019)

*When Peace is Not Enough: How the Israeli Peace Camp thinks about Religion, Nationalism, and Justice* (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2013)

Atalia Omer and Jason Springs, *Religious Nationalism: A Reference Handbook* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013)

Atalia Omer, R. Scott Appleby, and David Little of *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (Oxford University Press, 2015 and forthcoming in paperback)

Tom Bamat, Myla Leguro, Nell Bolton, and Atalia Omer eds. *Interreligious Action for Peace: Studies in Muslim-Christian Cooperation* (Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services, 2017)

*Global Religion, Peacebuilding and the Perils of Development: Beyond Neoliberalism and Orientalism* (in process).

Atalia Omer, ed. *Five Meditations of Race, Blood, and Religious Nationalism: Judeo-Christianity and the Theo-Politics of Modernity* (in progress)

Atalia Omer, ed. *Five Meditations on Religion, Pluralism, and Nation: Solidarity, Race, and Modernity* (in progress)

Atalia Omer, ed. *Five Meditations on Religion and Coloniality* (in progress)

## **Refereed Publications**

**“The Ambivalence of the Sacred beyond the Religion can Be Good Paradigm”** *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* (forthcoming).

**“Friends on the Margins”** *Journal of Religious Ethics* (2019) 47.1: 192-202.

**“Religion & Nationalism: Reassessing the Links”** *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (first published online 10 December 2018)

**“When ‘Good Religion’ Is Good,”** *Journal of Religious and Political Practice* (2018) 4:1, 122-136

**“Commenting on Transvaluation of ISIS and Inhibiting anti-Muslim Violence in Christian Majority Ethiopia”** by John Dulin *Current Anthropology* (2017): 785-804.

**“Tweet Your Cause: Cyber Witnessing and the Case of Palestine Solidarity,”** in Pamina Firchow, Martin-Shields, Atalia Omer, Roger Mac Ginty “PeaceTech: The Liminal Spaces of Digital Technology” *International Studies Perspectives* (February 2017), 18:1, 4-42.

**“Hitmazrehut or Becoming of the East: Re-Orienting Israeli Sociology,”** *Critical Sociology* (2017) 43 (6): 949-976.

**“Nationalism and the Comparative Study of Religious Ethics: Future Trajectories,”** *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 98:3, 2015: 322-353.

**“Modernist Despite Themselves? The Limits of Critique as an Instrument of Change,”** *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, (March 2015) 83.1: 27-71.

**“The Cry of the Forgotten Stones: A Palestinian Liberation Theology & the Limits of a Theology for the Oppressed as a Peacebuilding Method”** *Journal of Religious Ethics* (2015) 43.2: 369-407

**In the Critic vs. Caretaker Dichotomy A Magic Dwells: Parroting McCutcheon; Policing ‘Religion’ (A Rejoinder to Merinda Simmons)** *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* (2013) 25 (4-5): 382-402

**“Rejoinder: On Professor McCutcheon’s (Un)Critical-Caretaking,”** *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2012) 80 (4): 1083-1097

**“Religious Peacebuilding: The Exotic, the Good, and the Theatrical,”** *Practical Matters* 5 (2012)  
<http://practicalmattersjournal.org/issue/5/centerpieces/religious-peacebuilding>

Reprinted in Atalia Omer, R. Scott Appleby, and David Little, eds., *Oxford Handbook on Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

**“Rethinking ‘Home’ Abroad: Religion and the Reinterpretation of National Boundaries in the Indian and Jewish Diasporas in the U.S.,”** *The International Journal of Peace Studies* Spring/Summer 2011: Vol. 6, Number 1, pp. 23-51

**“Can a Critic Be a Caretaker too? Religion, Conflict, and Conflict Transformation,”** *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* June 2011 79 (2), pp. 459-496

**“It’s Nothing Personal’: The Globalization of Justice, the Transferability of Protest, and the Case of the Palestine Solidarity Movement,”** *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, Vol. 9, Issue 3, pp. 497-518, 2009

**“The Hermeneutics of Citizenship as a Peacebuilding Process: A Multiperspectival Approach to Justice,”** *Journal of Political Theology* Vol 11, No 5 (October 2010), pp. 650-673

**“Religion versus Peace: A False Dichotomy,”** *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* Vol 7, Issue 3 (December 2007), pp. 109-131

## **Other Publications**

*Chapters in edited volumes:*

**“Transgressive Geography: Jews of Color and the Modern Semiotics of Jewish Power”** in Atalia Omer, ed. *Five Meditation on Race, Blood, and Religious Nationalism: Judeo-Christianity and the Theo-Politics of Modernity* (in progress)

**Atalia Omer** and Ernesto Verdeja, **“Genocide”** *Revised and Expanded Blackwell Companion on Religious Ethics*, eds. William Schweiker, Maria Antonaccio, Elizabeth Bucar, and David Clairmont (forthcoming)

**“The Intersectional Turn: Theories and Practices for Understanding Religion & Peace”** *Blackwell Companion to Religion and Peace*, ed. Jolyon Mitchell (forthcoming)

**“Religion, Gender Justice, and Violence: Conflict and the Practices of Peace”** *The Routledge Handbook of Religions, Gender and Society* (under preparation)

**“Interreligious Action as a Driver for Social Cohesion and Development”** (Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services Press, 2017): 1-20.

