

**KAYLA RENÉE WHEELER, PH.D.**

BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
 AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM  
 138 MOUNTFORT ST.  
 BROOKLINE, MA 02246  
 krw18@bu.edu

**EDUCATION**

---

- Ph.D., Religious Studies** 2017  
 University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA  
 “How YouTube Made the Hijab Cool: Race, Gender and Authority in the American Ummah”  
 Supervisors: Dr. Richard Turner and Dr. Kristy Nabhan-Warren
- Masters of Arts, Religious Studies** 2016  
 University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- Masters of Arts, Islam and the West, with Merit** 2012  
 Queen Mary, University of London-School of History, London, UK
- Masters of Arts, Bioethics** 2011  
 Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, OH
- Bachelor of Arts, Religious Studies and Political Science, with Honors, cum laude** 2011  
 Elected to Mortar Board National Senior Honors Society  
 Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

---

- Visiting Scholar 2017-  
 African-American Studies Program, Boston University

**PUBLICATIONS**

---

**Articles and Book Chapters**

“The Ethics of Conducting Virtual Ethnography on Visual Platforms”, *Fieldwork in Religion* 12/2 (2017), pp. 163-178.

“In God’s Favor: Prosperity Theology in the 21st Century” in *Black Culture and Experience: Contemporary Issues*, eds. Venise Berry, Anita Fleming-Rife, and ayo dayo (New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2015).

“Women in Religion: Does Gender Matter?” in *Controversies in Contemporary Religion: Public and Ethical Controversies*, Volume 2, ed. Paul Hedges (Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2014).

“Remixing Images of Islam: The Creation of New Muslim Women Subjectivities on YouTube,” *Heidelberg Journal of Religions on the Internet* 6 (2014).

### **Review Essays**

Review of *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States*, by Su’ad Abdul Khabeer. *Practical Matters Journal* (forthcoming).

Review of *In the House of the Serpent Handler: A Story of Faith and Fleeting Fame in the Age of Social Media*, by Julia C. Duin. *Reading Religion* (forthcoming).

Review of *The Promise of Patriarchy: Women in the Nation of Islam*, by Ula Yvette Taylor. *The Black Scholar: Journal of Black Studies and Research* (forthcoming).

### **Online Writing**

“It’s Been Cool to Cover: Why Ayana Ife Matters,” *Sapelo Square*, 21 November 2017, <https://sapelosquare.com/2017/11/21/its-been-cool-to-cover-why-ayana-ife-matters>. (Most popular Sapelo Square post on Facebook in 2017)

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

“All Muslims are Brown; All Blacks are Christian: Hegemonic Islam and the Erasure of African-American Muslims,” in preparation for submission to *Religion Compass*

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

---

“Mapping Malcolm’s Boston: Exploring the City that Made Malcolm X,” *Mizan*, [mizanproject.org/mapping-malcolms-boston](http://mizanproject.org/mapping-malcolms-boston).

#BlackIslamSyllabus, 2015, [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1avhgPrW30AFjeggzV9X5aPqkZUA3uGd0-BZr9\\_zhArtQ](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1avhgPrW30AFjeggzV9X5aPqkZUA3uGd0-BZr9_zhArtQ).

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

---

Ithaca College Dissertation Diversity Fellowship	2016-2017
--	-----------

University of Iowa Dean’s Graduate Research Fellowship	2012-2017
--	-----------

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

Barbara E. and Rex W. Montgomery Award, University of Iowa	2017
Center for Diversity and Enrichment Student Leadership Award, University of Iowa	2016
President and Mrs. Eugene Gilmore Award for Visual Arts, University of Iowa	2015
African-American Studies Leadership Award, University of Iowa	2015
Adah Johnson/Otilia Maria Fernandez Scholarship, University of Iowa	2015
Rev. Louis P. Penningroth Scholarship Award, University of Iowa	2014
Strategic Initiative Fund Scholarship, University of Iowa	2014

