

## WORKSHOP ON ANIMALS, LAW, AND RELIGION

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL  
MAY 20-21, 2016

Sponsored by the Animals, Law, and Religion Project of the Islamic Legal Studies Program and Co-sponsored by the Animal Law & Policy Program

### PARTICIPANT BIOS



**Kecia Ali** is Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University, where she teaches a range of classes on Islam. Her research ranges from Islam's formative period to the present, and focuses on Islamic law; gender and sexuality; and religious biography. Her most recent books are *The Lives of Muhammad* and an expanded tenth anniversary edition of *Sexual Ethics and Islam: Feminist Reflections on Qur'an, Hadith, and Jurisprudence*. She co-edited the revised edition of *A Guide for Women in Religion*, which provides guidance for careers in religious studies and theology.

Ali received her Ph.D. from Duke University and held research and teaching fellowships at Brandeis University and Harvard Divinity School before joining the BU faculty in 2006. She is active in the American Academy of Religion, where she currently co-chairs the Islam, Gender, Women program unit and serves on the Status Director on the Board of Directors. She recently completed a term as president of the Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics.

**Paper Title for Workshop: "Animal Souls: Thinking about Appetites"**



**Febe Armanios** is Associate Professor of History at Middlebury College. She specializes in the history of Coptic Christians in Egypt, and her research has focused on cross-religious practices from pilgrimage and the veneration of saints to food customs and the use of new media. She is the author of *Coptic Christianity in Ottoman Egypt* (Oxford University Press, 2011), as well as several articles and book chapters. For her most recent research, she has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, and the John Templeton Foundation, among others. She is currently working on two book projects. The first, *Satellite Ministries: The Rise of Christian Television in the Middle East*, explores the historical development of Christian television in the region. The second, for which she was awarded an ILSP Fellowship in Fall of 2015, is a joint project with Boğaç Ergene. This work examines the

evolution of halal food dictums and practices in the Islamic tradition, more specifically, how Muslims—from medieval to modern periods—have negotiated and reinterpreted understandings of halal to address a variety of internal and external challenges.



**Beth A. Berkowitz** (B.A. and Ph.D., Columbia University; M.A. University of Chicago) is Ingeborg Rennert Chair of Jewish Studies in the Department of Religion at Barnard College. She is the author of *Execution and Invention: Death Penalty Discourse in Early Rabbinic and Christian Cultures* (Oxford University Press, 2006, winner of the Salo Baron Prize for Outstanding First Book in Jewish Studies) and *Defining Jewish Difference: From Antiquity to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). She has published articles in the *Journal for the American Academy of Religion*, the *Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, the *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities*, *AJS Review*, and *Biblical Interpretation*. She was a professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America from 2004-2012 and has held post-doctoral fellowships in Yale University's Program in Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and New York University Law School's Tikvah Center for Law and Jewish Civilization. Her area of specialization is classical rabbinic literature, and her interests include the construction of rabbinic authority, the dynamics of Jewish difference, and critical animal studies. She is currently working on a book called *The Clever Ox, The Escaping Elephant, and Other Rabbinic Animalities: Critical Animal Studies in the Babylonian Talmud*, and she is also editing an anthology on the intersection between Religious Studies and Rabbinics.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “Bad Cats and Bad Rabbis: Deconstructing Discourses of Animal Danger in the Babylonian Talmud”**



**Divya Cherian** grew up in New Delhi, India where she completed her undergraduate studies in history at the University of Delhi, followed by a master's degree and an M.Phil. in medieval Indian history at Jawaharlal Nehru University. She received her PhD from the Department of History, Columbia University in 2015, where her dissertation studied the relationship between merchants, the state, and the ethical imperatives of Jainism and Krishna devotion in eighteenth-century western India. Her research examines the role of the ethic of *ahimsa* (non-violence) in the crystallization of a new community of elites in the western Indian kingdom of Marwar in the eighteenth century. It explores the interconnections between ethics, law, local politics, and the history of caste and community in South Asia. Currently, she is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, New Brunswick, where she is working on her book

manuscript, entitled *Ordering Subjects: Merchants, the State, and Krishna Devotion in Eighteenth-Century Western India*.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “A Non-Violent Politics? Vegetarianism, Religion, and the State in Early Modern Western India”**