**“Is Ferguson the Same as Gaza? Diaspora Grassroots Activism and Intersectional Alliances”** in Yasmin Sakia and Chad Haines, eds. *People’s Peace* (Syracuse University Press, forthcoming).

**“Toward a Polycentric Approach to Conflict Transformation”** in Sumner Twiss, and Rodney Petersen (eds.) *Religion and Public Policy: Human Rights, Conflict, and Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2015): 252-279

**“Religion, Nationalism, and Solidarity Activism”** in Atalia Omer, R. Scott Appleby, and David Little, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

**“Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: Synthetic Remarks”** in Atalia Omer, R. Scott Appleby, and David Little, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Co-authored with R. Scott Appleby and David Little, “**Preface**,” in Atalia Omer, Scott Appleby, and David Little, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

“**Conflict & Peacebuilding**” in eds. Vince Biondo and Richard Hecht, *Religion in the Practice of Daily Life* (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2010), 513-548.

*Selected for reprint in* Richard D. Hecht and Vincent F. Biondo, eds. *Religion and Culture: Contemporary Practices and Perspectives* (Minneapolis, Minn: Fortress, 2012), 3-28

“**A Background Analysis of the Sudanese Civil War**,” in eds. David Little and Donald Swearer, *Religion and Nationalism in Iraq: A Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006).

*Book Reviews & Blog Posts* (excluding blog posts for *Contending Modernities* listed below)

“Michael Brenner, *In Search of Israel: The History of an Idea*” *Reading Religion* June 1, 2018  
<http://readingreligion.org/books/search-israel>.

Contributed to Blog Symposium “**Circumscribing the Body Politic: Circumcision, Religious Freedom and Identity in Europe**” ed. Méadbh McIvor *The Religion Factor* March 29, 2018  
<https://religionfactor.net/2018/03/29/circumscribing-the-body-politic-circumcision-religious-freedom-and-identity-in-europe/>.

“**Praying with One’s Legs Again**,” *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere* (a Blog of the Social Science Research Council) posted 2 February 2018  
<https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/02/02/praying-with-ones-legs-again/>

“**David Novak, *Zionism and Judaism: A New Theory***: (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015)” *Journal of Religion* (January 2018), 98:1, 158-160.

“**Genevieve Zubrzycki, *Beheading the Saint: Nationalism, Religion, and Secularism in Quebec*** (Chicago University Press, 2016)” *American Journal of Sociology* 123.5 (March 2018)

“**Saba Mahmood, *Religious Difference in a Secular Age: A Minority Report*** (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016) *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 84(2): 580-584.

“**Sam Haselby, *The Origins of American Religious Nationalism***: (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015)” *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (forthcoming).

“**When I see them, I see us**”: Symbolisms, Analogies, and Cross-Movement Solidarity” in *Mobilizing Ideas* published on 2 November 2015 available here:  
<https://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2015/11/03/when-i-see-them-i-see-us-symbolisms-analogies-and-cross-movement-solidarity/>

**“Michael Walzer: *The Paradox of Liberation: Secular Revolutions and Religious Counterrevolutions*: (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015. Pp. xiv, 172.)”** *The Review of Politics* 77, no. 4: 705-708.

**“Bridge Across an Impossible Divide: The Inner Lives of Arab and Jewish Peacemakers by Marc Gopin.”** *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 82, no.3: 866-869 (2014).

**“Managing a ‘nightmare scenario’?: A Review of Ilan Peleg and Dov Waxman, *Israel’s Palestinians: The Conflict Within* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) in *Peace Review* vol. 26, issue 2: 287-294 (2014)**

**“A Review of Wendy Pearlman’s *Violence, Nonviolence, and the Palestinian National Movement*,”** *Peace and Change* vol.39, issue 2: 278-282 (April 2014)

**“A Review of Guy Ben-Porat’s *Between State and Synagogue: The Secularization of Contemporary Israel*,”** *American Journal of Sociology* vol.119, no.5 (March 2014)

**“A Review of Jon Pahl’s *Empire of Sacrifice: The Religious Origins of American Violence*,”** *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* October 2013: vol. 13, Issue 6 can be accessed here: <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Journal-of-Lutheran-Ethics/Issues/October-2013/Empire-of-Sacrifice.aspx>

**“Is ‘Docile Agency’ Good for Women?”** *Women, Religion and the Family*. Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University  
<http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/essays/is-docile-agency-good-for-women> (May 2014)

