

# RYAN MATSUURA CALDER

*as of 30 January 2024*

Department of Sociology  
Johns Hopkins University  
Mergenthaler Hall 533  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Tel. (m): +1 (510) 926-2043  
Fax: +1 (410) 516-7590  
rcalder@jhu.edu

<http://soc.jhu.edu/directory/ryan-m-calder>

Google Scholar profile: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=tXv4nP8AAAAJ&hl=en>  
ORCID iD: 0000-0002-4557-5540

## EDUCATION

---

- Ph.D. Sociology, University of California, Berkeley (2014)
- M.A. Sociology, University of California, Berkeley (2008)
- A.B. Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, Harvard University (2001), *magna cum laude*  
with highest honors in concentration

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

---

- 2014– Assistant Professor of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
- 2023– Director, Program in Islamic Studies, Johns Hopkins University

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### **Forthcoming book**

Calder, Ryan. 2024. *The Paradox of Islamic Finance: How Shariah Scholars Reconcile Religion and Capitalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

- Currently in production. Publication expected May 2024.

### **Journal Articles**

Calder, Ryan. 2020. “Halalization: Religious product certification in secular markets.” *Sociological Theory* 38(4): 334–361.

- *Winner*, 2021 ASA Consumers and Consumption Section Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award
- *Honorable Mention*, 2021 ASA Economic Sociology Section Granovetter Award for Best Paper

Calder, Ryan. 2020. “Sharī‘ah-compliant or sharī‘ah-based? The changing ethical discourse of Islamic finance.” *Arab Law Quarterly* 34: 1–24.

Calder, Ryan. 2019. "How religio-economic projects succeed and fail: the field dynamics of Islamic finance in the Arab Gulf states and Pakistan, 1975–2018." *Socio-Economic Review* 17(1): 167–193.

Calder, Ryan. 2018. "Shariah with British characteristics" (review essay). *European Journal of Sociology* 59(3): 408–416.

Calder, Ryan. 2016. "God's technicians: Religious jurists and the usury ban in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam." *European Journal of Sociology* 57(2): 207-257.

### **Book Chapters**

Calder, Ryan. 2022. "Before the boom: Oil wealth, shariah scholars, and the birth of the Islamic finance industry." In *The Handbook of Sociology and the Middle East*, edited by Fatma Müge Göçek and Gamze Evcimen. London: I.B. Tauris.

Fligstein, Neil and Ryan Calder. 2015. "Architecture of markets." In *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, edited by Robert A. Scott and Stephen M. Kosslyn. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Calder, Ryan. 2010. "Efforts to replicate short-selling in Islamic finance: Malaysian innovation in comparative perspective." In *Current Issues in Islamic Banking and Finance: Resilience and Stability in the Present System*, edited by Angelo Venardos. London: Worldwide Scientific.

### **Book Reviews**

Calder, Ryan and John Lie. 2009. Review of *Emergent Economies, Divergent Paths: Economic Organization and International Trade in South Korea and Taiwan* by Robert C. Feenstra and Gary G. Hamilton (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006). *American Journal of Sociology* 115(2): 693–695.

Calder, Ryan and John Lie. 2006. Review of *The Terror of Neoliberalism: Cultural Politics and the Promise of Democracy* by Henry Giroux (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2004). *Contemporary Sociology* 35(4):400–402.

Calder, Ryan and John Lie. 2006. Review of *Globalization and the Future of the Welfare State*, edited by Miguel Glatzer and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005). *American Journal of Sociology* 112(1):324–326.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

Calder, Ryan and John Lie. 2007. "Political sociology." In *Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology*, edited by George Ritzer. Oxford: Blackwell.

### **Magazine Articles**

Calder, Ryan. 2017. "Accounts Dialogue: Interview with Ryan Calder" (Kasey Zapatka, interviewer). *Accounts* 16(2):3–8.

- Calder, Ryan. 2013. "Libya's cautious optimism." *Contexts* 12(2):18–20.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "An Islamist, a liberal, and a former regime loyalist walk into a café..." *Foreign Policy* (online edition), October 21.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "Remembering Anton Hammerl and his work in Libya." *The Atlantic* (online edition), May 20.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "The improvised state: Who's actually running things in free Libya?" *Foreign Policy* (online edition). April 20.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "Life lessons: How are children in Benghazi coping with war?" *Foreign Policy* (online edition). April 15.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "The sounds of the revolution." *Foreign Policy* (online edition). April 11.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "Can Libya's rebels go pro?" *Foreign Policy* (online edition). April 8.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "Benghazi diary: Three weeks in the revolutionary heartland of eastern Libya." *Foreign Policy* (online edition). April 7.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "Why Libya's rebels are stalled." *The Atlantic* (online edition), April 7.
- Calder, Ryan. 2011. "The accordion war: Libya's ever-moving front." *The Atlantic* (online edition), April 5.

