

Henri Lauzière

Associate Professor, Department of History
Northwestern University

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Professional interests: modern MENA region; Islamic intellectual history; history of science; epistemology.

Education

Ph.D. Georgetown University, 2008

Modern Middle Eastern and North African history

M.A. Simon Fraser University, 2000

Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Modern Middle Eastern history

B.A. Université Laval, 1997

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

History

Academic Experience

2016 – present: Associate Professor

2009-2016: Assistant Professor

Department of History, Northwestern University

Selected Grants and Fellowships

Membership

Institute for Advanced Study
School of Historical Studies
Princeton, NJ
Fall 2025

Senior Humanities Research Fellowship
for the Study of the Arab World

NYUAD Institute
New York University in Abu Dhabi (NYUAD)
Abu Dhabi, UAE
2023-2024

Special Programme Grant on Islam,
The Modern Nation State and
Transnational Movements

The Gerda Henkel Foundation
Düsseldorf, Germany
2012-2013

Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Study of the
Middle East Since the First World War

Department of Near Eastern Studies
Princeton University
2008-2009

Davis Fellowship

Department of History
Georgetown University
2005-2006

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of
Canada (SSHRC), 2000-2004

Awards

2020

- The Alumnae of Northwestern Teaching Professorship (2020-23). Northwestern University. Awarded once every three years to one tenured professor throughout the University.
- Senior Fellow of the Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching (2020-23). Northwestern University.
- Associated Student Government (ASG) Faculty Honor Roll for teaching excellence in 2019-2020. Northwestern University.

2015

- Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS) Distinguished Teaching Award. Northwestern University.

2012

- Associated Student Government (ASG) Faculty Honor Roll for teaching excellence in 2011-2012. Northwestern University.

Publications

Lauzière, Henri. *The Making of Salafism: Islamic Reform in the Twentieth Century* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016). Translated into Arabic as Hanrī Luzyr, *Ṣināʾat al-salafīyya: al-iṣlāḥ al-islāmī fī-l-qarn al-ʿashrīn*, trans. Usāma ʿAbbās and ʿAmr Basyūnī (Beirut: Dār al-Rawāfīd al-Thaqāfiyya, 2018).

———. “The Earliest Demarcations Between Salafis and Wahhabis, and What We Can Learn from Them,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Series 3 (2026): 1-35.

———. “Salafism against Hadith Literature: The Curious Beginnings of a New Category in 1920s Algeria,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 141 (2021): 403-25.

———. “L’histoire du salafisme: ses pièges et ses mythes,” *Moyen-Orient* 33 (2017): 18-23.

———. “Islamic Nationalism Through the Airwaves: Taqī al-Dīn al-Hilālī’s Encounter with Shortwave Radio, 1937-39,” *Die Welt des Islams* 56 (2016): 6-33.

———. “What We Mean Versus What They Meant by ‘Salafi’: A Reply to Frank Griffel,” *Die Welt des Islams* 56 (2016): 89-96.

———. “Walking a Tightrope: Egyptian Reformers in Mecca, 1928-29,” in *On the Ground: New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies*, ed. Brian T. Edwards (Doha: Northwestern University in Qatar, 2013), 65-71.

———. “The Religious Dimension of Islamism: Sufism, Salafism, and Politics in Morocco,” in *Islamist Politics in the Middle East: Movements and Change*, ed. Samer Shehata (London: Routledge, 2012), 88-106.

- . “Conforming to Salafi Standards: The Dilemma Between Unity and Exclusion in Early Twentieth-Century Islamic Reform,” *Teoria* 2 (2012): 71-83.
- . “The Construction of *Salafiyya*: Reconsidering Salafism from the Perspective of Conceptual History,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 42 (August 2010): 369-89.
- . “Post-Islamism and the Religious Discourse of ‘Abd al-Salam Yasin,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37 (2005): 241-61.

Encyclopedia articles:

- . “Salafiyya Bookstore,” in *The Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd ed., eds. Kate Fleet et al. (Leiden: Brill, 2025): 2025-1:https://doi.org/10.1163/1573-3912_ei3_COM_68091
- . “al-Hilālī, Muḥammad Taqī al-Dīn,” in *The Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd ed., eds. Kate Fleet et al. (Leiden: Brill, 2018), 2018-4:68-69.
- . “Secularism,” in *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Political Thought*, eds. Gerhard Böwering et al. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2013), 489-90.
- . “al-Adl wa al-Ihsan,” in *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*, ed. Philip Mattar, 2nd ed. (Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2004), 1:46-7.
- . “Moustafa Bouyali,” in *ibid.*, 505-6.
- and Larry A. Barrie. “Morocco: Overview,” in *ibid.*, 3:1566-72.
- . “Morocco: Constitution,” in *ibid.*, 1572-3.
- . “Abdessalame Yacine,” in *ibid.*, 4:2375-6.
- . “Abderrahman Youssoufi” in *ibid.*, 2410-1.