**“Settlement Construction and the Peace Process: Israel’s Political Landscape”** *The Ruritanian* (September 2013), 2-5

**“Religion and Nationalism: What’s The Link?”** *Religion and International Relations: A Primer for Research* (The Report of the Working Group on International Relations and Religion of the Mellon Initiative on Religion Across the Disciplines, University of Notre Dame, 2013), 111-132 (available online: [http://rmellon.nd.edu/assets/101872/religion\\_and\\_international\\_relations\\_report.pdf](http://rmellon.nd.edu/assets/101872/religion_and_international_relations_report.pdf)). The “Report” is also posted on *The Immanent Frame* and can be accessed here: <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2013/07/31/new-report-on-religion-and-international-relations/>

A Book Review of Yehouda Shenhav, ***The Arab Jews: A Postcolonial Reading of Nationalism, Religion, and Ethnicity***, *Nations and Nationalism* 13(4), 753-755 (October 2007).

**“When Gaza Is Burning, We Must Break the Silence”** *Huffington Post* (7/25/14), [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/atalia-omer/when-gaza-is-burning-we-m\\_b\\_5618843.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/atalia-omer/when-gaza-is-burning-we-m_b_5618843.html)

**“Criticizing Israeli Policies Is No Longer Taboo: What Now?”** *Huffington Post* (7/29/14), [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/atalia-omer/criticizing-israeli-polic\\_1\\_b\\_5627869.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/atalia-omer/criticizing-israeli-polic_1_b_5627869.html)

**Challenging the Israeli Narrative from Within,”** *Peace Policy* (September 29, 2014), <http://peacepolicy.nd.edu/2014/09/29/challenging-the-israeli-narrative-from-within/>

**“Is the Two-State Solution Dead?”** *Peace Policy* (February 2014), <http://peacepolicy.nd.edu/2014/01/22/is-the-two-state-solution-dead/>

**“Israel and the Making of U.S. Foreign Policy,”** *Peace Policy* (May 18, 2010) <http://peacepolicy.nd.edu/2010/05/18/israel-and-the-making-of-u-s-foreign-policy/>

**“Inter-disciplinarily and Multi-disciplinarily,”** *24 Peace Scholars: Conversations at the Intersection of Academia, New Media, and World Peace* <http://www.24peacescholars.net/> (November 1, 2012)

Co-authored with Jason A. Springs, **“Johan Galtung, Anti-Semitism, and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion: A Teachable Moment,”** *24 Peace Scholars: Conversations at the Intersection of Academia, New Media, and World Peace* <http://www.24peacescholars.net/?p=147> (May 23, 2012)

Co-authored with Gerard Powers, **“Religion, Conflict and Peace Processes: Curriculum Modules,”** *Religion in International Relations: Curriculum Project* Denver, Colorado (2010)

### **Invited Lectures & Addresses**

**“Decolonizing Peacebuilding; Decolonizing Religion: What’s the Link? Why does it Matter?”** a Keynote address UCSIA International Workshop on Peacebuilding, University of Antwerp, Belgium (December 2018)

**“Joy, Peace, and Disorder”** a paper prepared for a consultation with Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Yale Divinity School (September, 2018).

**“Jewish Moral and Political Imaginaries”**, a part of *Theology and Contingency: Morals, History, and Imagination* a three day module developed for *Madrassa Discourse, Contending Modernities* (Nepal, July 2018).

**“The Intersectional Turn: Theories and Practices for Studying Religion and Peace”** University of California, Irvine-International Relations Working Group, University of California, Irvine (May 30, 2018).

**“From Zion to New York City: Religion, Violence, and the Practice and Theory of Peacebuilding”** 2017 Chester Ronning Lecture on Religion and Diplomacy, University of Alberta, Canada (November 28, 2017)

**“Displacement, Identity, and Belonging”** *Reimagining Difference: Being, Thinking and Practicing Beyond Essentialism*, A Five Year Anniversary Conference at the Centre for Religion, Conflict and the Public Domain, University of Groningen, Netherland (13-15 September, 2017)

**“Religion, Peacebuilding & Development”** and **“Global Challenges/Opportunities: Religion, Peacebuilding and Development”** Advancing Interreligious Peacebuilding Learning Event (May 31-June 1, 2017) Catholic Relief Services, Sarajevo.



**“Re-Narrating Religion through Intersectional Social Justice Activism: Jewish-American Palestine Solidarity and the Transformation of American Judaism”** Ohio University’s Department of Classics and World Religions (March 9, 2017)

**“Religion and Conflict: A Graduate Student Symposium”** Florida State Religion Graduate Department (February 18, 2017)

**“Religion, Gender Norms, and Development Practice”** Pew Research Center as a part of U.S. State Department’s Religion and Diplomacy Conference, Washington, D.C., (September 27, 2016).