## INVITED TALKS

---

Reporting Religion Workshop Northeastern University, Boston, MA	March 2018
“African-American Muslim Identity” (panelist) Diaspora Night, Tufts University, Medford, MA	2018
“The History of Islam in the Americas” Cornell University, Ithaca, NY	2017
“Black Muslim Identity” Islam Awareness Week, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY	2017
<i>Selma</i> Movie Discussion (moderator) FilmScene, Iowa City, IA	2015
<i>Dear White People</i> Movie Discussion (panelist) FilmScene, Iowa City, IA	2014

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

### Presider

“Religious Entrepreneurs of Alternative Media” 2017  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

### Respondent

“The Life and Work of Fatema Mernissi: Discussions on Islamic Feminism and Muslim Women’s Activism” (panel organizer) 2016  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX

### Presenter

“‘Eating the Other’: Islam, Multicultural Fashion Marketing, and the Erasure of Blackness” (invited) April 2018  
Racism, Racialization & African American Islam in Americas Conference, George Mason University

“Fashioning Muslim Women: YouTube as a Space for Creating Alternative Femininities and Knowledges” 2017  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

“Embedded and Embodied: The Ethics of Virtual Ethnography” 2016  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX

“‘That’s Not Islam’: YouTube as a Site for Alternative Representations of Muslim Women” 2015  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA

“‘Drake’s the Type of Guy’: Disrupting Normative Black Masculinity within Drake’s Music” 2015  
Popular Cultural Association National Conference, New Orleans, LA

“No More Lye(s): The Natural Hair Movement as a Counterpublic” 2014  
African American Studies Colloquium, Iowa City, IA

“Who Speaks for Islam: Policing Muslim Women’s Voices on YouTube” 2014  
James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference, Iowa City, IA

“Reconstructing the Image of Muslim Women through YouTube” 2013  
American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada

“How English-speaking Western Muslims are Using YouTube to Share Religion and Culture” 2013  
Crossing Borders Annual Conference, Iowa City, IA

**CAMPUS TALKS**

---

“Islamophobia: A Dangerous Fear” Diversity and Inclusion Circle, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY	2017
“Teaching in a not-so Diverse Classroom” (panelist) Center for Teaching, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	2014
“Preparing for Graduate School” (panelist) Office of Graduate Inclusion, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	2014
“Conducting Virtual Office Hours” Department of Religious Studies Colloquium, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	2013

**TEACHING**

---

<b>Ithaca College</b> , Diversity Scholar Gender and Sexuality in Islam Black Lives Matter: Religion and Justice	Spring 2017 Fall 2016
<b>University of Iowa</b> , Graduate Instructor Race, Religion, and Rap	Spring 2015
<b>University of Iowa</b> , Teaching Assistant Religion in America Today	Spring 2014, Fall 2014

**SERVICE TO THE FIELD**

---

Methods and Theory Section Co-Editor <i>Religion Compass</i>	2018-
Steering Committee Member, Religion and Media Workshop, AAR Pre-Conference American Academy of Religion	2018-
Steering Committee Member, Contemporary Islam Unit American Academy of Religion	2017-
Steering Committee Member, Religion, Media, and Culture Unit American Academy of Religion	2016-
Student Advisory Committee Member, Religion and Social Sciences Section American Academy of Religion	2015-2016

## **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY**

---

### **Ithaca College**

Workshop Facilitator, Ithaca College Emerging Scholars Program	2017
Founder and Facilitator, Ithaca College Muslim Student Discussion Group	2016-2017

### **University of Iowa**

Member, University of Iowa Graduate Inclusion Student Advisory Committee	2014-2015
--	-----------

## **SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT**

---

### **University of Iowa**

Founder and Coordinator, Department of Religious Studies Reading Group	2013-2015
--	-----------

## **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

---

### **University of Iowa**

Social Media Coordinator, Religion Graduate Student Organization	2014-2015
Co-coordinator, Religion Graduate Student Organization	2014
Co-president, Society of Black Graduate and Professional Students	2013-2015
Faculty Liaison, Religion Graduate Student Organization	2013
Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Religion Graduate Student Organization	2012

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

---

African and Diasporic Religious Studies Association

African American Intellectual History Society

American Academy of Religion