

Abdul Rashied Omar

Curriculum Vitae (November 2015)

I - PERSONAL DATA:

Family Surname: Omar
First Names: Abdul Rashied
Address (Office): 100 Hesburgh Center, P.O.Box 639 Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA.
Address (Home): 101 Seventh Avenue, Kensington 7405 Cape Town, South Africa
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Facsimile: USA+574-631-6973
E-Mail: Omar.1@nd.edu
Date and Place of Birth: Born 17 January 1959, Cape Town, South Africa.
Citizenship: South African
Marital Status: Married 26 September 1982 to R. Suleila Omar
6 Children: Jihad (32), Rahima (30), Zinzi Sitoto (Foster Daughter 30),
Ilham (29), Maryam (25) and Iman (19)
5 Grandchildren

II – HIGHER EDUCATION:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Studies from the University of Cape Town - South Africa (December 2005). Ph.D. Dissertation Title: “Religion, Violence & The State: A Dialogical Encounter Between Activists and Scholars” (Available at UCT Library).
- Master of Arts Degree in International Peace Studies – The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies - University of Notre Dame – Indiana - USA (June 2001)
- Master of Arts Degree in Religious Studies - University of Cape Town - South Africa (December 1992)
- Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree in Religious Studies - University of Cape Town - South Africa (June 1989)
- Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree in History - University of Cape Town - South Africa (June 1987)
- Higher Diploma in Education (Post-Graduate), Teaching Subjects - History and Economics - University of Cape Town - South Africa (December 1981)
- Bachelor of Arts Degree, Majors in African History and Economics - University of Cape Town - South Africa (December 1980).

111 – ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Imamat Certificate - Specialization in Recitation & Memorization of the Qur’an – Madrasa Shamsul Islam – Salt River – Cape Town – South Africa (March 1975).
- Certificate in Arabic and Islamic Studies – African Islamic University – Khartoum – Sudan (June 1985).

- Certificate - Islamic Leadership Training Course – International Islamic University Islamabad – Pakistan (1984).
- Certificate - Islamic Leadership Training Course – International Islamic University of Malaysia & World Council of Mosques– Kuala Lumpur (1992)

IV - LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- Primary Language: English
- Second Language: Afrikaans (creolized Dutch)
- Third Language: Arabic (working knowledge)

V. CURRENT OCCUPATION

- Research Scholar of Islamic Studies and Peacebuilding - The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies – University of Notre Dame (since 2006) (In addition to research the position involves teaching annual Spring semester courses in Islamic Ethics of War and Peace and a Senior Peace Studies Seminar with a focus on Strategic Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, and acting as faculty field advisor to the Kroc Institute’s Masters Students in International Peace Studies during their internships in Cape Town during the Fall Semester)
- Imam of the Claremont Main Road Mosque (since 1986) (Delivering sermons, Leadership in Civil Society Campaigns and Pastoral role)

VI-PUBLICATIONS

A. Monographs

- *Tolerance, Civil Society and Renaissance in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. Claremont Main Road Mosque: Cape Town, 2002.
- *The Socio-Spiritual Dimensions of Hajj: A Collection of Khutbahs*. Claremont Main Road Mosque: Cape Town, 2015.

B. Co-Edited Books

- *Interfaith Reflections on the Fight Against Corruption*. Edited by Omar, A. Rashied. Western Cape Religions Leaders Forum: Cape Town, 2013.
- *Hermeneutical Explorations in Dialogue: Essays in Honour of Hans Ucko*. Eds. Anantanand Rambachan, A. Rashied Omar & M. Thomas Thangaraj. ISPCK: Delhi, India, 2007.
- *Report on Religion in Curriculum 2005, South African Government Gazette, Volume. 404, 23, No. 19775, February, 1999.*
- *Rainbow Religions*. Editors, Omar, A Rashied & Manila Amin. Maskew Miller Press: Cape Town, 1998.
- *Children in Islam: Rights, Legitimacy & Islamic Law*, Eds. A. Rashied Omar & E. Moosa, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town, South Africa, 1996.
- *Festivals and Celebrations: A New Approach in Religion Education for South African Primary Schools*. Eds, Omar, A. Rashied, Janet Stonier, Nokuzola Mndende,

Saraswathi S. Pillay, and Azila Reisenberger. Juta Educational Publishers: Cape Town, 1996.

