

Ruth A. Miller
Associate Professor of History
University of Massachusetts, Boston
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CURRENT POSITION

University of Massachusetts, Boston

Associate Professor of History, June 2009 to the present

Assistant Professor of History, July 2003 to May 2009

EDUCATION

Princeton University

Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies, May 2003

M.A. in Near Eastern Studies, May 1999

Mount Holyoke College

B.A. in History (*Summa Cum Laude* in International Relations) with Mathematics minor, 1997

BOOKS

In Print

Law in Crisis: The Ecstatic Subject of Natural Disaster. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2009.

The Erotics of Corruption: Law, Scandal, and Political Perversion. Albany: SUNY Press, 2008.
(Paperback edition July, 2009)

The Limits of Bodily Integrity: Abortion, Adultery, and Rape Legislation in Comparative Perspective.
Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007.

Legislating Authority: Sin and Crime in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. New York and London:
Routledge, 2005.

ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

In Print

“Rights, Reproduction, Sexuality, and Citizenship in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey,” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 32 (2) (Winter 2007): 347-375.

“On Freedom and Feeding Tubes: Reviving Terri Schiavo and Trying Saddam Hussein,” *Law and Literature* 19 (2) (2007): 161-186.

“Politicizing Reproduction in Comparative Perspective: Ottoman, Turkish, and French Approaches to Abortion Law,” *Hawwa: Journal of Women in the Middle East and the Islamic World* 5 (1) (2007): 73-89.

“The Missionary Narrative as Coercive Interrogation: Seduction, Confession, and Self Presentation in Women's ‘Letters Home,’” *Women's History Review* 15 (5) (November 2006): 751-771.

“Apostates and Bandits: Religious and Secular Interaction in the Administration of Ottoman Criminal

Law,” *Studia Islamica* 97 (2003): 155-179.

“Violence, Corruption and Neo-Imperialism: The Centrality of Islamic Law in the Turkish Political Discourse,” *Turkish Studies Association Journal* 27 (1) (Spring 2003): 53-68.

“The Ottoman and Islamic Substratum of Turkey’s Swiss Civil Code,” *Journal of Islamic Studies* 11 (3) (September 2000): 335-361.

Forthcoming

“Cruel and Uncaring Doctors,” forthcoming in *Law and Literature* (vol. 22)

“Genocidal Rights,” forthcoming in *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society* (vol. 48)

CHAPTERS IN EDITED COLLECTIONS

In Print

“Religious v. Ethnic Identity in Fourteenth-Century Bithynia: Gregory Palamas and the Case of the Chionai,” *International Journal of Turkish Studies* 13 (1-2) (2007): 27-42. (Special edition, with simultaneous publication in Karl Barbir and Baki Tezcan, eds., *Identity and Identity Formation in the Ottoman Middle East and the Balkans: A Volume of Essays in Honor of Norman Itzkowitz*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007.)

“Sin, Scandal, and Disaster: Politics and Crime in Contemporary Turkey,” John T. Parry, ed. *Evil, Law and the State: Perspectives on State Power and Violence*. New York and Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 2006.

“A Comparison of the 7th Century Arab and 11th Century Turkic Conquests of the Middle East,” Osman Karatay, ed. *Project Turk*. Ankara: Yeni Türkiye Research Institute, 2002. (Translated into Turkish as “VII. Yüzyılda Arapların ve XI. Yüzyılda Türklerin Ortadoğu Fetihlerinin Karşılaştırılması.”)

Forthcoming

“Therapeutic Death,” for a collection entitled *Who Deserves to Die?: Constructing the Executable Subject*. Forthcoming with University of Massachusetts Press.

In Process

“Violence Without Agency,” for a collection entitled *Performances of Violence*

ESSAYS IN LAW REVIEWS

“Rape and the Exception in Turkish and International Law,” *Washington and Lee Law Review* 64 (4) (Fall 2007): 1349-1362.

REVIEW ESSAYS

“Legal History of the Ottoman Empire,” *History Compass* 5 (2007): 10.1111/j.1478-0542.2007.00492.x

BOOK REVIEWS

In Print

Virginia Aksan and Daniel Goffman, eds. *The Early Modern Ottomans: Remapping the Empire* in *Journal of Islamic Studies*, vol. 19 (2008): 412-414.

Benjamin Fortna, *Imperial Classroom: Islam, the State, and Education in the Late Ottoman Empire* in

The Middle East Studies Association Bulletin, vol. 38, no. 2 (December 2004): 240-1.

Ayşe Saktanber, *Living Islam: Women, Religion, and the Politicization of Culture in Turkey* in the *Turkish Studies Association Journal*, vol. 26, no. 2 (Fall, 2003): 64-67.

