

CURRICULUM VITAE
Rkia Elaroui Cornell

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Personal Data *Place of Birth:* Morocco
 Languages: Reading and Writing Fluently:
 Arabic, French, English, Berber (Tamazight)
 Citizenship: **USA**

Employment History in Arabic and Education

July 1, 2006 to present: Emory University
 Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies
 Senior Lecturer

July 1, 2000 to June, 2006: University of Arkansas
 Department of Foreign Languages
 Research Associate Professor of Arabic Studies

Sept. 1, 1994 to July 2000: Duke University Department of Asian and African
 Languages and Literature
 Assistant Professor of the Practice of Arabic

Sept. 1991 to June 1994: Duke University Section of Asian and African Languages
 and Literature
 Lecturer in Arabic

Sept. 1985 to Oct. 1989: **Superior Court Interpreter**, County of Los Angeles,
 California

Nov. 1986 to Oct. 1989: **Arabic Interpreter**, Medical Center, University of
 California Los Angeles

Aug. 1979 to Oct. 1982: **Arabic and Education Coordinator**,
 Islamic Center of Southern California

1970 to 1978:

Tenured Language Teacher for the Moroccan Government, Sefrou, Morocco

Fulfilled eight-year contract in Arabic and French language instruction. Diplomas in Secondary Education and Foreign-Language Pedagogy.

Education

Doctoral Candidate: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Free University of Amsterdam), Faculty of Theology (advanced to candidacy December 15, 2004); dissertation title: *Rabi'a from Narrative to Myth: Tropics of Identity of a Muslim Woman Saint*; committee chair, Prof. Dr. P. A. van Doorn-Harder

Teachers' Training College: Regional Normal School, Meknès, Morocco

Diploma: Diploma of Pedagogical Aptitude 1971

Diploma: Moroccan Baccalaureate, 1976

Certificates of Accomplishment

Moroccan Tenure Certificate of Pedagogical Aptitude (Tenure), 1972

Interpreter's License Los Angeles County Superior Court, September, 1985

Publications

Monograph and Translations of Monograph

Nakhostin-i Zanan-i Sufi, translation of *Early Sufi Women* into Persian, translated and edited by Maryam Hosseini (Tehran: Nashr-i 'Ilm, 1385/2007)

Sufi-Sufi Wanita: Tradisi yang Tercadari, translation of *Early Sufi Women* into Bahasa Indonesia (Bandung, Indonesia: Pustaka Hidayat, 2004)

Early Sufi Women: Dhikr an-niswa al-muta'abbidat as-Sufiyyatt by Abu 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulami (Louisville, Kentucky: Fons Vitae, 1999) pp. 5-328; forward by Carl Ernst + 55 page Introduction + index and notes. Second Printing 2005

Articles, Chapters, and Encyclopedia Entries

1. "Soul of A Woman Was Created Below: Woman as the Lower Soul (*Nafs*) in Islam," in Jerald D. Gort, Henry Jansen, and Hendrik M. Vroom editors, *Probing the Depths of Evil and Good: Multireligious Views and Case Studies* (Amsterdam and New York: Editions Rodopi, 2007), pp. 257-280.
2. "Death and Burial in Islam," *Voices of Islam* Volume 3, *Voices of Life: Family, Home, and Society*, Vincent J. Cornell General Editor and Virginia Gray Henry-Blakemore Volume Editor (Westport, Connecticut and London: Praeger Publishers, 2007), pp. 151-172
3. "Sufi Women's Spirituality: A Theology of Servitude," *Voices of Islam* Volume 2, *Voices of the Spirit*, Vincent J. Cornell General Editor and Volume Editor (Westport, Connecticut and London: Praeger Publishers, 2007), pp. 167-174
4. "Rabi'ah al-'Adawiyyah (circa 720-801)," in *Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 311: Arabic Literary Culture, 500-925*, edited by Michael Cooperson and Shawkat M. Toorawa (Farmington Hills, Michigan: Brucoli, Clark, Layman, Inc. for Thomson and Gale Publishers, 2005), pp. 292-298.

