

[Is There a Role for Shari'ah in Modern States?](#)

2008 Conference at Georgetown's bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian  
Understanding™

Hosted by John Esposito

Presenters

- [John Esposito](#) - Gave opening and welcome at conference. Masters in theology at St. John's U., Ph.D. Temple U. studying Islam and held postdoctoral appointments at Harvard and Oxford. Author of over 30 books, former president of [MESA](#) (Middle East Studies Association). Wall Street Journal [called](#) him "America's foremost authority and interpreter of Islam." Holds one of the most prestigious positions of Islamic studies in the U.S. as Professor of Religion and International Affairs, and Professor of Islamic Studies at Georgetown U., and founding and current (2012) Director of Georgetown's Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding™, named after the Saudi sheik who gave \$20 million to Georgetown U. More on him in [University Dogma on IS&J](#) page.
- [Noah Feldman](#) - Keynote speaker at [Is There a Role for Shari'ah in Modern States?](#) Harvard Professor, an architect of Iraq's Constitution. A.B. Harvard, D. Phil. Oxford U., J.D. Yale. "Expertise in relationship between law and religion in both the Western and Middle Eastern context." Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan hired Feldman as a faculty member at Harvard Law School in 2006. In 2008, honored Feldman with the Bemis Chair in International Law. A Carnegie Scholar 2005. In 2008 Feldman published his article "[Why Shariah](#)" in the New York Times Magazine, which described "Islamists" - the Muslim Brotherhood - as a progressive democratic party. More on him in [University Dogma on IS&J](#) page.
- [Nathan Brown](#) - Professor political science and international affairs at George Washington U. Professor, Ph.D. Princeton, his dissertation received the Malcolm Kerr award from the Middle East Studies Association in 1987. 2 years as senior associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, member of the Middle East Advisory Committee of [Human Rights Watch](#), recipient of Fulbright grants to study in Egypt and the Gulf and teach in Israel. A 2009 Carnegie Scholar, under this grant, Professor Brown "will analyze the impacts of increased participation by Islamist groups in electoral politics on both the movements themselves and the political systems in which they operate." Expertise is government and politics of the Middle East, democratization and constitutionalism, rule of law in

the Arab world.” Co-authored with Clark Lombardi *Do Constitutions Requiring Adherence to Sharia Threaten Human Rights? How Egypt’s Constitutional Court Reconciles Islamic Law With The Liberal Rule of Law*. More on him in *University Dogma on IS&J* page.

- **Clark Lombardi** - Ph.D. in Religion from Columbia U., Associate Professor of Law University of Washington School of Law. His teaching and research focuses on Islamic law and constitutional law. Has been involved in projects advising on constitutional or legal reform in the Muslim world, including Iraq and Afghanistan. In recognition of his work, he was named a Carnegie Scholar for 2006-08. Co-authored with Nathan Brown *Do Constitutions Requiring Adherence to Sharia Threaten Human Rights? How Egypt’s Constitutional Court Reconciles Islamic Law With The Liberal Rule of Law*.
- **Dahlia Mogahed** - Born in Egypt, Obama speech writer, advisor, senior analyst and executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, directs the Muslim-West Facts Initiative, co-authored with John Esposito *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*. “Was assigned to the Department of Homeland Security’s advisory council, and testified before the Senate on how the government could effectively engage with the Muslim community.” Also a member of Women in International Security, and the Brookings Institution’s Crisis in the Middle East Task Force. Here are 3 articles on her, *Appeasing the Muslim Brotherhood* (by Nonie Darwish), and *Obama’s top Muslim adviser blocks Middle Eastern Christians’ access to White House*, *Dalia Mogahed*, WikiIslam.
- **Sherman Jackson** - American, Ph.D. Philosophy, Professor Islamic studies, U. of Michigan, in 2009 he was named among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world by John Esposito and the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center in Amman. His presentation was ‘*Can Shari’ah be Reformed?*’ He’s a Board Member of Brotherhood front groups FCNA and IIIT, who both gave a glowing certification of the content and translation of *Reliance of The Traveller* that appears in the book, and NAIT, who along with IIIT are un-indicted co-conspirators in the largest terror funding trial in the U.S. (HLF). He is also a member of Brotherhood front group MSA.
- **Other presenters**