**“Refiguring Jewish American Identity through Palestine Solidarity,”** Naftulin Lecture, Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, University of California, Los Angeles (January 22, 2016)

**“Religion, Conflict, and the Practice of Peacebuilding,”** Clemson Humanities Road Scholars Lecture Series, Clemson University, (October 3, 2015)

**“Is Ferguson the Same as Gaza? Diaspora Grassroots Activism and Intersectional Alliances”** Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University’s conference on “People’s Peace,” (April 16-17, 2015).

**“A Response to Loren Lybarger’s ‘Time of Exile’”** Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago (April 28, 2015)

**“Refiguring American Jewish Identity through Solidarity with Palestinians: A Relational Approach to Religious Innovation,”** The Annual Greeley Lecture for Social Justice, Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University (September 16, 2014)

**“Jerusalem’s Future: Peace or Apocalypse?”** Saturday Scholar Series, University of Notre Dame (August 30, 2014)

**“Does Religion Cause Violence?”** A Football Fridays Series, University of Notre Dame (November 14, 2014)

**“Putting Gaza in Context”** Stanford University (September 30, 2014)

**“Religion, Nationalism, and Peace: Exploring Implications for Research in Comparative Religious Ethics”** Florida State University (Fall 2014)

**“Critical Caretaking: Reimagining Nationalism from the Margins”** Northwestern University (Spring 2014)

**“Re-imagining Religion, Nationalism, and Justice from the Israeli Margins”** Berman Center for Jewish Studies, Lehigh University (February 12, 2014)

**“Religion, Conflict, and Peace: The Cutting Edge of Research,”** Program of Peace and Justice Studies, Wellesley University (February 4, 2014)

**“Critical Caretaking: Rethinking Religion, Nationalism, Justice in the Case of Palestine/Israel,”** a public lecture and a seminar discussion with the Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (November 7, 2013)

**“When Peace Is Not Enough: How the Israeli Peace Camp Thinks about Religion, Nationalism, and Justice”** *Religion and Politics Seminar* co-chaired by Bryan Hehir, Nancy Rosenblum, Noah Feldman, and Ofrit Liviatan, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (April 22, 2013)

**“Religion & Nationalism from a Global Perspective” & “Religion & Nationalism: The Case of Israel”** *Global Issues Seminar*, University of Notre Dame (summer 2013, 2014)

**“Religion, Peacebuilding, and Relational Justice,”** *Moral Theology Colloquium*, University of Notre Dame (May 1, 2013)

**“Through Hybridity and Reframing: Peacebuilding as Boundary Transgressing,”** *Peace Building: The Civil Society Contribution* An International Symposium to jumpstart the Edinburgh Peace Initiative (University of Edinburgh Scotland, October 22, 2012)

**“Religion and Nationalism: What’s the Link?”** *Peace Research Education Colloquium*, The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, November 2012)

**“The Violent Edge of the Language of Religious Freedoms,”** a panelist for *Religious Freedoms, Modern Contexts: ISLA-Mellon Workshop* (University of Notre Dame, September, 2011)

**“Commentary on the Film *Little Town of Bethlehem*,”** a presentation following the screening of the film in (The Catholic University, Washington, D.C., September 2011)

**“Religion, Conflict, and Peace Processes,”** a presentation for *Religion in International Relations: Curriculum Project Denver, Colorado* (University of Denver, April, 2010)

**“The Hybrid Spaces of Jerusalem,”** a presentation for the *Butler Seminar on Religion and World Civilizations* (Butler University, February 2010)

**“Changing Boundaries: From Global Sites of Contestation to Local Conflict Transformation,”** a presentation for Conference on Religion, Ethics and Peace: Honoring the Career of Professor David Little, at *Harvard Divinity School* co-sponsored by Harvard Divinity School & the Kroc Institute (November 2009)

**“A Reflection on the Works of Nigel Biggar & Chris Eberle,”** a presentation for a “*War and Religion*” *Symposium at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies* (University of Notre Dame: September 2009)

**“Pedagogical Challenges in Peace Studies,”** a presentation for the Luce Foundation Project on Religion and International Affairs at the *Orfalea Center for Global & International Studies at the* (University of California Santa Barbara, May 2009)

**“The Mizrahi Rainbow: A Subaltern Critique of Zionist Peace from the Point of View of its Jewish Victims,”** a presentation to the *Colloquium for Faculty and Graduate Students* in the Department of Religion at ([Florida State University](#), February 2008).

**“Oslo and its Aftermath,”** a guest speaker for *Israel-Palestine*, a seminar taught by Meriam Belli, [MIT](#) (April 2007).

**“The Global Dimensions of Israeli Religiosity,”** a presentation given to the Religion & Globalization Forum at [Harvard Divinity School](#), chair Prof Harvey Cox (February, 2006).

**“The Study of ‘Religion in Conflict’ in Middle Eastern Studies,”** a presentation given to the Religion Colloquium at [Harvard University](#), (March 2005).

Responded to **Dr. Sari Nusseibeh’s** Presentation titled “Resolving the Conflict: A Remedy for the Civilizational Clash,” The [Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions](#) luncheon seminar series “Religion in Politics: Complexity and Conflict,” (March 2005).