**David Clough** is Professor of Theological Ethics at the University of Chester, in the UK, and the President of the UK Society for the Study of Christian Ethics. He has published on the ethics of Karl Barth (*Ethics in Crisis: Interpreting Barth’s Ethics*, Ashgate, 2007) and the ethics of war (*Faith and Force: A Christian Debate about War*, with Brian Stiltner, Georgetown University Press, 2009). His recent research concerns the place of non-human animals in Christian doctrine and ethics, focussed on a two-volume monograph *On Animals*. Volume I, *Systematic Theology* was published by T&T Clark/Bloomsbury in 2012, and Volume II, *Theological Ethics*, is forthcoming in 2016. He is now working on a project called ‘CreatureKind’ ([becreaturekind.org](http://becreaturekind.org)) to engage churches in the UK and North America with the issue of farmed animal welfare and the implications for consumption of meat, dairy, and eggs.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “Consuming Creatures: The Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare”**



**Boğaç A. Ergene** is Associate Professor of History at University of Vermont. Ergene has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Economics and Economic History. He received his PhD degree in History from the Ohio State University in 2001. Ergene is the author of *Local Court, Provincial Society and Justice in the Ottoman Empire: Legal Practice and Dispute Resolution in Çankırı and Kastamonu (1652–1744)* (Boston and Leiden: Brill, 2003) and editor of *Judicial Practice: Institutions and Agents in the Islamic World* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2009). In addition, he published articles in major history, law, and economic history journals. Ergene has recently completed a long-term research project on “Law and Economics” in the Ottoman Empire (with Metin Coşgel). The book based on this research (titled, *The Economics of Ottoman Justice*) is forthcoming.

Ergene’s research has received support in the past from many institutions, including the American Council of Learned Societies, Social Sciences Research Council, and American Research Institute in Turkey.



**Bruce Friedrich** is executive director of The Good Food Institute (GFI), a nonprofit organization that promotes plant and culture-based alternatives to animal agriculture, and founding partner of New Crop Capital (NCC), a venture capital firm that provides angel, seed, and Series A funding to companies that are producing plant-based and cultured alternatives to meat, dairy, and eggs, as well to tech startups that are focused on promoting alternatives to animal agriculture.

Bruce's articles appear regularly in the Huffington Post, and he has penned opinion pieces for USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, and many other publications. Bruce is a popular speaker on college campuses and has presented repeatedly at most of the nation's top universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, and MIT. Bruce co-authored one book, contributed chapters to four books, and has published six law review articles.

Bruce graduated magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from the Georgetown University Law Center and Phi Beta Kappa from Grinnell College. He also holds degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “The Church of Animal Liberation: Animal Rights as “Religion” Under the Free Exercise Clause”**



**Chris Green** is the Executive Director of Harvard Law School's Animal Law & Policy Program. He also is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the University of Illinois, where he created the school's first Environmental Science degree. Chris previously was the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and is the immediate past-Chair of the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee. Chris served on the Board of the National Center for Animal Law and has consulted on animal legal issues for CNN, CBS News, Dateline NBC, Headline News, Bloomberg, The Atlantic, Harpers, Huffington Post, Science Magazine, Smart Money Magazine, The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, Wall Street Journal & Washington Post. He currently owns & manages an Illinois farm that has remained in his family for 179 straight years, and also spent several decades working in the fine arts, film and music industries.