Forthcoming

Deniz Kandiyoti and Ayşe Saktanber, eds., *Fragments of Culture: The Everyday of Modern Turkey* (forthcoming in the *Turkish Studies Association Journal*)

Hakan T. Karateke and Maurus Reinkowski, eds., *Legitimizing the Order: The Ottoman Rhetoric of State Power* (forthcoming in the *Turkish Studies Association Journal*)

Sibel Bozdoğan, *Modernism and Nation Building: Turkish Architectural Culture in the Early Republic* (forthcoming in the *Turkish Studies Association Journal*)

Mary Roberts, *Intimate Outsiders: The Harem in Orientalist Art and Travel Literature* (forthcoming in *European History Quarterly*)

Jeremy Salt, *The Unmaking of the Middle East: A History of Western Disorder in Arab Lands*. (forthcoming in *The Historian*)

Zeynep Çelik, *Empire, Architecture, and the City* (forthcoming in *Journal of Islamic Studies*)

Esra Özyürek, ed., *The Politics of Public Memory in Turkey* (forthcoming in the *Turkish Studies Association Journal*)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

“Violence Without Agency,” *Copeland Colloquium: Performing Violence*, Amherst, MA, February 20-21, 2009 (Symposium Presentation by Invitation)

“Therapeutic Death,” *The Executable Subject*, Amherst, MA, October 3-4, 2008 (Symposium Presentation by Invitation)

“Rape as a Political Trope in European and Middle Eastern Dream Literature,” *Association of Law, Culture, and Humanities Conference*, Berkeley, CA, March 27-29, 2008 (Conference Presentation)

“Therapeutic Death,” *Evil, Law, and the State: Second Global Conference*, Salzburg Austria, March 7-9, 2008 (Conference Presentation)

“Constructing Conflicts: Problems of Rights and Interests,” *Northeast Law and Society Conference*, Amherst College, May 21-22, 2007 (Discussant)

“Rape and the (Human) Right to Bodily Integrity,” Conference on *Gender and Globalization*, University of Texas at Austin (Law School and Public Policy School), April 13-14, 2007 (Symposium Presentation by Invitation)

“On the Limits of Bodily Integrity: Rape Legislation in Comparative Perspective,” Symposium on *Gender Relevant Legislative Change in Muslim and non-Muslim Countries*, Washington and Lee Law School, March 30-31, 2007 (Symposium Presentation by Invitation)

“On Freedom and Feeding Tubes: Reviving Terri Schiavo and Trying Saddam Hussein,” Symposium on

The New Exceptionalism: Law and Literature after 9/11, Cardozo Law School, October 29, 2006.
(Symposium Presentation by Invitation)

“Abortion, Adultery, and the Rights of the Citizen in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey,” Symposium on *Comparative Gender Relevant Legislative Change in Muslim and non-Muslim Countries*, Harvard Law School, October 1, 2005. (Symposium Presentation by Invitation)

“Pornography, Political Corruption, and the Colonial Narrative,” *MIT4: The Work of Stories*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 8, 2005. (Conference Presentation)

“Sexual Deviance, Collective Criminality, and the Construction of a National Criminal Law in Turkey” *Elizabeth Battelle Clark Legal History Series*, Boston University School of Law, March 18, 2005.
(Invited Talk)

“Authority, Evil, and Corruption: The Invention of Political Crime in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey,” *Evil, Law and the State: First Global Conference*, Oxford University, UK, July 2004. (Conference Presentation)

“Turkey’s Ottoman Past,” *Workshop on Turkey*, Princeton University, May 3, 2003. (Invited Talk)

“Apostates, Bandits, and the Administration of Ottoman Criminal Law,” *Near Eastern Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series*, Princeton University, April 16, 2003. (Invited Talk)

“The Turkish Republican Revolution and Switzerland’s Islamic Family Law: Marriage and Divorce in the 1926 Turkish Civil Code,” *Middle East Studies Association Conference*, November 1999.
(Conference Presentation)

“The Crimean War and the Ottoman Reform Movement,” Mount Holyoke College Trustee Meeting, January 1997 (Invited Talk)

PRESENTATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON

“Terror and Agency,” *Terror Symposium for the Research Center for Urban Cultural History*, March 25, 2009. (Invited Talk)

“Blood and Rubble in Istanbul and San Francisco,” *Junior Faculty Colloquium Series*, April 23, 2008.
(Invited Talk)

“A Plot of Her Own: Women, Property Rights and Privatizations Past and Present: Histories from England, Russia, and Kenya,” by Esther Kingston-Mann. *Women’s Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series*, March 29, 2006. (Discussant)

“Sexuality, Reproduction, and Rights in Ottoman, Islamic, and European Law,” *Women’s Studies Research Forum*, October 5, 2005. (Invited Talk)

“Middle East Studies as Political Spectacle: Knowledge, Ignorance, and the Role of the ‘Expert,’” *CIT Seminar: Teaching in a Time of War*, November 2004. (Invited Talk)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Dean’s Research Grant, University of Massachusetts, Boston, December 2005