### **Grants and Sponsored Programs**

**Andrew Carnegie Fellowship** to conduct research in the intersections of religion, peacebuilding, and development in Mindanao, the Philippines and Malindi, Kenya (2017-2019)

**Kroc Faculty Grant** to conduct research in Israel and Palestine with social movement actors working on Mizrahi-Palestinian Intersectionality Summer 2017)

**The University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts’ Small Research and Creative Work Grant** to conduct ethnographic research accompanying a global Jewish solidarity trip to the West Bank for the book manuscript *From Zion to New York City: Refiguring Jewish-American Ethics and Identity through Solidarity with Palestinians* (Summer 2017)

**Keough School of Global Affairs’ Sustainable Development Goal 16 Working Group’s Grant** for “Religion, Gender, and the Practice of Peacebuilding and Development” (2016-2017)

**Notre Dame Global Collaboration Initiative (Co-PI)** in “Academic and Community Partnerships for the Development of a Comprehensive Social-Ecological View of Political Violence in Israel and Palestine.” (2014-2015)

**Kroc Faculty Research Grant** to conduct interviews with Palestine solidarity activists (2013-2014)

**Participant** in a working group (co-directed by Charles Mathew and Paul Jones, University of Virginia) **“Religion and Its Publics”** funded by the Luce Foundation (2016-2018)

**Senior Fellow**, Religion and its Publics Project (Luce funded project based in the University of Virginia)

**Participant** in a working group (co-chaired by Daniel Philpott and Michael C. Desch) on “**Religion and International Relations**,” as part of the Mellon/Notre Dame Project on Religion across the Disciplines (2010-2012)

**A Member of the Steering Committee**, *Contending Modernities: Catholic, Muslim, Secular*. The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame (2009-2014).

**Participant** in “**Religion in Global Civil Society: A Networking Workshop**,” at the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara (May 2, 2009). Sponsored by the Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs.

### **Other Notable Contributions:**

#### *Contending Modernities (CM)*

##### Conferences

Co-convener, **Reexamining Religion, Modernity/ies, and Trans-Modernity in the “Populist” Moment** (a launch of the CM’s Theory in the Study of Religion Working Group) June 5-6, 2018, Chicago & March 16<sup>th</sup>, University of Notre Dame.

Co-convener, **Changing the Conversation about Religion**: International Conference Series:

“Making Democracy One’s Own: Muslim, Catholic and Secular Perspectives in Dialogue on Democracy, Development, and Peace” (May 30-June 1, 2016 in Rome, Italy):

Respondent to Jan-Werner Müller’s keynote address “Don’t Call it Illiberal Democracy”  
Chair, “Human Development and Interreligious Engagement”  
Synthetic Remarks, “Lessons Learned—What Have We Heard?”

“Partnerships for Global Development” (November 12-13, London UK):

Chair, “Obstacles to Sustainable development”

Panelist (public session at The Gladstone Library), “What Have We Learned?”

Co-convener, **Workshop for Contending Modernities’ Authority, Community, and Identity Working Group in Indonesia**

“Beyond Co-Existence in Plural Societies” (The State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta 10-11 July 2017)

Co-convener, **A Contending Modernities Plenary Conference**

“Authorizing the Human Person in a Cosmopolitan Age: Science, Society and Identity” (June 3-6, 2015 in Rome, Italy):

Chair & Respondent, Sarah Coakley's Keynote Address "What Hope for an Evolutionary Ethics of Virtue?"

Respondent, "The Public Ethics of Deep Pluralism" (presentations by Meyda Yegenoglu & Tariq Modood)

Blog Posts for CM

**"Modernity as Theater of the Absurd"** *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 18 March, 2018  
<https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/global-currents/modernity-theater/>

**"The Hybridities of Hijabi Barbie: A CM Book Symposium on 'Brand Islam'"** *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 2 March 2017 <http://sites.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2017/03/02/the-hybridities-of-hijabi-barbie-a-cm-book-symposium-on-brand-islam/>

**"Promoting Interreligious Tolerance in Upper Egypt"** *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 14 October 2016  
<https://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/10/14/promoting-interreligious-tolerance-in-upper-egypt/>

**"United for Girls' Rights: A Reflection"** *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 6 October 2016  
<https://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/10/06/united-for-girls-rights-a-reflection/>

**"Bridging Ethnoreligious Divides in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Choosing Peace Together through Interreligious Action for Conflict Transformation"** *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 3 October 2016  
<https://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/10/03/bridging-ethnoreligious-divides-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina-choosing-peace-together-through-interreligious-action-for-conflict-transformation/>

**"Inter-Religious Action in Central Mindanao: Applying Binding, Bonding, and Bridging (A3B) to Land Conflict"** *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 19 September 2016  
<http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/09/19/inter-religious-action-in-central-mindanao-applying-binding-bonding-and-bridging-a3b-to-land-conflict/>