#### MEDIA APPEARANCES

---

- Calder, Ryan. 2023. "A deep dive into the history and practice of Islamic finance." *Majlis and Markets* podcast. Available online at <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/majlis-and-markets/id1718537162>.
- Calder, Ryan. 2022. "Islamic finance in a fintech future." *Ear to Asia* podcast produced by Asia Institute, University of Melbourne. With host Ali Moore and co-interviewee Hassan Jivraj. Available online at <https://podcasts.apple.com/co/podcast/islamic-finance-in-a-fintech-future/id1160004765?i=1000558305793>.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

---

- Calder, Ryan. *Selling Points: How Loyalty Programs Are Transforming Economies and Societies*. (book manuscript)
- Calder, Ryan. “Loyalty programs and the financialization of everyday consumption” (academic paper)
- Calder, Ryan. “How Brazil became a halal powerhouse: The diasporic and religious underpinnings of South–South trade” (academic paper)
- Calder, Ryan. “Halal panopticon: Technosurveillance, ritual compliance, and worker discipline in Brazilian agribusiness” (academic paper)
- Calder, Ryan. “Halal biotech, shariah housing, and shariah hospitals: The comparative political economy of halalization.” (academic paper)
- Calder, Ryan. “Ethics and Islamic finance.” In Mustafa Shah, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Ethics*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press. Under contract; estimated publication 2024.
- Calder, Ryan. “The sociology of Islamic finance.” In M. Shahid Ebrahim, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Islamic Finance and Islamic Economics*. Cheltenham, England: Edward Elgar. Estimated publication 2025.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 2020–21 | Catalyst Award, Johns Hopkins University. “The halal boom: The expanding religious regulation of 21 <sup>st</sup> -century markets” (\$39,852).                                  |
| 2019–20 | Visiting Fellow, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia   |
| 2016–17 | Practical Ethics grant, Johns Hopkins University. “Can God stop the next financial crisis? Prospects for a consequentialist ethics of Islamic financial engineering” (\$37,369). |
| 2010–11 | Al-Falah Research Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley  |
| 2009–10 | Center for British Studies Research Grant, University of California Berkeley   |
| 2009–10 | Al-Falah Research Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley  |
| 2008    | Critical Language Studies Fellowship, United States Department of State, Arabic  |

- 2005–09      Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, United States Department of Education
- 2005          Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, United States Department of Education, Arabic
- 2004–09      Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study

## PRESENTATIONS

---

- 2021          “Halalization: A love affair between contemporary markets and contemporary Islamic law.” University of Illinois, 1 November 2021 (invited).
- 2020          “*Dīn*, dinars, and dollar hegemony: Islamic gold projects at the twilight of the long twentieth century.” Political Economy of the World System Annual Meeting. 23 October 2020.
- “When states foster religiously regulated markets: The success of Islamic finance in Malaysia, 1983–2019.” SSRC New Paradigms Grant Workshop on Chinese Diasporas and Transnational Public Spheres in the Long Twentieth Century. 27 March 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19).
- “The halal boom: Market-driven secularization.” Boston College, 19 March 2020 (invited but cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2019          “Why did the present model of Islamic finance emerge in the Arab Gulf region in the 1970s?” University of California, Los Angeles, 5 December 2019 (invited).
- “*Dīn*, dinars, and dollar hegemony: Islamic gold projects at the twilight of the long twentieth century.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, panel on Religious Differences among Followers of Islam. 26 October 2019. St. Louis, MO.
- Convened panel “Identity and participation among Muslims beyond the United States.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting. 25 October 2019. St. Louis, MO.
- “The halal boom: Market-driven desecularization.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, panel on Public Religions in Comparative-Historical Perspective. 11 August 2019.
- 2017          “The halal revolution: Islamic capitalism in secular markets.” Social Science and History Association Annual Meeting, panel on Religion, Ethics, and Sexuality. Montreal, QC.

“Wired cosmopolitans: The 2011 Arab Spring’s ambassador caste.” Social Science and History Association Annual Meeting, panel on Contentious Views: Representation, Framing, and the Media in State-Society Relations. Montreal, QC.

Chaired and moderated panel “Race, discrimination and contemporary criminal justice.” Social Science and History Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, QC.

“The halal revolution: Islamic capitalism in secular markets.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, panel on Religion and Capitalism. Washington, DC.

Organized and moderated panel “Religion and Capitalism.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Washington, DC.

“Bureaucratic-rational capitalism and the bracketing of social welfare in Islamic finance.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, panel on Explorations in Islamic Moral Economy. Lyon, France.

“State shariah or market shariah? Islamic *dirigisme* versus neoliberal piety in Pakistani and Iranian banking, 1979–2017”. Invited talk at conference “Pakistan at 70: The Long View.” Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan.

