

DePaul University Archives: Islam in America Collection: Amina Wadud Papers

Islam in America Collection: Amina Wadud Papers (b.1952)

Date Range: 1972-2008

Quantity: 2 feet, 6 inches (2 record center cartons)

Biography

In 1972, American born Mary Teasley converted to Islam and by 1974 her name was officially changed to Amina Wadud to reflect her chosen religious affiliation. Coinciding with her conversion, was a shift in her university studies from education to Islam. Over the next few years, Wadud would become fluent in Arabic and earn her master's and PhD degrees from the University of Michigan in Near Eastern Studies and Philosophy while raising her five children. Before Wadud accepted a position in 1992 as Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), she spent time studying and teaching in both Libya and Malaysia. While still in Malaysia, Wadud wrote and published the first gender-inclusive critical interpretation of the *Qur'an*. Her 1992 book, *Qur'an and Women*, brought her international scholarly recognition. Following this publication, Wadud was invited to deliver papers and speak at conferences and events across the United States and around the world.

Among Wadud's other achievements is her early membership in Sisters in Islam, an organization created by Muslim women who were concerned with the oppression many women faced in the name of Islam. The group's weekly meetings examine the *Quran's* language and promote equality and justice for Islamic women. Wadud's activism and scholarship for women and Islam extends beyond the academic boundaries. In 2001, she was invited by Colin Powell to attend a Ramadan dinner at the White House. Of significance to her career and writing are the occasions in 1995 in South Africa and again in 2005 in New York City where Wadud led prayers and ritual services within the mosque. The responses that followed her leading a the midday Muslim prayer, *salat-al-jumu'ah*, on March 18, 2005, included numerous threats that resulted in VCU requesting that she teach by video link for security reasons.

Description

Amina Wadud's papers are organized into five categories: Biographical, Conferences and Presentations, Publications, Sisters in Islam, and Teaching Files from Virginia Commonwealth University.

The **biographical** category includes her personal documents, correspondence, and press coverage. The press clippings and audio-visual materials about Wadud offer additional biography by providing multiple view points and responses to her actions, work, and scholarship.

The more than 200 **conferences and presentations** Wadud has taken part in are arranged by geographical location: International and National (United States). Within these two category designations, the correspondence, presentation schedules, papers, and other documents are arranged chronologically. Among those conferences are the 2002 "Islam and America in the Global World" sponsored by The William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation and the "2006 U.S. Islamic World Forum" organized by the Brookings Institution.

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Wadud's *Quranic* interpretations and discussions of women and Islam are found in her scholarly writings contained in Box 2 in the **Publications** category and in books that she has either contributed to or written. A bibliography of the books cataloged in DePaul's Special Collections follows this finding aid's container list.

The history of the group, **Sisters in Islam** is detailed in the Sisters of Islam "Background & History" folder. Pamphlets produced by this organization can be found in their "Publications" folder and this group's books are listed in the bibliography at the end of this finding aid. The Sisters in Islam have been involved in such international conferences such as the 1998 "Islam, Reproductive Health and Women's Rights Workshop" that took place in Kuala Lumpur. A series of papers surrounding this workshop were published as a report and are contained in the "Conference and Presentation—International" folder for that year.

The **teaching files** include evaluations she received from students, grant proposals, course syllabi, and tenure and promotion documents.

Provenance

In September 1995, Wadud participated in the "Islam in America Conference" at DePaul University. Amina Wadud donated her papers to the DePaul University Archives' Islam in America Collection in June of 2008, Accession Number: 2008.06

Restrictions: None

Processed: August 2008, Michelle McCoy

Location

DePaul University, Special Collections and Archives Department, 2350 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 6061