- *Role of Muslims in the Reconstruction and Development Program*. Edited by Omar, A Rashied, Claremont Main Road Mosque Publications: Cape Town, 1994.
- *Religion in Public Education - Policy Options for a New Religion Education for a New South Africa*. Editors, Omar A Rashied, David Chidester, Gordon Mitchell and Isabel Apawo Phiri, second edition, revised and expanded, Cape Town: UCT Press, 1994.
- *Religion in Public Education: Policy Options for a New South Africa*. Editors, Omar, A. Rashied, David Chidester, Gordon Mitchell, Isabel and Isabel Apawo Phiri, Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa: Cape Town, 1992.

C. Chapters in Books

- “Islam, Conflict and Violence” in *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World Second Edition*, Richard C. Martin, Editor in Chief Macmillan Reference USA. (Forthcoming 2016)
- “Religious Violence and State Violence”, in *The Oxford Handbook of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding* edited by Atalia Omer, R. Scott Appleby and David Little. Oxford University Press, New York: 2015, 236-258.
- “Islamic Perspectives on Conversion: Aid Evangelism and Apostasy Law”, with Rabia Terri Harris in *Religious Conversion: Religion Scholars Thinking Together*, edited by Shanta Premawardhana. WILEY Blackwell: West Sussex, UK: 2015, 119-141 (World Council of Churches).
- “Islam and Peacebuilding”, in *Dialogue and Terror: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam after 9/11* edited by Alan L. Berger. Cascade Books: Eugene, Oregon: 2012, 201-210.
- “The Right to Religious Conversion: Between Apostasy and Proselytization”, in *Peace-Building by, between, and beyond Muslims and Evangelical Christians* edited by Mohammed Abu-Nimer and David Augsburg. Lexington Books: Lanham, MD: 2009, 179-194.
- “Abraham in Islam”, in *Ancient Tales for Modern Times: Reflections on Abraham and his Children* by Chris N van der Merwe. Lux Verbi.BM, Wellington, South Africa: 2008, 186-191.
- “From Resistance to Reconstruction: Challenges Facing Muslim-Christian Relations in Post-Apartheid South Africa”, In *Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa*, ed. Benjamin Soares, E. J. Brill, Leiden, 2006.
- “Towards a Peace Service in Islam”, In *Peace Services in the Abrahamic Traditions*, Global Peace Services, The International Fellowship of Reconciliation, USA, 2006.
- “Beyond Ambivalence: Peacemaking Through the Prophetic Example”, with Rabia Terri Harris in *Faces of the Other*, edited by Hans Ucko. A Contribution by the Group Thinking Together, Interreligious Relations and Dialogue, World Council of Churches, Geneva 2005, 22-31.
- “Islam, Conflict and Violence” in *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World*, Richard C. Martin, Editor in Chief Macmillan Reference USA, 2003.
- “Does Public Policy Need Religion”, in *Religion in Public Life*, ed., Jim Cochrane, University of Cape Town, 1999: 26-30.

- “The Theoretical Underpinnings of Interreligious and Intercultural Education: The Work of the Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa,” by A. Rashied Omar, *Interreligious and Intercultural Education: Methodologies, Conceptions, and Pilot Projects in South Africa, Namibia, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany*, ed. Wolfram Weisse (Münster: Comenius Institute, 1996): 27-30.
- “The Rights of Children in Islam.” In *Children in Islam: Rights, Legitimacy & Islamic Law*, Eds. A.R. Omar & E. Moosa, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town, South Africa, 1996.
- "Intrinsic Motivations for Interfaith Co-operation, A Response to Beyers Naude's Peace Lecture", in a *Decade of Interfaith Dialogue*, Ed. G. Lubbe, World Conference on Religion and Peace: 1994.
- "Islamic Experience of Religious Freedom in the South African Context" in *Religious Freedom in South Africa*, ed., J. Killian, University of South Africa: 1993
- "Muslims and Inter-Religious Education in South Africa", in *EZZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT*, ed., Wolfram Weisse, University of Hamburg: 1993
- "Perils of the Third Option –A Muslim response to Albie Sachs” in *Believers in the Future*, ed., Kritzinger, K. World Conference on Religion and Peace – South African Chapter, 1992.