**"Authorizing the Human Person in a Cosmopolitan Age: A Thematic Synthesis"** *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 27 July 2016 available here: <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/07/27/cm-rome-2015-synthesis/>

**"A Response to Jan-Werner Müller"** 29 June 2016 in *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 27 June 2016 available here: <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/06/29/atalia-omer-a-response-to-jan-werner-muller/>

**“From London to Rome: Changing the Conversation about Religion”** in *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 27 June 2016 available here: <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/06/27/from-london-to-rome-changing-the-conversation-about-religion/>

**“Religious Humanitarians and the Challenges of History”** in *Contending Modernities: A Blog About Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Interaction in the Modern World* 6 May 2016 available here: <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2016/05/06/religious-humanitarians-and-the-challenges-of-history/>

**“The Two Others,”** *Contending Modernities Blog* (March, 2013)  
<http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2013/03/05/the-two-others/>

### *Conference presentations*

**“Scott Appleby’s Legacy in the Study of Religion, Violence, and the Practices of Peacebuilding”** Distinguished Scholar Roundtable Honoring the Work of R. Scott Appleby *The Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association* (Toronto, March 27, 2019).

**“Interreligious Dialogue of Action and the Reduction of Child Marriage in the Coastal Regions of Kenya: Moving Beyond the ‘soft power’ approach?”** The International Development and Religion Unit in the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion* (Denver, November 2018).

**“Roundtable on Moral Obligations, Prophetic Actions, and Search for Solidarity from Historical, Transnational, and Global Perspectives: The Cases of South Africa, Palestine, and Israel”** in the *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion* (Denver, November 2018).

**“Roundtable Session on Richard B. Miller’s *Friends and Other Strangers* (Columbia University Press, 2016),”** *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion* (Boston, MA, 2017).

**“Borders and Biopolitics: Intersectional Bodies and the Globalizing of Nation,”** a plenary panel *Intersectional Inquiries and Collaborative Action: Gender and Race Conference* (University of Notre Dame, March 2017).

**“Refugee-hood and the Intersections between Religious and National Identities,”** a plenary panel sponsored by the Committee for the Public Understanding of Religion, *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion* (San Antonio, TX, November 2016).

**“Religion and Narrative change in World Politics,”** Presidential Theme Roundtable “Theorizing Big Changes in World Politics: War, Environment, Human Rights, and Power” *Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association* (Baltimore, March 2017)

**“Religion and the Subversion of National Boundaries in Israel and Pakistan,”** *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association* (Philadelphia, September 2016)

**“Is Peace Ashkenazi?”** a roundtable, *Associating for Israel Studies Annual Meeting* (Jerusalem, Israel/Palestine, June 2016)

**“The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding edited by Atalia Omer, Scott Appleby, and David Little: A Book Panel”** *Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association* (March 2016)

**“The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding edited by Atalia Omer, Scott Appleby, and David Little: A Book Panel”** *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion* (November 2015)

**“How the Israeli Peace Camp Thinks About Religion, Nationalism, and Justice: Roundtable Debate of Atalia Omer’s *When Peace Is Not Enough*”** *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion* (November 2015)

**“Beyond Freedom and Violence: Interpretative Methods in the Study of Religion and Politics,”** *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association* (San-Francisco, September, 2015)

**“Re-imagining Jerusalem in the Palestinian and Jewish Diasporas in the United States: Jerusalem in Narratives of Conflict, Displacement, and (Re)Placement,”** *Imagining Jerusalem, c. 1099 to the Present Day* (King’s College London, November, 2014)

**“Imagining ‘Home’ abroad: Tibet and Palestine Solidarity Activism in Chicago,”** *Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association* (Toronto, March, 2014)

**“Imagining and Reimagining Palestine in Chicago: The Rhetoric of ‘No Place’ and the Contested Role of Diaspora and Solidarity Activism in Conflict and Peacebuilding,”** *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion* (November, 2013)

**“Modernists Despite Themselves?”** *Impact of Religion: Challenges for Society, Law and Democracy*, international conference *Uppsala Religion and Society Research Centre* (Uppsala Universitet, May 20, 2013)

**“Diffusing the Goods: Between Minority Protection and Neo-Imperialism,”** *International Studies Association Annual Convention* (April, 2013)

**“The Arab Spring, Palestine, and Metaphorical Diffusion,”** *International Studies Association Annual Convention* (April, 2013)

**“The Discourse of Religious Freedoms, the Making of American Foreign Policy, and the Limits of Critique,”** *Association for the Study of Religion* (August, 2012)

**“Glocal Peacebuilding: Contesting Ethnoreligious Conception of “Home” Abroad,”** a presentation for *The Second Emory Conference on Religion, Conflict, & Peacebuilding* (June 2011).