DePaul University Archives: Islam in America Collection: Amina Wadud Papers

Box	Folder Title	Date
1	BIOGRAPHICAL FILES	
1	Biographical Documents	1972-2006
2	Correspondence	1991-2007
3	Honors & Awards	1992-2004
4	Press coverage	1991-1994
5	Press coverage	1995-1999
6	Press coverage	2000-2004
7	Press coverage	2005-2008
	Press—Audio/Visual (CDs & DVDs)	
8	<i>Istanbul</i> (2 CDs)	2005
9	<i>The Noble Struggle of Amina Wadud</i> (DVD)	2006
10	<i>Heretic: Amina Wadud</i> (DVD)	2007
	<i>Islamic Feminisms: Authority and Authenticity</i> , Berlin (DVD)	
	CNN Headline News (DVD)	
11	QI Radio Program (3 CDs)	n.d.
12	White House Ramadan Dinner	Nov. 2001
13	Miscellaneous	n.d.
	CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS	
14	International	1989-1992
15	International	1994
16	International	1995
17	International	1996-1997
18	International	1998-1999
19	International	2000-2004
20	International	2005-2007
21	National	1992-1993
22	National	1994
23	National	1995
24	National	1996
25	National	1997-1999
26	National	2000-2004
27	National	2005-2008
2	PUBLICATIONS	
	Anthologized Articles	1993-2007
1	“Islam, Gender & Women’s Rights: An Alternative View”	
	“On Belonging As a Muslim Woman”	
	“Gender, Culture and Religion: An Islamic Perspective”	
	“Teaching Afrocentric Islam in the White Christian South”	
	“In Search of a Woman’s Voice in Qur’anic Hermeneutics”	
	“An Islamic Perspective on Civil Rights Issues”	
	“Family in Islam: or Gender Relations by Any Other Name”	
	“Alternative Qur’anic Interpretation and the Status of Muslim Women”	
	“Islam and Women as Agents for Peace and Human Rights”	

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Box	Folder Title	Date
2	PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)	
	Anthologized Articles (cont)	1993-2007
1	“Beyond Interpretation” “What’s Interpretation Got to Do With It: The Relationship Between Theory and Practice in Islamic Gender Reform” “American Muslim Identity: Race and Ethnicity in Progressive Islam” “The Role of Women in the American-Muslim Community and Their Impact on Perceptions of Muslim Women Worldwide” “Citizenship and Faith” “Rights and Roles of Women” “Women and Leadership in the Qur’an”	
2	<i>American Muslim</i>	1994-1995
3	Arabic language	n.d.
4	Arabic Translation— <i>Qur’an and Women</i>	2005
5	Citations (Selected)	2000’s
6	Correspondence	1991-2006
	Journals	
7	<i>The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences</i> , vol. 12, no. 2 <i>Journal of Law and Religion</i> , vol. XII, no. 1	1995-1996
8	<i>Pakistan Journal of Women’s Studies</i> , vol. 4, no. 2	1997
9	<i>Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion</i> , vol. 16, no. 2 <i>Journal of Law and Religion</i> , vol. XV, nos. 1 & 2	2000
10	<i>Hawwa: Journal of Women of the Middle East and the Islamic World</i> , vol. 2, no. 3	2004
11	<i>The Middle East Journal</i> , vol. 59, no. 3	2005
12	Magazines & Electronic Media	1995-2006
	SISTERS IN ISLAM	
13	Background & History	1990-2005
14	Memorandum	1996-1997
15	Publications (Note: Books are listed in the end bibliography.) <i>Are Muslim Women Allowed to Beat Their Wives</i> <i>Are Women & Men Equal Before Allah?</i> <i>Islam, Gender and Women’s Rights: An Alternative View</i> <i>Islam and Family Planning</i>	1991-2001
	TEACHING FILES: VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY	
16	Evaluation Reports	2000-2005
17	Research Grants & Proposals	1993-1996
18	RST 101 Course Syllabi	1994-1998
19	RST 317 & 319 Course Syllabi	1993-1995
20	RST 321 Course Syllabi	1994
21	RST 350 Course Syllabi	1994-1996
22	RST 490 Course Syllabi	1994
23	RST 491 Course Syllabi	1993-1998
24	Tenure & Promotion Documents	1998-2006
25	University Service	1993-2006

Amina Wadud Book Collection

Abou El Fadl, Khaled. *The Place of Tolerance in Islam* / Khaled Abou El Fadl ; edited by Joshua Cohen and Ian Lague for Boston review. Boston : Beacon Press, c2002.
SpCI. 297.272 A155p2002

Black Women in the Academy: Promises and Perils / edited by Lois Benjamin. Gainesville : University Press of Florida, c1997.
SpCI. 378.12082 B628b1997

DeLong-Bas, Natana J. *Notable Muslims: Muslim Builders of World Civilization and Culture*. Oxford [Eng.] : Oneworld, 2006.
SPCI 297.092203 D361n2006