D. Refereed Journal Articles

- “Muslim Prayer and Public Spheres: An Interpretation of the Qur’anic Verse 29:44”, with Mun’im Sirry in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, Volume 68 (1) 2014, 39-53.
- “*Ta`aruf*: Islam Beyond Tolerance” in *New Routes: A Journal of Peace Research and Action*, Volume 16, 2011. Life and Peace Institute: Sweden.
- “Embracing the ‘Other’ as an Extension of the Self: Muslim Reflections on the Epistle to the Hebrews 13:2”, in *The Anglican Theological Review* Volume 91 Number 3, Summer 2009, 433-441. Evanston, Illinois.
- “From Xenophobia to Philoxenia: Muslim Reflections on Hebrews 13:2”, in *Theologia Viatorum: Journal of Theology and Religion in Africa* Special Edition, Volume 33 Number 2, 2009, 322-333. University of Limpopo, South Africa.
- “Islam Beyond Tolerance: The Qur’anic Concept of *Ta`aruf*”, in *Brethren Life and Thought*, Volume 53 Number 2 (Spring 2008), 15-20. A Journal published in the Interests of the Church of the Brethren. Bethany Theological Seminary; Richmond, Indiana, USA, 2008.
- “Overcoming Religiously Motivated Violence”, in *Crosscurrents*, Volume 55, Number I, Spring 2005.
- “The Significance of the Holy Land in Our Sacred Stories”, in *Interreligious Insight*, Volume 2 Number 4, October 2004.
- “Democracy and Multiple Muslim Identities in Post-Apartheid South Africa”, in *Annual Review of Islam in South Africa*, Issue No. 7, 2004. Center for Contemporary Islam: University of Cape Town.
- “Opportunities & Challenges for Islamic Peacebuilding After September 11”, in *Interreligious Insight*, Volume 1 Number 4, October 2003.

- “Islam and Violence”, in *The Ecumenical Review*, Volume 55 Number 2, April 2003, World Council of Churches: Geneva.
- “Towards a Polycentric Theory on Religion and Violence”, in *Journal of the Henry Martin Institute*, January-June 2002, Hyderabad, India.
- “Muslims and Religious Pluralism in Post-Apartheid South Africa”, in *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, Volume 22, Number 1, 2002.
- “The African Renaissance: A Muslim Perspective”, in *Journal of Constructive Theology* Volume 6, Number 1, July 2000. University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa.

Book Reviews

- Review of Muhammad Qasim Zaman, *The Ulama in Contemporary Islam: Custodians of Change*, in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 36, 2004, pp. 340-341.
- Review of Richard T. Antoun, *Understanding Fundamentalism: Christian, Islamic, and Jewish Movements*, in *Peace & Change*, Vol, 29, Issue 2, 2004, pp.322-346.
- Review of John L. Esposito, *Unholy War: Terror in the Mind of God*, in *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, Vol. 22, No. 2, 2002, pp. 485-488.

Non-Refereed Materials

- “A Muslim response to Pope Francis’s environmental encyclical, Laudato Si’”. *Contending Modernities: A blog about Catholic, Muslim, and Secular interaction in the modern world*. University of Notre Dame: 17 December 2015. See: <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2015/12/17/a-muslim-response-to-pope-franciss-environmental-encyclical-laudato-si/> (Accessed 3 January 2016).
- “Honouring the Privilege of Higher Education through Socially Responsive Citizenship”, address at the 2014 Faculty of Humanities Graduation Ceremony, University of Cape Town; 16 December 2014.
To read the full text See: <http://www.uct.ac.za/dailynews/?id=8933> and <http://beta.iol.co.za/news/revivify-social-justice-struggle-1796404> (Accessed 11 November 2015). To view video recording See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrX99wYntbI> (Accessed 11 November 2015).
- “A Muslim response to Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium”. *Contending Modernities: A blog about Catholic, Muslim, and Secular interaction in the modern world*. University of Notre Dame: 7 March 2014. See: <https://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/2014/03/07/a-muslim-response-to-pope-francis-apostolic-exhortation-evangelii-gaudium/> (Accessed 12 November 2015).
- *Islam Beyond Tolerance*. Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town: 2013.
- *A Commentary on the Fasting Verses of the Qur’an*. Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town: 2009.
- “Pope Benedict XVI’s Comments on Islam in Regensburg: A Muslim Response.”(Input at panel discussion on Pope Benedict in Regensburg: The Catholic Church and Islam: Allies or Adversaries, University of Notre Dame, September 28, 2006). See The Nanovic Institute for European Studies Occasional & Conference

Papers webpage: <http://www.nd.edu/~nanovic/archives/omar.doc> (accessed November 2006).