**“Religion and the Reinterpretation of National Boundaries,”** *International Studies Association Annual Convention*, (March 2011)

**“Thinking Outside the Box: Theorizing as a Peacebuilding Practice,”** *International Studies Association* (February 2010)

**“Knowledge-Production and Re-Production: Scholarship, Policy-Making & The Think-Tanks Industry,”** *International Studies Association* (February 2010)

**“The Glocalization of Justice and the Transferability of Protest,”** a presentation for the Annual Conference of the *Association for the Study of Nationalism and Ethnicity* at the London School of Economics (March 2009)

**“It’s Nothing Personal’: The Globalization of Justice, the Transferability of Protest, and the Case of the Palestine Solidarity Movement,”** a presentation for Globalization, Peacebuilding and Social Movements Workshop at the *Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies* (University of Notre Dame, October 2009)

**“Religious Studies and the Study of Religion and Peacebuilding,”** a presentation for the Religion, Social Conflicts and Peace Group, *American Academy of Religion*, Chicago (November 2008)

**“Religion and Peacebuilding: Expanding the Conversation,”** a presentation for the *Peace and Justice Studies Association*, Oregon (September 2008)

**“Religion, Liberalism and the Question of Peace in Israel,”** a presentation given at The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the *Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism* London School of Economics (April, 2007).

**“Post-Zionist Judaism: The Religious Peace Camp and the Hermeneutics of Israeli Citizenship,”** a presentation to *Beyond the Nation? Critical Reflections on Nations and Nationalism in Uncertain Times* sponsored by Queen’s University Belfast’s School of Politics, International Studies & Philosophy (September 2007).

### *Discussant/Panelist/Chair Role*

**Convener & Presider**, “Interrogating the Christchurch Shooting: How Global Racism, Islamophobia, and White Supremacy Manifested in New Zealand” (University of Notre Dame, April 16, 2019), access here: <https://kroc.nd.edu/news-events/events/2019/04/16/interrogating-the-christchurch-shooting-how-global-racism-islamophobia-and-white-supremacy-manifested-in-new-zealand/>

**Discussant**, “Racism, Xenophobia and the Rise of the Far Right at Home and Abroad: Navigating the Call of Justice” (University of Notre Dame, Nov 27, 2018), access here: <https://kroc.nd.edu/news-events/events/2018/11/27/racism-violence-and-xenophobia-confronting-the-rise-of-far-right-populism-at-home-and-abroad/>

**Presider & Discussant**, “Forced Migration: How Religion Causes and Eases Displacement”, Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion, Launch (University of Notre Dame, October 26, 2018)



**President**, “Authorizing Peaceful Coexistence: Domestic and Global Challenges,” A Contending Modernities Conference, The State Islamic University/ Syarif Hidayatullah (Jakarta, Indonesia 10 July 2017)

**President**, “What Hope for an Evolutionary Ethics of Virtue? Cooperation, Altruism and the Future of Theological Ethics: A keynote address by Sarah Coakley,” A Contending Modernities Plenary Conference, Notre Dame Global Gateway (Rome, June, 2015)

**Discussant**, a panel titled “The Public Ethics of Deep Pluralism: featuring Tariq Modood and Meyda Yegenoglu, A Contending Modernities Plenary Conference, Notre Dame Global Gateway (Rome, June, 2015)

**President**, “*Assessment and Future Trajectories in the Study of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: A Panel Discussion of the Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding eds., Atalia Omer, Scott Appleby, David Little,*” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (November, 2015)

**Panelist**, *Ask Me about Peace Studies! An Interactive Conversation with Faculty in Peace Studies*, University of Notre Dame (November 11, 2014).

**Panelist**, *Understanding Gaza*, University of Notre Dame (August 28, 2014).

**Panelist**, “Is Peace Studies My Field Too?” *Kroc Institute’s Summer Institute Teaching Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Summer 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014)

**Panelist**, *Religion as a Driver of Violence and/or Source for Peace” Kroc Institute’s Summer Institute Teaching Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Summer 2017)

**Panelist**, “Syllabus for Introduction to Peace Studies,” *Kroc Institute’s Summer Institute Teaching Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Summer, 2014 & 2015)

**Discussant**, a panel titled “Peace, Morality and International Studies: Research and Teaching in a University Setting,” *Notre Dame and BYU: Leading the Way in Ethics Education*, University of Notre Dame (Nov 21, 2013)

**Discussant**, *Music, Literature, and Peacebuilding Workshop*, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame (April 19, 2013)

**“Introduction and Discussion of Five Broken Cameras: A Film co-directed by Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi,”** *ScreenPeace Film Festival 2013*, The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies & the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, University of Notre Dame (January 31, 2013)

**“Introduction to and chairing of a Panel,”** *The ethical, Strategic & Legal Implications of Drone Warfare*, (Notre Dame Chicago Commons, March 19-21, 2013).