2016

“How do Islamic financial ethics evolve? The politics of *tawarruq* in Oman, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia.” Invited talk at Faysal Bank, Karachi, Pakistan.

“Why is there no religious finance except Islamic finance? Religious interest bans in comparative-historical perspective.” Invited talk at Meezan Bank, Karachi, Pakistan.

“Why is there no religious finance except Islamic finance? Religious interest bans in comparative-historical perspective.” Invited talk at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan.

“How do Islamic financial ethics evolve? The politics of *tawarruq* in Oman, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia.” Invited talk at the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan.

“The rock stars of Islamic finance: Shariah scholars as agents of formal rationalization.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, panel on Financial Elites in the Global South. Berkeley, CA.

Moderated panel “Crossing borders: The mechanisms of capital expansion.” Southern Capitalisms conference at Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD.

- “Confronting Islamophobia: A Discussion of Islamophobia in America.” Invited panelist at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.
- 2015 “The tawarruq debate: The politics of certifying Islamic financial virtue.” Social Science and History Association Annual Meeting, panel on the Politics of Calculation. Baltimore, MD.
- “How do we study the halal revolution?” Global Halal: An International Conference on Muslims and the Cultural Politics of the Permissible, panel on Global Halal Markets. East Lansing, MI.
- “Islamic finance in Dubai and Kuala Lumpur: State, shariah, and capital in two cities.” Invited talk at colloquium series “Money, Migration, & The Metropolis.” Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship Program, Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD.
- 2014 “God’s technicians: Shariah scholars and the formal rationalization of Islamic financial ethics, 1975–2014.” Social Science and History Association Annual Meeting, panel on Worlds and World-Making. Toronto.
- “What is shariah? The contingent interpretation of Islamic law through history.” Invited talk at Johns Hopkins University Islamic Awareness Week. Baltimore, MD.
- “Murabaha: Form, substance, and the battle for the soul of Islamic finance.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, panel on Economic Sociology. San Francisco, CA.
- “What does it mean to be shariah-based? Separation, authenticity, welfare.” Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance. Cambridge, MA.
- 2013 “Why did the Islamic ban on interest survive... while other religious interest bans died? Religious jurists and the survival of the usury ban.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Conference, mini-conference on Islamic finance. Milan.
- 2012 “Defining an uprising under the international gaze: Opposition media centers and ‘wired cosmopolitans’ in Bahrain and Libya during the 2011 Arab Spring.” Middle East Institute Annual Conference. Singapore.
- 2011 “Rationalization without secularization: The evolution of modern Islamic finance, 1975-2011.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Section on Religion roundtable. Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 “Does one size fit all? US attempts to transpose the Anbar awakening from Iraq to Afghanistan” (co-authored with Nicholas Wilson). University of California,

Berkeley Colloquium “*af-pä-ki-stän*: The Violent Birth of an Acronym. Berkeley, CA.

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

---

### **Graduate courses taught**

Fieldwork (AS 230.654: Fall 2023)

Dissertation Seminar (AS 230.609: Fall 2017)

PGSC Research Seminar (AS 230.635: Fall 2014)

Qualitative Research Methods: Domestic and International Fieldwork (AS 230.649: Spring 2018, Spring 2015; co-taught with Katrina Bell McDonald)

Sociology of Religion (AS 230.445: Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2017)

### **Undergraduate courses taught**

Introduction to Sociology (AS 230.101: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Fall 2019; co-taught in Fall 2018 with Emily Agree)

Qualitative Research Practicum (AS 230.323: Spring 2023)

Islamic Finance (AS 230.367: Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2016, Fall 2014)

Introduction to Islam since 1800 (AS 230.147: Spring 2018, Spring 2016, Spring 2015)

Sociology of the Middle East and North Africa (AS 230.381: Fall 2015)

Undergraduate Thesis Advising (Senior Honors Thesis AS 230.500 / Independent Research AS 230.506) (Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2014)

Independent Study in Islamic Studies (AS 194.506) (Spring 2024; Summer 2019)



**Doctoral dissertations (committee member) (completed)**

- 2022 Shirley Lung, Sociology  
*Hyphenated Identities: Taiwanese Churches and Transnational Identity Formation*
- 2021 Alvin Camba, Sociology  
*The Strong Leader Trap: The Unintended Consequences of China's Global Investment Strategy*
- 2020 Joseph Becker, Political Science  
*Institutions of Animosity: A New Lens for Explaining the U.S.-Iranian Relationship and the Roots of Intractable Conflict*
- 2019 Daniel Thompson, Sociology  
*Employment, Wage Growth, and Inequality in Rich Democracies in the Post-Golden-Age Era*
- 2016 Joseph Haley, English  
*Indian Ocean Literature in the Shade of Bandung*
- 2016 Brian Tilley, Anthropology  
*Ethics of Activity: South Asian Shia Working Life in Dubai*