- “The Right to Religious Conversion: Between Apostasy and Proselytization”, Occasional Paper Series, The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2006.
- “Locating an Islamic Definition of Peace: Between Compassion and Justice,” Kroc Institute *Peace Colloquy*, Issue 7, Spring 2005. The Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame. See Kroc Webpage: <http://kroc.nd.edu/colloquy/issue7/rashiedarticle.shtml> (accessed December 2006).
- “Religion, Power and Violence: Illuminating the Nexus,” in *Current Dialogue*, World Council of Churches: Geneva, Issue 44, December 2004. See WCC Current Dialogue Webpage: <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/interreligious/cd44-08.html> (Accessed December 2006).
- “Islam - Resources for Peace,” *Current Dialogue*, World Council of Churches: Geneva, Issue 44, December 2004.
- “Interreligious Dialogue is Not an Ambulance,” in *Fellowship Special Issue: The Muslim Renaissance* edited by Rabia Terri Harris, New York: Fellowship of Reconciliation, October 2004.
- “A Belated Muslim Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Darfur,” in *Current Dialogue*, World Council of Churches: Geneva, Issue 43, July 2004.
- “A Muslim’s Anguish in the Midst of the Attack on America.” In *Boorhaanool Islam*: Cape Town, 2001.
- “An Islamic Experience of Religious Pluralism in Post-Apartheid South Africa”, in *Current Dialogue*, World Council of Churches, Issue 34, February 2000. Available on the WCC website: <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/interreligious/cd34-07.htm>
- “Drugs, Gangs and Vigilantism in Post-Apartheid South Africa” lecture delivered at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, USA. October 5, 1999.
- “What Difference Does Religious Pluralism Make? An Islamic Experience of Religious Pluralism in Post-Apartheid South Africa” in *Current Dialogue*, World Council of Churches: Geneva, 2/1999.
- “Citizenship of Marginal/Subjugated voices”. In *Research Institute for Christianity in South Africa: Academic Workshop Papers*, Cape Town, 30 September – 2 October 1998.
- “Jihad in America: The Right To Reply: An Exercise In Futility”. In *Freedom of Expression Institute Bulletin*, October, 1995
- “Perspektiven eines sudafricanischen Muslim” (trans. Renate Singvogel). In *Entwicklungs-politische Korrespondenz*. 2:29-30, June 1993.
- “Language in a Future South Africa: An Islamic Perspective”. In *Language Projects Review*, 6 (3-4): 18-19, December 1991.
- “Muslim-Christian Relations in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” In *Al-Qalam*: Durban, 1990.

E. Unpublished Dissertations

- "The Impact of the Deaths in Apartheid Detention on Political Consciousness in Cape Town". In partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Arts Honors in History. University of Cape Town, 1986.

- "Interreligious Solidarity in the Midst of the anti-Apartheid struggle". In partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Social Science Honors Religious Studies. University of Cape Town, 1989.
- "Twelve Century Muslim Scholar -Ibn Hazm and his Muslim Perspective on the Judeo – Christian Scriptures". In partial fulfillment of the Master of Arts Degree - Religious Studies. University of Cape Town, 1992.
- “Religion, Violence & The State: A Dialogical Encounter Between Activists and Scholars.” Doctoral Dissertation in Religious Studies, University of Cape Town - South Africa (December 2005)

V11 - WORK EXPERIENCE:

A. PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

- Currently Serve as Imam (minister) of a Mosque in Cape Town (1985 - Continuing)
- Interreligious Researcher at the Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa, Religious Studies Department, University of Cape Town (1992-2000).
- Director of the Muslim Youth Movement of South Africa (1984-85)
- Imam (Minister) of the Queens Bridge Mosque in Durban, South Africa (1984-1985)
- Teacher in History and Economics at Crestway Senior Secondary High School in Cape Town, South Africa (1982-83).

B. COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Teaching

- University of Notre Dame (2008 - 2015): Islamic Ethics of War and Peace
- University of Notre Dame (2004 -2015): Senior Peace Studies Senior Seminar
- University of Notre Dame (Fall 2010) Introduction to Peace Studies
- University of Notre Dame (Fall 2005): Islamic Ethics – Junior & Senior Level
- University of Notre Dame (Fall 2007) Islam and Muslim-Christian Dialogue
- University of Cape Town (1995-2000): Second and Third-year lectures in Studies of Sacred Scriptures –Module on the Qur`anic Hermeneutics; Religion, Conflict, and Violence; Introduction to Islamic Law.
- Cape Town College of Education (1996-2000): Second and Third year lectures on Teaching Islam in a Multi-Religious Educational Context.

Post-Graduate Teaching

- University of Notre Dame (2006 - 2015): Islamic Ethics of War and Peace
- University of Notre Dame (Spring 2006): Co-Teaching of Religion and Culture Core Course to Masters Students in International Peace Studies.
- University of Cape Town School of Education (1995-2000): Semester Course in Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Education

C. RESEARCH AND POLICY FORMULATION EXPERIENCE

- **Coordinator of the Program in Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding (PRCP)**
(July 2001 – June 2006)

This interdisciplinary, inter-religious program explores the complex roles of diverse Religious traditions in contemporary conflicts. The PRCP encompasses the full spectrum of religious involvement in contemporary conflict, from the religious legitimization of violence to religious peacebuilding efforts, such as mediation by religious groups and efforts to promote inter-religious and intra-religious dialogue. Research focuses on the phenomenon of "lived religion" by examining how religious leaders and movements "translate" sacred scriptures and traditional norms into practical principles that shape decisions and behaviors "on the ground." Through deeper understanding of religion's complex role in conflict situations, the Program hopes to strengthen the potential for peacebuilding within all religious traditions.

- **Coordinator of The Research Initiative in Ethnic Conflict (RIREC)**
(July 2001 – June 2004)

RIREC is a new project of the Kroc Institute focusing on post-accord peacebuilding and the difficult but pressing questions of how to create a sustainable, just peace after a period of protracted conflict. The project develops an interdisciplinary team of scholars and practitioners working around three research themes - violence, youth/the next generation, and transitional justice. At the heart of the project is an effort to develop new theoretical lenses for comprehending the nuances of post-accord peacebuilding, which will integrate conflict management and conflict transformation concerns, techniques and methodologies. The project will test these lenses against cases and develop relevant policy recommendations.

- Interreligious Researcher at the Religion in Public Education Policy and Curriculum Designer at the Institute for Comparative Religion in Southern Africa (ICRSA) University of Cape Town (1992-2000)

Launched in July 1991, ICRSA is a research unit of the University of Cape Town. One of its two projects, the Religion and Public Education Project, has produced a widely distributed report on policy options, a teacher-training manual, and textbooks, and has conducted pilot projects in local schools and teacher-training colleges to develop new programs and materials for religion education. In addition to academic and action research, ICRSA sponsors public lectures, regular seminars, community workshops, and occasional publications.

- Served on Religion Education Policy Committee for the South African Ministry of Education that produced a draft Inter-religious educational policy (1998). This committee produced the Report on *Religion in Curriculum 2005*, *South African Government Gazette, Vol.404, 23, No. 19775, February, 1999.*

VIII - PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- President of the Muslim Students Association of South Africa (1980-1982)
- President of the Muslim Youth Movement of South Africa (1986-1989)
- Principal of the Claremont Main Road Mosque Saturday School (1986-1994)
- Short listed as Commissioner for the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (1995)
- National Vice President of the World Conference on Religion and Peace - South African Chapter. (1995-1999)
- Co-chair of the Cape Town Parliament of the World's Religions (1999)
- Deputy-Chair of the Interreligious Commission on Crime and Violence in the Western Cape (1997-1999)
- Deputy Chair of the Electoral Code of Conduct Observer Commission – 1999 South African National Elections.
- Co-Chair of the Assembly of Religious Leaders, 2004 Barcelona Parliament of the World's Religions
- Principal of the Muslim Sunday School of the Islamic Society of Michiana (2003-04).
- Imam of the Claremont Main Road Mosque – Cape Town – South Africa (1985 - Continuing)
- Trustee of the Institute of the Healing of Memories – Cape Town - South Africa (2006 – Continuing).
- Member of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children, Arigatou International, sponsored by a Japanese Buddhist organization, Myochikai (2013 – Continuing)
- Chairperson of the Western Cape Religious Leaders Forum (2012-2014)
- Trustee of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation – Cape Town-South Africa (1999)
- Advisory Council Member of the Knowledge Center for Religion and Development – The Netherlands. (2004)
- Consortium Member of the Center for the Study of Muslim Networks, Duke University's Franklin Center, Durham, NC, USA.
- Trustee of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago (2000)
- International Participant to the “Thinking Together Consultations” convened by the Inter-Religious Office of the World Council of Churches-Geneva, Switzerland
- International Consultant to Aurora University's Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action – IL, USA.
- Advisory Board Member, Global Studies Institute at the Culver Academies, IN, USA.
- Associate Imam of the Islamic Society of Michiana, IN, USA.