**Aaron Saul Gross**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego, is a historian of religions who works at the intersection of religious studies, animal studies, and food studies. Gross specializes in modern and contemporary Judaisms and has a sub-speciality in contemporary South Asian traditions. He served as co-chair of the American Academy of Religion's Animals and Religion Group for six years and continues to be active on the steering committee, and serves as Vice President of the Society for Jewish Ethics. His published works include *The Question of the Animal and Religion: Theoretical Stakes, Practical Implications* (2014) and the co-edited volume *Animals and the Human Imagination* (2012), both with Columbia University Press. Gross also serves as CEO of the food and farming justice advocacy group, Farm Forward, which launched the Jewish Initiative for Animals in January 2016.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “Animals, Law, and Religion: Perspectives from the Study of Religion, Implications for Religious Communities”**



**Dale Jamieson** is Professor of Environmental Studies and Philosophy, Affiliated Professor of Law, Affiliated Professor of Bioethics, and Chair of the Environmental Studies Department at New York University. He is also Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Dickson Poon School of Law at King's College, London, and Adjunct Professor at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia. Formerly he was Henry R. Luce Professor in Human Dimensions of Global Change at Carleton College, and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he was the only faculty member to have won both the Dean's award for research in the social sciences and the Chancellor's award for research in the humanities. He has held visiting appointments at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Cornell, Princeton, Stanford, Oregon, Arizona State University, and Monash University in Australia, and is a former member of the School of Social Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “Is Animal Studies Good for Animals?”**



**Justin Marceau** is a tenured law professor and civil rights lawyer. He teaches courses in constitutional law, federal jurisdiction, criminal law and animal law at the University of Denver Sturm College of law. He is the inaugural Animal Legal Defense Fund Professor of Law and the author of two textbooks and numerous law review articles, including animal law related pieces appearing in the *Vanderbilt Law Review* and the *Columbia Law Review*. He litigates cases raising constitutional issues in the scope of the death penalty and civil rights, including animal rights issues that involve questions of federal or constitutional law. He has devoted a considerable amount of time over the past four years to litigating the first set of legal challenges to the infamous Ag-Gag laws of several states.



**Richard McGregor** is Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University and Coordinator for Arabic language studies, undergraduate studies in Islam, and area director for “History and Critical Theories of Religion” in the Graduate Department of Religion.

His research interests include medieval Sufism, the visual culture of religious practice, aesthetics, philosophy, ethics, and Islamic theories of religion. Currently at work on a monograph on medieval material religion, and a translation of the Sira of Muhammad. With Lenn Goodman he published the first critical edition and translation of the tenth-century philosophical fable, "The Case of the Animals versus Man Before the King of the Jinn" (OUP 2009).

**Paper Title for Workshop: “Animal Accusers and the Rhetoric of Suffering: Troubling the Human/Animal Divide”**



**Natalie K. Prosin** is the Project Manager of the Animals, Law and Religion Project. Prior to this position, Prosin served as the Executive Director of the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP), a nonprofit animal rights organization which made history in 2013 when it filed the first-ever *habeas corpus* lawsuits seeking release from captivity and the fundamental right to bodily liberty for four chimpanzees. While at the NhRP, she oversaw the organization’s growth and strategic direction, as well as its public outreach. Prosin has appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Science Magazine, and Rolling Stone, among others. She will also be featured in the forthcoming documentary film, *Unlocking the Cage*, which premiered at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. It will be released in theatres and air on HBO this summer. Prosin graduated summa cum laude from Northeastern University. She holds a Masters in Public Policy from Brown University and a J.D. from Boston College Law School.



**Jordan D. Rosenblum** is the Belzer Associate Professor of Classical Judaism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the author of *Food and Identity in Early Rabbinic Judaism* (Cambridge University Press; paperback 2014) and the co-editor of *Religious Competition in the Third Century C.E.: Jews, Christians, and the Greco-Roman World* (Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2014). He is currently completing a book on ancient debates about the Jewish dietary world (under contract with Cambridge University Press).

**Paper Title for Workshop: “The Rabbinic Rejection of Mercy as Justification for Animal Slaughter”**



**Kristen Stilt** joined Harvard Law School in 2014 as Professor of Law, and she also serves as the Director of the Animal Law & Policy Program and a Director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program (ILSP). Her previous appointments were at Northwestern University Law School and the University of Washington School of Law.