Book Reviews

1. Review of Julia Ashtiany, *Media Arabic*, for *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, vol. 29 (2), December 1995.
2. Review of Karin C. Ryding and Abdelnour Zailback, *Formal Spoken Arabic, Fast Course*, for *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, vol. 29 (1), July 1995.
3. Review of Aleya Rouchdy, ed., *The Arabic Language in America*, for *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, vol. 27 (2), December, 1993.

Works in Preparation

1. Dissertation and Monograph: *Rabi'a from Narrative to Myth: Tropics of Identity of a Muslim Woman Saint*, a genealogy of medieval Arabic accounts about Rabi'a al-'Adawiyya, the quintessential Muslim woman saint. This work discusses major themes and tropes in Rabi'a's hagiographical persona that shed light on the perception and role of women in pre-modern Islam. Columbia University Press, University of California Press, and Beacon Press have expressed interest in this project and have solicited formal proposals. Two chapters of this work have been completed as of May 2007.
2. Advanced Reader in Arabic: *Readings in Advanced Classical Arabic*, a reader designed for use by graduate students in Islamic Studies and Middle Eastern History and advanced students in Arabic. (Co-edited with Dr. Mohammed Bounajma, Al-Akhawayn University, Morocco)

3. Critical Edition of Classical Qur'an Exegesis: *Haqa'iq al-Tafsir* (The Realities of Exegesis) by Abu 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sulami. This work is one of the most influential Sufi commentaries of the Qur'an. I collected manuscript copies of this work in Egypt in 1999 and intend to travel to Turkey for other manuscript copies. This will be the first definitive edition in Arabic of this exegesis. So far, I have transcribed approximately 100 manuscript pages of this work.
4. Introduction to Arabic Script: Over the past two years I have developed a set of materials to introduce beginning students to Arabic script and to develop beginning reading skills. Hippocrene Books of New York, NY, has requested me to submit these materials as part of a formal proposal for a work to be entitled, *Pocket Guide to Arabic Script*.

Lectures, Conferences, and Seminar Participation

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| July 17-19, 2007 | Participated in the workshop, "Educating for Religious Freedom and Mutual Respect: An Inaugural Leadership Conference to Consider Study about World Religions within Faith Communities," convened by the Institute on Religion and Civic Values (IRCV) and the First Amendment Center, Loyola Marmount University, Los Angeles, California |
| June 20, 2007 | "Islamic Asceticism in Comparative Perspective: Rethinking the Religious Boundaries of Late Antiquity," paper delivered for the Faculty of Theology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| May 27-31, 2007 | Participant in the international conference, "Toward A Muslim Theology of World Religions," Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco. This was the first conference in a three-year project funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and co-sponsored by the Elijah Interfaith Institute of Jerusalem and the Al Khoei Foundation of London. I currently participate as a member of the working group on "Law and Rights." |
| April 6, 2007 | "Rabi'a al-'Adawaiyya as a Teacher and the Concept of Ta'dib," lecture for Islamic Studies Workshop, Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia |
| March 27, 2007 | "Stereotypes of the Muslim Woman: Views from within and Without," lecture for the Common Ground Lyceum |

- event, "Human Rights in the Arab World and Women in Islam," Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia
- November 17, 2006 Participant in the Religion and Media Workshop, "The Muhammad Cartoon Controversy: Perspectives on Media, Religion, Law, and Culture," annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, Washington, D.C.
- February 26- March 2, 2006 Invited participant for the conference, "Beyond Tolerance: the Religious Problem of Ruling the Other Part II," Shalom Hartman Institute and Bernard and Barbro Osher Jerusalem Center for Religious Pluralism, Jerusalem, Israel.
- February 23, 2006 "Re-reading Rabi'a: New Approaches to the Study of Early Islamic Mysticism," lecture delivered for the Dept. of Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel.
- November 21, 2005 "Rabi'a the Teacher," paper presented for Islamic Mysticism Group, American Academy of Religion annual meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- September 23, 2005 "Issues in Teaching Arabic for Proficiency," workshop conducted with Dr. Kristen Brustad of Emory University, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus, Atlanta, Georgia.
- September 22, 2005 "Women in Islamic Literature," invited lecture given at Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, Georgia.
- March 18, 2005 "'Soul of a Woman was Created Below': Woman as the Lower Soul (*Nafs*) in Islam," paper delivered at the international conference, "Religion and Evil," Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- December 24, 2004 "Sufi Women as Exemplars for Modern Muslim Women," invited lecture at Assyafi'iyah Islamic University, Jakarta, Indonesia.
- December 21-24, 2004 Invited participant for the international seminar of Islamic scholars, "Islam & Civil Society in the 21st Century: A Path to Transformation," sponsored by World Organization for Research, Development, and Education, Yayasan Haqqani Indonesia, International Conference of Islamic Scholars,

Nahdatul Ulema Indonesia, and Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta, Indonesia

- December 5-8, 2004 Second meeting of the Scriptural Reasoning Group, “Crisis and Call to Leadership,” Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton, New Jersey. I presented two short papers for discussion: “Moses and the Burning Bush in the Qur’an” and “The Qur’an and Religious Pluralism.”
- November 20, 2004 Presented the paper, “Sufi Women’s Theology of Servitude and Interreligious Engagement, for the session, “Horizons in Practical Theology: Religious Practices as a Context for Interreligious Engagement,” sponsored by the Association of Practical Theology, annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio Texas.
- May 4, 2004 First meeting of the Scriptural Reasoning Group, Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton, New Jersey. At this meeting I led discussions on the methodology of Qur’anic exegesis and helped plan for the fall 2004 meeting.
- November 8, 2003 “Early Sufi Women and Ibn ‘Arabi’s Idea of the Feminine,” paper delivered at symposium, “The Unity of Existence: Ibn ‘Arabi and His School,” Muhyiddin Ibn ‘Arabi Society, The Ojai Retreat, Ojai, California.
- December 14, 2002 Invited participant at colloquium, “Emerging Perspectives on American Islam: Indigenous Scholars Colloquium,” Council on Islamic Education, Newport Beach, California.
- November 18, 2002 “A Theology of Servitude: Sufi Women’s Spirituality.” Lecture delivered for the Women’s Studies Program, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana.
- September 13-15, 2002 Lectured on “Women, Spirituality and Islam,” at 6th Annual Women’s Retreat, Dar al-Islam Institute, Abiquiu, New Mexico.
- June 26, 2002 “Competing Approaches to Teaching Arabic: How Do We Define Proficiency?” Paper delivered at the workshop, “Universities of Arkansas and St. Petersburg: MEST/Oriental Studies Summer Workshop: Middle East Studies in Russia and USA,” St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

- February 24, 2002 “Empowering Women Through Expanding Dialogue,
“lecture delivered at the Interfaith Forum let by Islamic,
Bahai, Budhist, and Christian Women. The Ozark
Research Institute. Fayetteville Arkansas.
- February 15, 2002 “Rabia and the poem of the Two Loves,” lecture delivered
at the University of Arkansas Arabic Lecture Series.
- November 18, 2001 “The Symbolism of Food in Early Sufi Women’s
Literature,” paper given for panel, “Food, Collective
Memory, and Cultural Identity,” 35th Annual Meeting of
Middle East Studies Association, San Francisco, California.
- October 7-10, 2001 Participant at the International Symposium, “The
Dynamism of Muslim Societies, “ The Kazusa Arc, Tokyo,
Japan.
- October 12, 2001 Participant in round-table seminar on “The Dynamism of
Muslim Societies,” Department of History, Kyoto
University, Kyoto Japan.
- June 23, 2001 “Ethic of Service in Islam,” keynote address at Milad-un-
Nabi program and celebration, Shiah Imami Ismaili
Council of Ontario, Canada, London, Ontario, Canada.
- May 25-26, 2001 Participant in workshop, “Two Days of Study on Distance
Learning and the Teaching of the Arabic Language to Non-
Native Speakers,” Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane,
Morocco.
- April 9-14, 2001 Visited the Ministry of Higher Education, Universite de
Tunis I, Universite of Tunis al-Manar, The Bourqiba
Institute for Contemporary Languages, and the Institute of
Music in Sousse. (I acted as a translator for our delegation
and I also got to visit and assess the Arabic Program in two
of the Universities mentioned above.)
- March 8, 2001 “Models of Female Spirituality in Islam”, lecture delivered
in Linda Coon’s class on Women and Christianity.
- February 22, 2001 “Characteristics of Islamic Female Spirituality in the
Writings of a very eminent 11th Century Islamic Scholar”,
lecture delivered in Vincent J. Cornell’s class on Islamic
Mysticism.