Gender, Culture, and Religion / edited by Norani Othman and Cecilia Ng Choon Sim. Kuala Lumpur : Persatuan Sains Sosial Malasia ; Singapore : Distributed by Outlet Book Distributors, 1995.
SpCI. 200.82 G325o1995

Introduction to Islam: A Reader / edited by Amina Wadud. Dubuque, IA : Kendall/ Hunt Pub. Co., c2007.
SpCI. 297 I61w2007

Islamic Family Law and Justice for Muslim Women / editor, Hjh. Nik Noriani Nik Badlishah. Regional Workshop on Islamic Family Law and Justice for Muslim Women (2001 : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). Petaling Jaya, Selangor : Sisters in Islam, c2003.
SpCI. 305.48697 R336i2003

Islam in Transition: Muslim Perspectives / edited by John J. Donohue and John L. Esposito. New York : Oxford University Press, 2007.
SPCI 297.27I82d2007

Modern Muslim Intellectuals and the Qur'an / edited by Suha Taji-Farouki. Oxford University Press, 2006.
SPCI 297.12260904M689t2006

Muslims in the United States: Identity, Influence, Innovation / edited by Philippa Strum. Washington, D.C. : Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, [2005]
SpCI. 305.697073 M987s2005

My Soul is a Witness: African-American Women's Spirituality / edited by Gloria Wade Gayles. Boston : Beacon Press, c1995.
SPCI 277.3082M995W1995

DePaul University Archives: Islam in America Collection: Amina Wadud Papers

The New Voices of Islam: Rethinking Politics and Modernity: A Reader / edited by Mehran Kamrava. Berkeley : University of California Press, c2006.
SPCI 297.272N532k2006

Progressive Muslims: On Justice, Gender and Pluralism / edited by Omid Safi. Oxford [Eng.] : Oneworld, c2003.
SPCI 297.2P964s2003

Religion, Race, and Justice in a Changing America / Gary Orfield and Holly J. Lebowitz, editors ; with vignettes from the field by Michal Kurlaender. New York : Century Foundation Press, 1999.
SpCI. 201.72 R382o1999

Wadud, Amina. *De Koran en de Vrouw*. (Dutch translation of *Qur'an and Women*) Amsterdam : Uitgeverij Bulaaq, 2004.
SpCI. 297.12283054 W125q2004

---. *Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam*. Oxford [Eng.] : Oneworld, c2006.
SPCI 297.082W125i2006

---. *Qur'an and Woman*. Turkish. Kur'ân ve kadın / Amine Vedûd-Muhsin ; türkçesi Nazife Şişman. İstanbul : İz Yayıncılık, 1997.
SpCI. 297.1227 W125qT1997

---. *Qur'an and Women*. Kuala Lumpur : Penerbit Fajar Bakti Sdn. Bhd., 1992.
SPCI 297.1227 W125q1992

---. *Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective*. Rev. and expanded. Oxford University Press, 1999.
SPCI 297.12283054W125q1999

---. *Quran Menurut Perempuan*. (Malaysian translation of *Qur'an and Women*) Jakarta : Serambi, 2001.
SPCI 297.12283054W125qI2001

---. *Woman in the Qur'an: The Absence of Sex-Role Stereotyping in the Text*. Dissertation (PhD), University of Michigan, 1988. Doctor of Philosophy (Near Eastern Studies).
SpCI. 297.12283054 W125w1988

Windows of Faith: Muslim Women Scholar-Activists in North America / edited by Gisela Webb. Women and gender in North American religions. Syracuse, N.Y. : Syracuse University Press, 2000.
SPCI 305.486971W765w2000

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A Woman's Place: Religious Women as Public Actors / edited by Azza Karam. New York, N.Y. : World Conference on Religion and Peace Women's Program, c2001.
SpCI. 200.82 W872k2001

Women and Citizenship / edited by Marilyn Friedman. Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 2005.
SpCI. 323.34 W872f2005

Women, Religion, and Family Law: A Report of a Regional Consultation, 16-18 October 1992, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia : Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, [1994?].
SpCI. 305.4095 W872a1994

Women's Sacred Scriptures / edited by Kwok Pui-Lan and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. Concilium ; 1998/3. London : SCM Press ; Maryknoll, N.Y. : Orbis Books, c1998.
SpCI. 282 C7441998:3