Stilt’s research focuses on Islamic law and society in both historical and contemporary contexts. She was named a Carnegie Scholar for her work on constitutional Islam, and in 2013 was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

Stilt received a JD from The University of Texas School of Law, where she was an associate editor of the *Texas Law Review* and co-editor-in-chief of the *Texas Journal of Women in the Law*. She also holds a PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “Do Muslim Animals Need Saving?”**



**Himmet Taskomur** is a student of legal and intellectual history of late medieval and early modern Ottoman Empire. His interests intersect various aspects of legal, intellectual and cultural histories of Ottoman and modern Turkish history. Currently, he has been working on two book manuscripts: “Theory of *Madhhab* in the Ottoman Empire, 1500-1800”, and “Law and Public Debates: Legal Pamphleteering in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire. At Harvard University, he is working as a Senior Preceptor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature, and has have been teaching Ottoman and modern Turkish languages and literature.

**Paper Title for Workshop: “Islamic Dietary Law: Mamluk**

## **Period Scholarly Debates on the Consumption of Horse Meat.”**



**Sarra Tlili** is Assistant Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Florida. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, in 2009. Her main areas of research are animal ethics in Islam, stylistics of the Qur’an, and tradition and modernity in Arabic literature. Her recent publications include *Animals in the Qur’an* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), “Animals Would Follow Shāfi‘ism: Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence to Animals in Medieval Islamic Thought” (2015), and “All Animals Are Equal, or Are They? The Ikhwān al-Ṣafā’s Animal Epistle and its Unhappy end” (2014).

### **Paper Title for Workshop: “Situating Islamic Animal Ethics in Modern Environmental Discourse”**



**Anne Valley** is Associate Professor, Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa. Valley worked in the broad field of Jain studies and the anthropology of South Asian Religion more broadly, for nearly 20 years. Although her initial interest in pursuing studies in Jainism was motivated by the Jain ethical tradition and what she considered to be its unique relationship with the non-human, her academic writing rarely, and barely, touched upon this area. Instead, her work, which is largely ethnographic, has been focused on issues around gender and asceticism (*Guardians of the Transcendent*, 2002) as well as that of devotional practices, death and grief within the tradition. In other words, “the Question of the Animal”, though never completely absent, has always been on the periphery of her work. Co-editing the volume *Animals & the Human Imagination*, 2012, with Aaron Gross, represented her first foray into the field of Animal Studies. It marked the beginning of a shift in her thinking about the role of the category of the animal or non-human within academe. Her paper for this workshop reflects these more recent efforts, and seeks to bring into sharper focus the constitutive role of the non-human in Jain ethical and devotional practices. More particularly, it elucidates the place that the non-human occupies in the celebrated and centrally important Jain practice of ritual death.

### **Paper Title for Workshop: “Vulnerability and Transcendence: the Human-Animal Divide Within Jainism”**



**Paul Waldau** is an educator, scholar and activist working at the intersection of animal studies, law, ethics, religion, and cultural studies. A Professor at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, Paul is the Director of the Master of Science graduate program in Anthrozoology for which he has been the lead faculty member since the program's founding in 2011. Paul has also taught Animal Law at Harvard Law School (2002-2014) and courses regarding ethics and animals in Harvard's Summer School since 2009, where this summer he will teach "Animal Studies—An Introduction." The former Director of the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, Paul taught veterinary ethics and public policy for more than a decade. He has completed five books, the most recent of which are *Animal Studies—An Introduction* (2013 Oxford University Press) and *Animal Rights* (2011 Oxford University Press). He is also co-editor of *A Communion of Subjects: Animals in Religion, Science, and Ethics* (2006 Columbia University Press) and *An Elephant in the Room: The Science and Well-being of Elephants in Captivity* (2008 Center for Animals and Public Policy). His first book was *The Specter of Speciesism: Buddhist and Christian Views of Animals* (2001 Oxford University Press).

**Paper Title for Workshop: "Buddhism and Other Animals"**