

JOHN C. THIBDEAU

EDUCATION

Present (2018)	Ph.D. Candidate in Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara Exams: Sufism; Islamic Law & Government; Cognition, Culture & Music
2012	M.A. in Religious Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder Graduate Certificate in Critical Social Theory Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science Master's Thesis: <i>Enactive Cognitive Science and the Study of Religious Traditions</i>
2007	B.S. in Philosophy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Minor in Physics

AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Sufism in Morocco; Contemporary Middle Eastern Social and Religious Movements; Religious Community, Practice and Experience; Cognitive Science & Ritual; Anthropology of Religion; Anthropology & Ethics

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Spring 2015	Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara <i>Modern Iran</i>
Winter 2015	Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara <i>Religious Approaches to Death</i>
Fall 2014	Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara <i>Arabic 1</i>
Fall 2011 – Fall 2012, Summer 2013	Graduate Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder <i>Dancing, Culture, Religion</i>
Spring 2013	Graduate Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder <i>Religion and the Senses</i>
Spring 2011	Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder <i>Native American Religious Traditions</i>

PUBLICATIONS

2015	“Islam and Dance” in <i>Encyclopedia of Islam 2nd ed.</i> (Facts on File)
2015	“Khalwati Sufi Order” in <i>Encyclopedia of Islam 2nd ed.</i> (Facts on File)
2014	“Plasticity in the Contemporary Islamic Subject” in <i>The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion</i> (IUP)
2014	Book Review: <i>Dancing, Culture Religion</i> by Sam Gill in <i>Dance, Movement, and Spiritualities</i> (Intellect)

CONFERENCES/LECTURES

2018	<i>Sufism and Civil Society in Morocco</i> at DAVO Congress (Frankfurt, Germany)
2015	<i>Performing Egyptian Mawlid Festivals</i> at AAR Annual Conference (Atlanta)
2015	<i>The Political Significance of Umm Kultubum's 'Al-Attal'</i> at Society of Ethnomusicology, SW (Ft. Collins)
2014	<i>The Emergence of Reciprocal Interaction in Egyptian Tahtib</i> at Linguistics Department Colloquium (UCSB)
2013	<i>Gesture in Sufi Dhikr</i> at AAR Annual Conference (Baltimore)
2013	<i>Methods In the Study of Religion: Gesture and Video Analysis</i> at UCSB Department Colloquium (UCSB)
2013	<i>Sam Gill and the Academic Study of Religion</i> at Dept. of Religious Studies Event (Boulder)
2013	<i>Listening, Dancing, Gesturing: Sufi Sema' and Dhikr</i> at Naropa University (Boulder)
2012	<i>Dabke Dance Lesson and Discussion</i> at Taste of the Middle East hosted by Boulder Nablus Society (Boulder)
2012	<i>Plasticity, Perception, and Power</i> a series of lectures for “Religion and the Senses” course (Boulder).
2011	<i>Plasticity in the Contemporary Islamic Subject</i> at Postmodernism, Culture, Religion Conference (Syracuse)

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

2017	Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Development Research Award <i>“Sufism in Moroccan Public Life: Charity, Community, and Care”</i>
2015-16	Fellow, “Humanities and the Brain” Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
2015	Best Student Paper, SEM Southwest Conference
2013 - 2015	J.F. Rowny Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
2012	Scholarship, Mendocino M.E. Music and Dance Camp, Mendocino, CA
2011 - 2012	Graduate Assistantship, University of Colorado, Boulder
2011	Teaching Assistantship, University of Colorado, Boulder

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012	High School Teacher, The American International School of Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programming, Digital Media, Yearbook, Graphic/Web Design (Varsity Soccer and Basketball Coach)
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2007 - 2010

High School Teacher, The American School of Kuwait (Hawalli, Kuwait)

- Geometry, Math, Physics (Varsity Soccer, Basketball, and Track Coach)

LANGUAGES

Arabic	Reading (Advanced), Speaking (Intermediate/Advanced), Writing (Intermediate/Advanced)
Persian	Reading (Beginner), Speaking (Beginner), Writing (Beginner)
French	Reading (Intermediate), Speaking (Beginner), Writing (Beginner)
Spanish	Reading (Intermediate), Speaking (Beginner/Intermediate), Writing (Beginner/Intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion; International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion; Manuscript Reviewer for the Journal of Dance, Movement, and Spiritualities (Intellect Publishers); USSF "D" Licensed Soccer Coach.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2015	Organizing Committee, Islamic Studies Graduate Conference "Constructing and Contesting Islam" (UCSB)
2014-16	<i>Music and Religion</i> Reading Group (UCSB).
2013-16	<i>Religion, Experience, and Mind</i> Research Group (UCSB).
2013-16	<i>Middle Eastern Music Ensemble</i> Percussionist (UCSB).
2012	Hosted Lecture by Manuel Vasquez for his book <i>More Than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion</i> (Colorado)
2012	Dabke Dance Performance for Middle Eastern Cultural Night hosted by Middle East and Arab Student Assoc.
2011	<i>Technologies of the Self in Islam</i> Reading Group (Colorado)
2011	Hosted Lecture by Ebrahim Moosa "Rethinking Modern Muslim Discursivities."

REFERENCES

Dr. Juan Campo (Advisor) Professor, Religious Studies University of California, Santa Barbara Email: jcampo@religion.ucsb.edu	Dr. Ahmad A. Ahmad Professor, Religious Studies University of California, Santa Barbara Email: aahmad@religion.ucsb.edu	Dr. Ruth Mas M.A. Advisor University of Colorado, Boulder Email: Ruth.mas@gmail.com
Dr. Dwight Reynolds Professor, Religious Studies University of California, Santa Barbara Email: dreynold@religion.ucsb.edu	Dr. Ann Taves Professor, Religious Studies University of California, Santa Barbara Email: taves@religion.ucsb.edu	Dr. Sam Gill Professor, Religious Studies University of Colorado, Boulder Email: sam.gill@colorado.edu

COURSES TAKEN

Islamic Studies	Islam & Modernity, Sharia and the Nation, Islamic Law, Other Islams, Islamic Political Theory, Medieval Arabic Literature, Classical Islamic Texts, Islamic Modernities, Islamic Mysticism, Islamic Ethics, Fatwa Literature, Modern Islamic Movements
Theory	Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion, Formations of the Secular, Frankfurt School, Anthropology & Sociology of Religion, Philosophy of Religion, History & Phenomenology of Religion, Critical Theory & Religion, Foundations of Critical Theory
Method	Methods in Cultural Anthropology, Ethnography and Oral Culture, Language & the Body, Methods in Cognitive Science
Other	Middle Eastern Music, Musical Acoustics, Umm Kulthum, Neurobiology of Learning & Memory, Philosophy of Mind, Brain-Body-Movement-Religion