**“Introduction to and chairing of a Panel,”** *Democratic Revolution in the Middle East* (University of Notre Dame, February, 2011)

**“Introduction to and chairing of a Panel,”** *Transitions to Democracy & the Arab Spring: Does Latin America Hold Lessons for the Middle East?* (University of Notre Dame, October, 2011)

**“Introduction to and chairing of a Panel,”** A Discussion of Daniel Philpott’s *Just and Unjust Peace: An Ethic of Political Reconciliation* (University of Notre Dame, October, 2012)

**“A Response,”** moderated and responded to *Human Rights and Human Identities: A Panel, Global Governance and the Future of Strategic Peacebuilding: A Conference in Honor of Robert C. Johansen* (University of Notre Dame, April, 2012)

**“Panelist,”** *Wait A Second: Am I in Peace Studies Too? Teaching Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Annual Summer Institute for Faculty* University of Notre Dame, (2015, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010)

### *Media & Policy*

Interviewed on Here & Now on how to make sense of the pattern of targeting of places of worship April 29, 2019 <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/04/29/california-synagogue-shooting>

Harry Bruinius, “On College Campuses, a question of what constitutes anti-Semitism” *The Christian Science Monitor* October 11, 2018 <https://www.csmonitor.com/EqualEd/2018/1011/On-college-campuses-a-question-of-what-constitutes-anti-Semitism>

Served on Sub-committee on Religion, Women, and Peacebuilding for the U.S. State Department (Summer and Fall 2016)

Shaul Magid, “Exploring the Crack in Liberalism in Israel/Palestine: Reading Atalia Omer’s When Peace is Not Enough After Bernie Sanders” in *Tikkun* 23 June 2016  
<http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/exploring-the-crack-in-liberalism-in-israelpalestine-reading-atalia-omers-when-peace-is-not-enough-after-bernie-sanders-3>

A radio conversation, *Vantage Point with Agustin Fuentes* (October 14, 2014)

Interview with Jonathan Beasley, “For Peace’s Sake,” *Harvard Gazette* (September 16, 2014),  
<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2014/09/for-peaces-sake/>

Interview by Kevin Clarke, “Looking for Hope as Violence in Gaza Continues” *America: The National Catholic* (August 2, 2014). Can be accessed here: <http://americamagazine.org/content/all-things/looking-hope-violence-gaza-continues>

Interview by Grant Osborn, *Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies Quarterly* Fall 2013. Can be accessed here: [www.nd.edu/~gosborn/NDIAS-Quarterly\\_Fall-2013/](http://www.nd.edu/~gosborn/NDIAS-Quarterly_Fall-2013/).

“The Academic Minute” *WAMC Northeast Radio* (Albany, NY) (October 24, 2013). Can be accessed here: <http://wamc.org/post/dr-atalia-omer-notre-dame-israeli-and-palestinian-identity>

Interview on “The Stream” a TV program of Al-Jazeera America,  
. <http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/the-stream/the-latest/2013/9/30/searching-for-israelipalestinianpeace.html> (October 1st, 2013)

Radio Interview about *When Peace Is Not Enough* on *Middle East in Focus* on KPFK, Los Angeles (July 21, 2013)

“Israel and Palestine: One State or Two?” by Rebecca Burns, *In These Times* (February 5, 2013)  
[http://ourwww.inthesetimes.com/article/14447/israel\\_and\\_palestine\\_one\\_state\\_or\\_two](http://ourwww.inthesetimes.com/article/14447/israel_and_palestine_one_state_or_two)

“Experience Michiana,” *WNIT Public Television* (January 28, 2013)  
<http://www.wnit.org/expmichiana/e/january-28th-2013.html>

“U.S. Weapons Used in Gaza: Israel Gets a Hefty Chunk of Military Aid from the U.S.” by Tom Roberts, *National Catholic Reporter* (January 16, 2009)

“Thoughts on U.S. Involvement in Middle East,” *WNDU* (January 6, 2009)  
<http://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/37172629.html>

### *Editorial Boards & Consulting*

*Journal of Religious Ethics* (2018-2024)

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2013-2019)

*Journal of Religion, Conflict, and Peace* (2011-2014)

*Journal of the Sociology of Religion* (2011-2014)

*Catholic Relief Service* (consultant for Learning Event in Bosnia, 2017)

*Jesuit Refugee Service* (Serve on Advisory Committee to review JRS’ mission, values, capacity-building tools, and programs from an interfaith perspective)

*Alliance for Peacebuilding* (Consulted as part of a 2016 Conference in Istanbul focusing on developing a Guide for Effective Inter-Religious Action in Peacebuilding)

*International Studies Association, Rel & International Relation Unit*, Committee for the selection of best graduate student paper.

### *Selected Courses*

Introduction to Peace Studies

Jerusalem: Peace or Apocalypse?

Religion, Nationalism, and Peace

Religion in International and Global Relations

Religion and Violence

Religion & the Practice of Peace

Religion in Global and International Contexts: Theories & Methods in the Study of Religion

Religion, Gender, and Development

A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict