

Curriculum Vitae
Paula Sanders
11 December 2018

Office

Rice University – MS42
6100 Main Street
Houston, TX 77005–1827
tel: 713–348–2783
sanders@rice.edu

Academic appointments

2008– Professor of History
1992–2008 Associate Professor of History, Rice University
1987–1992 Assistant Professor of History, Rice University
1984–1987 Assistant Professor of History, Harvard University

Administrative appointments

2015– Director, Boniuk Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious
Tolerance
2011–2017 Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
2007–2013 Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
1997–2000 Director, Program for the Study of Women and Gender

Education

1984 Ph.D. History, Princeton University
1981 M.A. History, Princeton University
1977 B.A. History, Northwestern University

Honors, awards, and prizes,

Professeuse invitée, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Université de Paris,
France (March 2001)

Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award 1995 (for Ritual, politics, and the city in
Fatimid Cairo)

Phi Beta Kappa

Grace Johnston Prize in History, Northwestern University, 1977

Northwestern University History Departmental Honors

B.A. Northwestern University, with highest honors

Fellowships and grants

Co-PI, Institute for Museum and Library Services grant for Travelers in the Middle East
Archive (\$249,000) <http://timea.rice.edu>

John E. Sawyer Fellow, National Humanities Center, 2002–2003

NEH Research Fellowship, 2002

American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship 2002 (declined)

NEH Scholar-in-Residence, American Research Center in Egypt, 1995–96

ACLS Grant-in-aid, 1991–92

NEH Summer Stipend, 1991
 American Research Center in Egypt NEH Fellowship, 1987–88
 American Research Center in Egypt NEH Fellowship, 1984–85 (declined)
 Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, 1982–83
 National Resource Fellowship (NRF, formerly FLAS), 1981–82
 Foreign–Language–Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), 1979–80, 1980–81
 Center for Arabic Studies Abroad Fellow, 1978–79
 Princeton University History Department Fellowship, 1977–78

Professional service

Program committee, Middle East Studies Association, 2018
 Chair, Review Committee on Promotions and Tenure Policies, American University in Cairo, May 2018
 Chair, External review, Humanities doctoral programs, Tulane University, 2014
 External review of the History Department, American University in Cairo, 2010
 Strategic Planning Committee, American Research Center in Egypt, 2006–2007
 American Historical Association, Research Division 2005–2008 (elected position)
 External review of the Core Curriculum, Colgate University, 2004
 Program committee, Middle East Studies Association, 2004
 American Historical Association, Committee on Women Historians 2000–2003 (appointed position)
 Albert Hourani Book Prize Committee, Middle East Studies Association, 1997
 Program committee, Middle East Studies Association, 1994
 Board of Governors, American Research Center in Egypt, 1992–1994
 Editorial Board, The Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia for Students (ACLS)
 Member, World History Pacesetters Task Force (ACLS and College Board)
 Program committee, Middle East Studies Association, 1990

Rice University service

Humanities divisional advisor, Will Rice College, January 2018 –
 Co-chair, Benefits Committee, 2018–19
 Undergraduate committee, History department, 2018–19

Works in progress

Invited paper for Spring 2019 Byzantine Symposium (“Processions and Strategies of Civic Control”), Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C. Paper entitled, “Negotiating power in the Islamic Mediterranean: Urban Processions in Egypt, North Africa, and Iberia.”

Abstract: This paper explores the many meanings and functions of ceremonial and processional cultures in three Mediterranean settings in the Islamic world: Egypt, North Africa and Iberia in the 12th – 14th centuries. While processions of Fatimid Egypt in particular have been well studied, little attention has been devoted to Ayyubid Egypt or to North Africa and Iberia under Almoravid and Almohad rule. The Sunni Ayyubids displaced the Isma’ili Fatimids; the Almoravids imposed rigid Malikism on a unified North African and Iberian state; the Almohads rejected Almoravid Malikism and created an original “synthesis . . . between Sunni and Shi’i concepts generally perceived as mutually exclusive in the east.” The 12th – 14th centuries are, arguably, the most deeply and explicitly ideological period of pre-modern Islamic history. In this highly ideological context, how did processions work to express a multitude of claims to power and authority? Do processions constitute a specifically Islamic mode of negotiating power and authority? How did these ideologically motivated rulers adapt common ceremonial and processional idioms and invest them with different meanings

under distinct historical conditions? How did processions lay claim to space for new religious ideologies? Finally, the paper asks if we can argue that there is such a thing as a Mediterranean processional culture? To borrow the formulation of Horden and Purcell, is there a processional culture of the Islamic Mediterranean or are there processional cultures in the Islamic Mediterranean?

Current project

Translation of al-Musabbihi's *Akhbar Misr* with historical introduction. This translation of a key 11th century Arabic chronicle makes full use of Judeo-Arabic documentary materials from the Cairo Geniza and also makes extensive use of archaeological evidence. There are no translations of texts from the Fatimid period dealing with material culture that make full use of these two sources in addition to the comparative literary material.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Creating Medieval Cairo: Empire, Religion, and Architectural Preservation in 19th century Egypt (The American University in Cairo Press, 2008)

Ritual, politics, and the city in Fatimid Cairo (State University of New York Press, 1994)

A Mediterranean Society, vol. 6, with S.D. Goitein (University of California Press, 1993)

Website: Travelers in the Middle East Archive (co-PI, with Dr. Lisa Spiro, of Rice's Digital Media Center, of \$249,000 IMLS grant) [responsible for all content]

<http://timea.rice.edu>

Edited works

Communities of the Qur'an (in production, OneWorld Press, 2019), co-edited with Emran El-Badawi (includes co-authored Introduction)

Communities of the Qur'an is dedicated to intellectual inquiry as well as religious dialogue. At its heart this project asks the question, what is the dialectical relationship between the Qur'an and its "communities of interpretation?" How is the relationship between community and scripture mediated? Can a better understanding of each community's reception, hermeneutics and cultural assumptions bring about a better understanding of the Qur'an for the 21st century?

Oral-scribal dimensions of scripture, piety and practice: Judaism, Christianity, Islam (revised and expanded edition of *Oral Tradition* special issue), co-edited with Werner Kelber (Cascade Books, 2016).

Special issue "Oral-Scribal Dimensions of Scripture, Piety and Practice in Judaism, Christianity and Islam" of *Oral Tradition* (March 2010), co-edited with Werner Kelber (includes co-authored Introduction)

<http://journal.oraltradition.org/>.

Special issue "France and Islam" of *French Historical Studies* (June 2007), co-edited with Patricia Lorcin (includes co-authored Introduction).

Recent conference papers (invited)

- "*A Mediterranean Society* at the crossroads of Jewish and Islamic History," Panel—The Fiftieth Anniversary of S. D. Goitein's *A Mediterranean Society*, I at The Seventeenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, August 8, 2017.
- "Islamic history: remembered, recovered, invented," Panel—In Honor of Bernard Lewis on the Occasion of his 100th Birthday, American Oriental Society, Boston, March 18, 2016.

Editorial positions

- Editorial board, The Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia for Students, 4 vols., William Chester Jordan, Editor in Chief for the ACLS (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1996) [selecting entry list for Islamic topics, content editing all entries on Islamic topics as well as a group of other entries, rewriting and writing entries on Islamic topics]

Articles

- "Jewish books in Fatimid Egypt," in *The World of the Fatimids*, ed. Dr. Assadullah Souren Melikian-Chirvani (Toronto: Aga Khan Museum, 2018): 218–227.
- "Court dress, Fatimid" in Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia, ed. Josef Meri (London: Routledge, 2005)
- "Geniza" in Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia, ed. Josef Meri (London: Routledge, 2005).
- "Fatimid Egypt, Women in" in Women in the Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia, ed. Katharina Wilson and Nadia Margolis (Greenwood Press, 2004): 338–340.
- "Dhimmis," in Dictionary of the Middle Ages: Supplement I, ed. William Chester Jordan (New York: Scribners, 2004): 158–59.
- "Eunuchs," in Dictionary of the Middle Ages: Supplement I, ed. William Chester Jordan (New York: Scribners, 2004): 188–190.
- "The Victorian Invention of Medieval Cairo: A Case Study of Medievalism and the Construction of the East" in Middle East Studies Association Bulletin 37/2 (Dec. 2003): 179–198.
- "The contest over context: Fatimid Cairo in the twentieth century," in Text and Context in Islamic Societies: Sixteenth Giorgio Levi Della Vida Conference Papers, ed. Irene A. Bierman (Reading, UK: Ithaca Press, 2003): 131–154.
- "Robes of honor in Fatimid Egypt, 969–1171" in Robes and Honor: the medieval world of investiture, ed. Gavin Hambly and Stewart Gordon (St. Martin's Press, 2000): 225–239.
- "Bohra Architecture and the Restoration of Fatimid Culture" in L'Egypte Fatimide, son art et son histoire, ed. Marianne Barrucand (Paris: Presses de l'Université de Paris–Sorbonne, 1999), pp. 159–65.
- "Les Fatimides sont-ils devenus égyptiens? Culture et identité dans le Caire médiéval," in Valeur et distance: Identités et sociétés en Égypte, ed. Christian Décobert (Paris: Maisonneuve et Larose, 2000): 265–77.
- "Tiraz," with Y. K. Stillman, in Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1999).
- "The Fatimid State" in Cambridge History of Egypt, vol. 1, ed. Carl Petry (Cambridge University Press, 1998)
- "Mohamed El Hawary" in al-'Usur al-Wusta 8/1 (1996): 7