- February 20, 2001 “Servitude as the essence and Altruism as the manifestation of Islamic female spirituality”, lecture delivered in Vincent J. Cornell’s class on Islamic Mysticism.
- November 18, 2000 Chaired panel, “Taking the Quran to Heart: Sufi Approaches to the Quran,” 2000 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, Tennessee.
- November 18, 2000 “Al-Sulami’s Theology of Servitude: A Sufi Model of Women’s Spirituality,” paper delivered at 2000 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nashville, Tennessee.
- July 2, 2000 “Beyond Time and Space: Women’s Spirituality in Islam,” invited lecture given at seminar, “Time and Space in Islam,” for *First International Conference on the Heritage of Islamic Thought and Sciences*, Ameer Khusro Society of America and the University of Chicago, Villa Park, Illinois.
- July 4, 2000 “The Feminine and the Voice of Conscience in Islam,” invited lecture given at seminar, “The Development of Personality Through Spiritual Practice,” for *First International Conference on the Heritage of Islamic Thought and Sciences*, Ameer Khusro Society of America and the University of Chicago, Villa Park, Illinois.
- November 13, 1999 Planning meeting for Council on Islamic Education conference on Religion and Tradition, George Mason University, Fall 2000. Meeting held at offices of Dar al-Islam, Fairfax, Virginia.
- October 18, 1999 “Narrating Muslim Women’s Lives,” lecture given for Women’s Forum, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- September 24-27, 1999 Consultant to Board of Directors meeting, The Muslim College, London, England.
- May 8, 1999 Co-organized and chaired panel, “Indigenous Identifications,” at conference: “Crossings: Mediterraneanizing the Politics of Location, History, and Knowledge,” Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
- November 23, 1998 Discussant for “Conference on World History Standards,” California State University, Fullerton, California.

- October 17, 1998 “As-Sulami’s Book of Early Sufi Women: Reclaiming a Lost History of Women’s Leadership in Islam,” paper delivered at SERMEISS (Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar) fall meeting, Valle Crucis, North Carolina.
- July 12-24, 1998 Taught courses on “Women in Islam” and “The Interpretation of the Qur’an” for Secondary and Junior College Teachers’ Workshop, Dar al-Islam Teachers’ Institute, Abiquiu, New Mexico.
- May 1, 1998 Participant in first meeting of “Muslim Intellectuals Forum,” Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.
- February 22-23, 1997 Discussant for “Colloquium on World History,” with publishers and authors of secondary-school textbooks, City of Orange, California (sponsored by Council on Islamic Education).
- November 5, 1995 “Jewish-Arab Relations in Morocco,” lecture delivered at conference, “Jewish-Arab Cross-Cultural Encounters,” Rosenzweig Museum of the Jewish Family, Durham, North Carolina.
- October 14, 1995 “Language as an Expression of Berber Identity: Tamazight as a North African Lingua Franca,” paper delivered at SERMEISS (Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar) fall meeting, Valle Crucis, North Carolina.
- May 15, 1993 “Why Study Arabic in America?” lecture delivered for Islamic Medical Association of the Southeast, Bluefield, Virginia.
- December 20, 1991 “The Role of Women in Islamic Development in the United States,” lecture delivered for a joint convocation of the Departments of English and Islamic Studies, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco.