**Doctoral dissertations (committee member) (in progress)**

- Manasi Karthik, Sociology (chair)  
Zhicao Fang, Sociology

**GBO examinations and Trial Research Papers (committee member)**

- 2021 Manasi Karthik, Sociology
- 2018 Alvin Camba, Sociology  
Valentina Dallona, Sociology  
Zhicao Fang, Sociology  
Shirley Lung, Sociology
- 2017 Mitra Ebrahimi, Geography

**Undergraduate theses**

- 2017 Roshni Ahmed  
2017 Jane Morris  
2015 Basmah Nada

**Undergraduate Woodrow Wilson projects**

- 2016 Putt Rodchareon

**Awards for Teaching and Mentoring**

Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring Award, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences,  
Johns Hopkins University (AY 2019–2020)

Gold Cup Teaching Award, Johns Hopkins Student Government Association (AY 2015–2016)

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award (Finalist), Krieger School of Arts and Sciences,  
Johns Hopkins University (AY 2015–2016)

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

---

2023–present Director, JHU Program in Islamic Studies

2021–present Director of Undergraduate Studies, JHU Program in Islamic Studies  
& 2015–2020

2023–present Middle East Educational Programming Advisory Committee, Johns Hopkins  
University

2022–present Curriculum Committee, JHU Krieger School of Arts and Sciences

2022–present Hopkins in DC Committee, JHU Krieger School of Arts and Sciences

2020–present Speakers Committee, JHU Department of Sociology

2015–present Application reviewer, JHU Islamic Studies Summer Research Grant

- 2023–present Lead organizer, JHU Islamic Studies Colloquium
- 2023 Helped organize and lead Panel Discussion on Gaza (hosted by JHU Islamic Studies and JHU Anthropology)
- 2022 Organized and led professionalization workshop “How to Give a Compelling Job Talk,” JHU Department of Sociology
- 2022 Interim Chair, JHU Program in Islamic Studies (Spring semester)
- 2022 Organized JHU Muslim Association–JHU Islamic Studies joint iftar (Ramadan dinner)
- 2022 Moderator, Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium
- 2021 Organized “Afghanistan Teach-In: Understanding Current Events,” JHU
- 2021 Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee, JHU Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
- 2018–19, 2015–17 Graduate Admissions Committee, JHU Department of Sociology
- 2017 Mock interviewer, JHU Undergraduate Fellowships (Gates Cambridge applicants)
- 2016 Organized conference *Morris W. Offit Symposium on Muslims, Jews, and Christians* (Baltimore, MD) (200+ attendees)
- 2015–16 Interim Director, JHU Program in Islamic Studies (authored proposal and launched new minor in Islamic Studies)
- 2015 Application reviewer, JHU Dean’s Undergraduate Research Awards (DURA)
- 2014–15 Undergraduate Committee, JHU Department of Sociology

## SERVICE BEYOND HOME INSTITUTION

---

- 2020– Member, Editorial Board, *Sociology of Religion*
- 2024– Member, Professional Development Committee, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- 2023–24 Program Committee and Roundtables Organizer, ASA Consumers and Consumption section
- 2023 Application Reviewer for Scholar Rescue Fund, Institute of International Education (resettles academics facing threats in their home countries)
- 2022–23 Chair, Student Travel Award Committee, ASA Religion section
- 2022–23 Nominations Committee, ASA Consumers and Consumption section
- 2022 “How to Give a Compelling Job Talk” (workshop leader), ASA Annual Meeting, ASA Consumers and Consumption section
- 2021–22 Granovetter Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award Committee, ASA Economic Sociology section
- 2021–22 Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Consumers and Consumption section
- 2020–21 Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Sociology of Religion section
- 2014–15 Roundtable organizer, section on Economic Sociology, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

**Article reviewer for:** *Arab Law Quarterly, Asian Perspective, Religion, Review of International Political Economy, Social Problems, Socio-Economic Review*

**Manuscript reviewer for:** Palgrave Macmillan

## NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

---

- 2011–13 Lead social scientist and quantitative methodologist, SIC Corporation  
Designed survey in Libya (N=1,500) using WHO-EPI method and ArcGIS
- 2009–11 Contract media translator (Arabic to English)
- 2001–04 Business analyst / Senior business analyst, McKinsey & Company (Boston / Dubai)

- 2000 Summer Associate, Novantas Consulting (New York)
- 2000 Librarian (temp work), Putnam Investments (Boston)

## LANGUAGES

---

- Arabic (speaking and reading proficiency)
- French (speaking and reading proficiency)
- Japanese (native speaker, elementary reading)