- "Writing identity in medieval Cairo" in Writing identity in medieval Cairo, ed. Irene A. Bierman (UCLA Near East Center Colloquium Series, 1995)
- "Clitorectomy" in Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World (Oxford University Press, 1994)
- "Claiming the past: Ghadir Khumm and the rise of Hafizi historiography in late Fatimid Egypt," Studia Islamica 75 (1992): 81–104
- "Nasi [Judaeo–Arabic title]" in Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition, vol. VII (1992)
- "Gendering the ungendered body: hermaphrodites in medieval Islamic law," Shifting Boundaries: Women and Gender in Middle Eastern History, ed. Nikki Keddie and Beth Baron (Yale University Press, 1991): 74–95
- "A new text for the history of Fatimid processions from the Rasa'il al-'Amidi (text and translation)," Annales Islamologiques, vol. XXV (1991) [A version of this short text based on my transcription also appears in an appendix to the Nuzhat al-muqlatayn fi akhbar al-dawlatayn of Ibn al-Tuwayr, ed. Ayman Fu'ad Sayyid, Beirut, 1992, p. 227]
- "Marasim [Ceremonial]" in Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition, vol. VI (1991)
- "Mawakib [Processions]" in Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition, vol. VI (1991)
- "From court ceremony to urban language: Fatimid processions in 11th and 12th century Cairo and Fustat," The Islamic World from classical to modern times, ed. C. E. Bosworth (Princeton, NJ: Darwin Press, 1989), pp. 311–321
- "Yemen" in Dictionary of the Middle Ages (1989)
- "al-Qa'im," "al-Qahir," "San'a," in Dictionary of the Middle Ages (1988)
- "Mu'izz al-dawla" in Dictionary of the Middle Ages (1987)
- "Fatimids," "Islamic feasts and festivals," "Imam," in Dictionary of the Middle Ages (1985)

Book reviews

- Moshe Gil, Jews in Islamic Countries in the Middle Ages in Speculum 82/2 (2007): 437–38
- Mark R. Cohen, Poverty and charity in the Jewish community of Medieval Egypt and The voice of the poor in medieval Egypt in American Historical Review 112/1 (2007): 312–13
- Michael Brett, The Rise of the Fatimids in Speculum 79/2 (2004): 458–59
- Eliomar Bareket, Fustat on the Nile: The Jewish elite in Medieval Egypt in Speculum 77/4 (2002): 1232–33
- Ayman Fuad Sayyid, La capitale de l'Egypte jusqu'a l'epoque Fatimide, al-qahira et al-fustat. Essai de reconstitution topographique in Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient 43/4 (2000): 581–82
- Christopher Melchert, The formation of the Sunni Schools of law, 9th–10th centuries CE in The American Journal of Legal History 43/1 (1999): 98–99
- Suliman Bashear, Arabs and others in early Islam in Middle East Studies Association Bulletin 33/2 (1999): 184–85
- Michael Chamberlain, Knowledge and social practice in medieval Damascus, 1190–1350 in International Journal of Middle East Studies 30/1 (1998): 119–21

Jonathan Berkey, The transmission of knowledge in medieval Cairo: a social history of Islamic education in *Speculum* 70/3 (1995): 579–81

Moshe Gil, A history of Palestine, 634–1099 in *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 27/1 (1995): 110–12

P. M. Holt, The age of the Crusades: the Near East from the eleventh century to 1517 in *Speculum* 65/1 (1990): 175–76

Professional societies

American Historical Association (life member)

Amerian Oriental Society

American Research Center in Egypt

International Qur’anic Studies Association

International Society for Arabic Papyrology

Middle East Librarians Association

Middle East Medievalists

Middle East Studies Association of North America

Society for Judeo–Arabic Studies

Association of Jewish Studies

American Association of University Professors (life member)