Other Professional Activities

- June 1-7, 2007 Facilitator and member of Emory University delegation for the site visit of Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. This visit was in preparation for a study abroad partnership between Al Akhawayn and Emory Universities. I have been designated as the Emory Liason for the Al Akhawayn Summer Arabic Program.
- Mid-May, 2004 Accompanied 4 UA MEST scholarship students to Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane Morocco. While there I consulted with the Provost, Dr. Driss Ouaouicha, and the directors of the Arabic summer program on the visit of Dr. Abdellah Chekayri to UA in spring 05. I also met with Dr. Mohammed Bounajma to coordinate the completion of the advanced reader in Arabic, mentioned above.
- January 17-29, 2004 Traveled to Tunisia with teams of Business Administration and Public Administration faculty to set up projects funded by U.S. State Department grants (Association Liaison Office and Dept. of State). I acted as interpreter for both teams.
- December 14-17, 2003 Panel moderator and seminar leader for the Elijah Interfaith Academy Meeting for Board of World Religious Leaders, "Religion, Society and the Other: Hostility, Hospitality, and the Hope of Human Flourishing," Seville, Spain.
- November 22-26, 2003 Attended the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia. I met with Gray Henry, CEO of Fons Vitae Press, to discuss publication of the second edition of *Early Sufi Women* and to discuss a new project tentatively entitled *Sufi Women Poets*.
- July 7-25, 2003 Participant in the University of Arkansas- Bard College-Smolny College Summer Program Planning Workshop, "St. Petersburg: A Window on the Russia(s)," St. Petersburg, Russia.
- November 26, 2002 Participated in planning meeting for "Meeting of World Religious Leaders." To be held in Seville, Spain in December 2003. The meeting will be sponsored by the Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions, Jerusalem and the Three Cultures Institute, Seville, Spain. The King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies of the University of Arkansas and the Faculty of Religion at McGill University are academic co-sponsors of the project.

November 23-26, 2002	Attended the 2002 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada.
May 30-31, 2002	Participated in the workshop, "Arabic Proficiency Assessment," Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco.
May 24-25, 2002	Liaison and Coordinator for the conference, "Convivencia and Lost Paradises: The Vision of Al-Andalus in Spanish-Language and Islamic Literatures," Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco.
May 17-18, 2002	Participated in the workshop, "Listening and Reading Comprehension in Middle Eastern Language Pedagogy," Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
April 19, 2002	Organized and conducted the First Annual Arabic and Japanese Speech Contest, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.
May 25-26, 2001	Participated in workshop, "Two Days of Study on Distance Learning and the Teaching of Arabic Language to Non-Native Speakers," Al-Akhawyn University, Ifrane, Morocco.
March 9-11, 2001	Attended the Annual Meeting of the SERMEISS (Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar) Spring meeting, Charleston, South Carolina.
November 19-22, 1999	Attended the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Washington, D.C.
June- August 1999	Conducted manuscript research at Dar al-Kutub al-Misriyya (Egyptian National Library) in Cairo, Egypt for planned monograph on the Quran commentary of Abu 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulami (d. 1021).
May 1999	Participated in Simulated Proficiency Workshop in French, Duke University.
Spring Semester, 1998	Duke University Institutional Coordinator (Arabic) for Proficiency Evaluation Program (PEP), conducted by Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

- November 22-25, 1997 Attended the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association, San Francisco, California.
- May 31-June 1, 1997 Participated in medium-range planning workshop and advised Virginia educational and legislative officials on religious pluralism issues in Social Studies education, in conjunction with Dar al-Islam and Council on Islamic Education, Fairfax, Virginia.
- May 6-9, 1997 Attended the conference, “The Relocation of Languages and Cultures,” Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
- July, 1996 Advised Humanities Research Institute, University of California, Irvine, California, on a proposed association with the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, California. This link would use the Oleg Grabar Collection of the Getty Museum as the centerpiece of an outreach program in Islamic Civilization.
- April-July, 1996 Advised Council on Islamic Education, Fountain Valley, California, on development of Arabic language program.
- June-August, 1994 Co-directed Duke in Morocco summer program and taught course, “North African Culture” (AALL 100).
- June 13-16, 1992 Participated in Teachers of Oral Proficiency Interviewing and Rating Workshop, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.
- Research Grant**
- Summer, 1995 Received Academic Research Council Grant of \$2,000.00 and conducted research in Cairo, Egypt, on the project: “An Intellectual Biography of a Muslim Woman Scholar, Bint ash-Shati’.”

Professional Associations

American Academy of Religion

American Association of Teachers of Arabic
American Institute of Maghrib Studies
Middle East Studies Association
Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar
Scholars Advisory Committee, Council on Islamic Education

Awards and Honors

December 2003 Nominated for Distinguished Teaching Award by the Teacher
Appreciation Committee for the Student Alumni Board and
Associated Student Government, University of Arkansas.