

## **SANDY RUSSELL IONES**

**Center for Middle Eastern Studies**  
**Rutgers University**  
**Lucy Stone Hall, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue**  
**Piscataway, NJ 08854**  
srussjo@rci.rutgers.edu

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

**Director of Middle East Studies Program** (Fall 2011 – Spring 2014)  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Rutgers University  
**Lecturer** (Fall 2010 – Spring 2014)  
History Department, Rutgers University  
**Lecturer** (Fall 2008; Spring 2012 – Spring 2014)  
Religion Department, Rutgers University  
**Fellow**, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis (2010 – 2011)  
History Department, Rutgers University  
**Grader**, Middle East Studies Seminar (Spring 2009)  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Rutgers University  
**Lecturer** (Spring 2003)  
University of Pennsylvania  
**Adjunct Faculty** (Fall 2002)  
East Stroudsburg University  
**Teaching Assistant and Writing Adviser** (Fall 1999 – Spring 2001)  
University of Pennsylvania

### **EDUCATION**

<b>Ph.D. (August 2010)</b>	University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies
<b>B.A. (1993)</b>	Dickinson College, Religious Studies
Arabic Language (2001-2002)	Center for Arabic Study Abroad in Cairo, Egypt
Arabic Language (1999)	Summer Intensive Arabic at Middlebury College
Semester Abroad Program (1996)	School for International Training, Morocco

### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Women in Islam, Islamic Law, Gulf Area Studies, Shi'i Islam.

### **LANGUAGES**

Arabic – advanced/intermediate (reading, writing, speaking)  
French – reading  
German - reading

## **AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis Fellowship (2010-2011), New Brunswick, NJ  
Fulbright IIE Program for U.S. Students Dissertation Research Grant (2004-2005), Bahrain  
Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (2004-2005), Bahrain (declined)  
American Research Center in Egypt Dissertation Research Grant (2004-2005), Egypt  
University of Pennsylvania Religious Studies Pre-dissertation Grant (2003), Bahrain  
Center for Arabic Study Abroad Full-Year Fellowship (2001-2002), Egypt  
University of Pennsylvania Religious Studies Boardman Fellowship (2000)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

"Bahrain: Origins of a Crisis," *Jadaliyya*,  
[http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/1209/essential-readings\\_bahrain\\_origins-of-a-crisis](http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/1209/essential-readings_bahrain_origins-of-a-crisis), April 10, 2011.

"God's law or state's law? Authority and Islamic family law reform in Bahrain," dissertation, University of Pennsylvania, 2010.

"The Battle Over Family Law in Bahrain," *Middle East Report*, No. 242, Spring 2007.

Review of Amira El-Azhary Sonbol, *Women of Jordan: Islam, Labor, and the Law in International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 36, no. 3, August 2004.

## **PAPERS PRESENTED**

"A Diagnostic of Power: Strategies of Muslim women activists in advocating Islamic family law reform in Bahrain, 1982 - 2008," Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, April 12, 2011.

"Women and Family Law Reform in Bahrain: Re-shaping Shari`a and the Islamic State," Religious Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, September 17, 2009.

"Shi`i `Ulama' in Bahrain: The Family Law Debate as an Arena for Redefining Religious Authority," Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion, November 3, 2008.

"Shi`i `Ulama' in Bahrain: The Family Law Reform Debate as an Arena for Redefining Religious Authority," Middle East Studies Graduate Student Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, October 20, 2008.

"Is Islam's Response to Suffering Gendered? A Reply to Susan Sered," Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, March 15, 2001.

"Testing Bell: An Application of Catherine Bell's *Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice* to the Sufi ritual Sama'," Religious Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, December 8, 1999.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

**Islamic Civilization**, Rutgers University

**Women and Society in the Islamic Middle East**, Rutgers University

**Women and Islam**, Rutgers University

**Islam, Global Civilization**, Rutgers University

**Introduction to Islam**, Rutgers University and University of Pennsylvania

**Introduction to World Religions**, East Stroudsburg University, PA

## **COURSES ASSISTED**

**Middle East Studies Seminar**, Rutgers University

**Religion and the Search for Meaning**, University of Pennsylvania

**Religions of the West**, University of Pennsylvania

**Religions of the East**, University of Pennsylvania

## **RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE ABROAD**

**BAHRAIN** (2005-2006) Dissertation Research: Between Allah and Man, Sunni and Shi`a: Bahraini Women and Shari`a Court Reform

**EGYPT** (2004-2005) Preliminary Dissertation Research: Personal Status Law Reform and Egyptian Women Activists.

**BAHRAIN** (2003) Preliminary Dissertation Research: Between Allah and Man, Sunni and Shi`a: Bahraini Women and Shari`a Court Reform.

**MOROCCO** (1996) Independent Study Project: Adam's Rib in Cultural Perspective: Comparative Cosmogonies and the Ontology of Women in the Qur'an and Genesis.

**ISRAEL** (1991) Lived and worked as a field hand on Kibbutz Ga`aton, Nahariyya.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion

Association of Middle Eastern Women's Studies

Fulbright Association

Middle East Studies Association