

- [John Esposito](#) - 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." Professor of Religion and International Affairs and Professor of Islamic Studies at Georgetown U, founding and current (2012) Director of Georgetown's bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding™, named after the Saudi sheik who gave \$20 million to Georgetown, where he hosts major conferences like in 2009 [Is There a Role for Shari'ah in Modern States?](#) He once [wrote](#) that Sheik Qaradawi has a "mainstream... kind of reformist interpretation of Islam and its relationship to democracy, pluralism and human rights."



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