

CURRICULUM VITAE

RAJA ABILLAMA

EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D. Anthropology. City University of New York Graduate Center
2001 M.Sc. Social Anthropology. London School of Economics and Political Science
1998 B.Arch. Architecture. American University of Beirut

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Under review. "The Love that Muslim have for Mary": Secularism and the Coexistence of Muslims and Christians in Lebanon. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*.
2018 Contesting Secularism: Civil Marriage and Those Who Do Not Belong to a Religious Community in Lebanon. *PoLAR*, 41: 148-162. doi:[10.1111/plar.12259](https://doi.org/10.1111/plar.12259)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2013 "The Sectarian" as a Category of Secular Power: Sectarian Tensions and Judicial Authority in Lebanon. In *War and Peace: Essays on Religion and Violence*. Bryan S. Turner, ed. London, New York, and Delhi: Anthem Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2019 Everyday Sectarianism in Urban Lebanon: Infrastructures, Public Services, and Power, *Princeton Studies in Culture and Technology* by Joanne Randa Nucho. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 51(4): 637-640. doi:10.1017/S0020743819000746
2006 Civil and Uncivil Violence in Lebanon: a History of the Internationalization of Communal Conflict by Samir Khalaf. *Arab Studies Journal* 14(2): 173.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2019-present Assistant Professor. Department of Sociology. Boğaziçi University. Istanbul
2013-2019 Lecturer. International Studies Program and Department of Sociology and Anthropology. North Carolina State University
2012-2013 Postdoctoral Fellow. Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
2009-2012 Adjunct Lecturer. Department of Sociology and Anthropology. City University of New York. College of Staten Island
2009-2012 Adjunct Lecturer. Division of Liberal Arts. New York School of Interior Design
2008 Adjunct Lecturer. Department of Sociology and Anthropology. City University of New York. City College
2003-2006 Adjunct Lecturer. Division of Liberal Arts. New York School of Interior Design
2003-2006 Adjunct Lecturer. Department of Anthropology. City University of New York. Hunter College
2003 Adjunct Lecturer. Department of Anthropology. City University of New York. Lehman College
2000-2002 Assistant Instructor. Department of Architecture and Design. American University of Beirut. Lebanon

1998-1999 Junior architect. Mallat Architects. Lebanon

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2016 SummerTravel Grant. Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. North Carolina State University
- 2015 SummerTravel Grant. Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. NCSU
- 2012 Levant Postdoctoral Fellowship. Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Georgetown University
- 2011 Mellon Doctoral Fellowship. Committee for the Study of Religion. City University of New York Graduate Center
- 2008 Mellon Dissertation Writing Fellowship. City University of New York Graduate Center
- 2007 Graduate Writing Fellowship. City University of New York Graduate Center
- 2006 Eric R. Wolf Field Research Grant. City University of New York Graduate Center
- 2006 Presidential Field Research Grant. City University of New York. Graduate Center
- 2003 Graduate Teaching Fellowship. City University of New York. Graduate Center (until 2006)
- 1998 Areen Award for Architectural Excellence. American University of Beirut

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 Sabancı University, Istanbul. What Does Secular Ecumenism Look Like?
- 2013 The Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Georgetown University. The Passions of Civil Marriage in Lebanon
- 2012 Middle Eastern and Middle Eastern American Center. City University of New York. Graduate Center. The Marital State
- 2011 The Mellon Interdisciplinary Committees in the Humanities and the Humanistic Social Sciences. The Committee for the Study of Religion. CUNY Graduate Center. Paradox of Sovereignty: Religion, Religious Confessions, and the State in Lebanon
- 2010 Workshop on the Politics of Conversion. CUNY Graduate Center. Procedural Conversion: Regulatory Power, Free Will, and the Making of Sincerely Religious Citizens in Lebanon

CONFERENCES

- 2019 Talk at Istanbul Policy Center, Sabancı University, Istanbul. The Protests in Lebanon: Perspectives on Context, Dynamics and Future (co-organizer)
- 2015 Encoding Secularism: The Genetic Sources of Religious Identity in Lebanon. Paper presented on the panel, Magic, Science, Religion ... and Secularism: Articulating Science Studies and Critical Studies of Secularism (co-organizer). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO. November 18-22
- 2014 The State of Conversion: Personhood, Religion, and Law in Lebanon. Paper presented on the panel: Right and Responsibility among Collective and Corporate Persons. American Anthropological Association Meeting, Washington D.C., December 3-7
- 2013 The Grammar of Marriage: An Anthropological Answer to the Question, "Where is the State?" Paper presented on the panel: Where is the State? The Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans. October 10-13

- 2011 Is the Body of a (Maronite, Eastern) Catholic, a Secular Body? Paper presented on the panel: Formations of the Secular Body (co-organizer). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal. November 16-20
- 2009 The End(s) of Sectarianism: Anthropological Reflections on the Category ‘Sect.’ American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2009 Articulating Secularism: Religion, Affect and Citizenship in Lebanon. Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting
- 2007 Religious Sensibility and Secular Sovereignty: The Order of Personal Status in Lebanon. The American Association of Religion Annual Meeting

COURSES TAUGHT

GRADUATE

Political Sociology: Thinking about Secularism
 Introduction to the Anthropology of Secularism: “Seeing” the Arab World
 Graduate Seminar in the Sociology of the Physical Environment

UNDERGRADUATE

Issues in Contemporary Anthropology
 History of Anthropological Thought
 Class and State in the Middle East
 Cultural Anthropology
 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
 Fieldwork Methods in Cultural Anthropology
 Political and Legal Anthropology
 Anthropology of Religion
 Advanced Seminar in International Studies
 Introduction to International Studies
 International Studies Seminar
 The Community
 Native American Societies
 Introduction to Sociology

ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

2020 M.A. Admissions Committee. Department of Sociology. Boğaziçi University
 2019-present Academic Adviser. Incoming Erasmus and Exchange Students. Boğaziçi University
 2015-2019 Academic Adviser. International Studies Program. North Carolina State University
 2015-2019 Internships Coordinator. International Studies Program. NCSU
 2012 Selection committee. Jamal Daniel Postdoctoral Fellowship. Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. Georgetown University

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2019 Peer Review. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*
 2018 Peer Review. *American Ethnologist*
 2016 Blog entry. Dr. Lena Merhej: Visual storyteller living in two worlds. Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. North Carolina State

- University
- 2016 Co-organizer. Breaking Taboos: How Art is Changing in the Middle East, week-long artist-in-residence event. Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. NCSU
- 2015 Blog entry. Adoptive Diaspora, Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies. NCSU
- 2014 Jury member. Architectural Design Studio, Manipulation of Landform—Museum of Site/Visitor Center. School of Design. NCSU
- 2007 Jury member. Architecture Design Studio. Disorientalism: Arab Cultural Center in Washington D.C. School of Design. Department of Architecture. University of Pennsylvania
- 2006 Jury member. Architecture Design Studio. Disorientalism. Department of Architecture. Cornell University
- 2005 Translation (Arabic-English). Millennium Development Goals (short promotion film, 2015). United Nations Development Program for the Arab Region
- 2002-2006 Jury member. Capstone Projects. Department of Design. Lebanese American University, Beirut

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Arabic: native

English: fluent (near-native)

French: intermediate

Spanish: elementary

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS

American Anthropological Association

Middle East Studies Association