Invited to Faculty Appreciation Dinner (Received Teaching Award), University of Massachusetts, Boston, May 2004

Council on Regional Studies Research Grant, Summer 2000, 2001, 2002
American Research Institute in Turkey, Language Study Fellow, Summer 1999
FLAS Grant, Summer 1997 (Turkish), Summer 1998 (Ottoman Turkish)
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities Finalist, 1997
Phi Beta Kappa Prize for Writing, Theta Chapter, First Prize, 1997
Phi Beta Kappa, Mount Holyoke College, 1997
Frances Mary Hazen Fellow, Mount Holyoke College, Spring 1997
Jean Renneisen Toub Memorial Prize for Excellence in Classics, Mount Holyoke College, 1997
Jessie Goodwin Spaulding Classics Prize for Juniors, Mount Holyoke College, 1996

TEACHING

Published Teaching Material

“Teaching and Learning Guide: The Legal History of the Ottoman Empire,” *History Compass* 6 (4) (2008): 10.1111/j.1478-0542.2008.00542.x

Teaching and Learning Guides are a means of incorporating *History Compass* articles into advanced undergraduate or graduate courses. In addition to the initial historiographical review, they include annotated bibliographies, a sample syllabus, focus questions, and summaries of major issues in the field.

Invited Talks

“Constitutionalism and Salafiyya in the Modern Middle East,” given at Villanova University and Villanova School of Law for classes on *God* and *Comparative Constitutional Law* taught by Professors Anna Moreland and Penelope Pether. November 29, 2007; April 21, 2009.

Courses Taught at University of Massachusetts, Boston

“The Middle East from 1517,” “The Middle East from 1914,” “The Middle East from 570 to 1517,” “Modern Western Civilization,” “Gender and Islamic Law,” “Islamic Cities?” “History of Modern Torture”

Courses Taught at Princeton University

Teaching Assistant, Fall 1999-Fall 2002; Tutor in Ottoman Turkish Language, Fall 2002

Courses Taught at Mount Holyoke College

Teaching Assistant, Fall-Spring 1997. Classes Assisted: “Elementary Latin,” “Introduction to Number Theory”

SERVICE

Departmental

History Department Early Modern Europe Search Committee, 2008-2009
History Department South Asia/Southeast Asia Search Committee (Chair), 2006-2007
History Department Personnel Committee, Fall 2004 to Spring 2006, Fall 2007 to Spring 2009
History Department Curriculum Committee, Fall 2007 to Spring 2008
History Department Executive Committee, Fall 2007 to Spring 2008
History Department “AQUAD” Evaluation Committee, 2004-2005 Academic Year
History Department Undergraduate Studies Committee, Fall 2003 to Spring 2008

College and University

University Fellowships Committee, Fall 2006 to Spring 2009
Women’s Studies Advisory Board Member, Fall 2006 to Spring 2009

Faculty Adviser for the Middle East Club, Fall 2004 to Spring 2006
Organizer of the Junior Faculty Colloquium Series, Winter 2004 to Spring 2006
Faculty Senator, Fall 2004 to Spring 2006
Religious Studies Task Force, 2005-2006 Academic Year
CLA Research Fund Committee, 2005-2006 Academic Year; Spring 2009

General

Reviewer for *Choice* magazine (American Association of College and Research Libraries)
Outside Referee for *Resources for College Libraries*
Peer Reviewer for *Signs*, *Women's History Review*, *Law and Society, Law, Culture, and the Humanities*,
and *Turkish Studies Association Journal*
Peer Reviewer for the University of Michigan Press
Evil, Law, and the State Conference Series (Steering Group Member 2006-2008; Project Leader 2009)
External Reviewer for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

LANGUAGES

Fluency or Research Proficiency in Modern Turkish, Ottoman Turkish, and French
Reading Competency in Modern Standard Arabic
Rudimentary Spanish, Italian, Latin, and Classical Greek

GRADUATE FIELDWORK

Research

Dissertation Research in Istanbul, Turkey. Prime Ministry Archives, January 2001- April 2002
Dissertation Research in Rome, Italy. Foreign Ministry Archives, January 2002
Dissertation Feasibility Study in Istanbul, Turkey. Müftülük Archives, January 2000
Dissertation Feasibility Study in Istanbul, Turkey. Prime Ministry Archives, August 1999
M.A. Thesis Research in Ankara, Turkey. Presidential Archives, Parliamentary Archives, January 1999

Language Study

Arabic Language Institute in Fez, Morocco for Modern Standard Arabic. Summer 2000
Bosphorus University Language and Culture Program in Istanbul, Turkey. Summer 1999
Intensive Ottoman Turkish Summer School in Ayvalık, Turkey. Summer 1998
Bosphorus University Language and Culture Program in Istanbul, Turkey. Summer 1997

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
Middle East Studies Association
Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and Humanities