Book Reviews

Michael Crawford, *Ibn ‘Abd al-Wahhab* (Oxford: Oneworld, 2014) in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 75, 2 (2016): 409-10.

Abdessalam Yassine, *Winning the Modern World for Islam*, trans. Martin Jenni (Iowa City: Justice and Spirituality Publishing, 2000) in *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, 14 (2003): 367-8.

Selected Conference Papers and Presentations

“Reason At Large.” Islam Workshop, Department of Religious Studies, Princeton University, October 29, 2025. (Invited)

“Reasons to Dissect Reason: Historians and the Bizarreness of an Abstract Object We Cannot Do Without.” NES Seminar, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, October 22, 2025. (Invited.)

“Oslo Accords: Road to Peace or False Hope?” Buffet Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University, February 18, 2025. (Invited.)

“Beyond Doubt: A Counter-History of Reason in Modern Islamic Thought.” New York University in Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), United Arab Emirates, November 9, 2023. (Invited)

- “Drawn Lines and Blurred Lines Between Salafism and Wahhabism in the Early 20th Century.” Conference entitled: *Genealogies of Salafism: Historical Roots of Current Trends*, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 17, 2022. (Invited)
- “When Salafism was Unrecognizable: The Case of Algeria in the Mid-1920s.” Conference entitled: *Genealogies of Salafism: Historical Roots of Current Trends*, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands, September 2020 (Invited; postponed due to COVID-19)
- Utrecht I&A Conversations with Mehdi Sajid (Utrecht University, Netherlands), “Islamic Reform and Salafism,” August 28, 2020. (Invited; online)
- “Incohérences et faux-fuyants, ou, Comment en finir avec le legs conceptuel de Louis Massignon.” Congrès du Groupement d’intérêt scientifique (GIS) Moyen-Orient et Mondes Musulmans, Paris, July 8, 2017. (Invited)
- “The Making of Salafism: Islamic Reform in the Twentieth Century.” Miller Center for Historical Studies, University of Maryland, October 27, 2016. (Invited)
- “What Does it Mean to Be Salafi? A Historical Perspective.” Islamic World Studies Lecture Series, Loyola University, Chicago, March 30, 2016. (Invited)
- “Salafism Between Emic and Etic Perspectives: Some Analytical Pitfalls.” Harvard University, March 11, 2016. (Invited)
- “How Did Salafism Become an Ideology?” Harvard University, March 10, 2016. (Invited)
- “The Benefits and Pitfalls of Searchable Digitalized Sources for Conceptual History: Some Reflections on the Case of Salafism.” Paper delivered in absentia at a panel entitled “Les promesses et défis des humanités numériques: histoire médiévale et histoire moderne,” Congrès du Groupement d’intérêt scientifique (GIS) Moyen-Orient et Mondes Musulmans, Paris, July 7, 2015. (Invited)
- “Penser le salafisme: bref historique du concept et son rapport à la violence.” Université de Montréal, Canada, June 15, 2015. (Invited)
- “Imperial Entanglement as a Moderating Factor: The Postcolonial ‘Rigidification’ of Religious Thought among Purist Salafis.” Center for Emerging Worlds, University of California, Santa Cruz, November 17, 2014. (Invited)
- “The Price of Success: Purist Salafis in the Age of Decolonization.” Buffet Center, Northwestern University, March 7, 2014. (Invited)
- “Quelques réflexions historiques sur les notions de rationalité et de tolérance dans le salafisme à l’époque moderne.” Université de Sherbrooke, Canada, February 6, 2013. (Invited)
- “Walking a Tightrope: Egyptian Reformers in Mecca, 1928-29.” Conference entitled *New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies 3*, Northwestern University in Qatar, Doha, September 11, 2012. (Invited)
- “Strengthening the Umma Through the Airwaves: Taqi al-Din al-Hilali’s Germany-Based Campaign for an Islamic Version of Vatican Radio, 1937-39.” Conference entitled *Transnational Islam in Interwar Europe*, University of Leiden, Netherlands, December 13, 2011. (Invited)
- “Conforming to Salafi Standards: The Dilemma Between Unity and Exclusion in 20th-Century Islamic Reformism.” Conference entitled *Conformity and Dissent: Questioning the Transgression*, The University of Pisa, Italy, March 23, 2011. (Invited)

“The End of the ‘Trio of Islamic Reform:’ Some Reflections on Rashid Rida’s Change of Heart about Modernism.” Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Chicago, January 21, 2011. (Invited)

“Constituting Salafism: The ‘Salafiyya’ Press and Bookstore and the Redefinition of Salafi Islam Between the 1910s and 1920s.” Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) Conference entitled *Constituting Bodies of Islamic Knowledge*, Northwestern University, Evanston, November 18, 2008. (Invited)

“The Aspirations and Discontent of Foreign Salafis in Mecca and Medina After the Saudi Conquest: A Moroccan Account.” Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, October 20, 2008. (Invited)

Languages

French, English, Modern Standard Arabic