

**Manuela Ceballos**  
**Curriculum vitae**

Department of Religious Studies  
504 McClung Tower  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996  
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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D., 2016, Religion, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

M.A., 2006, French, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

B.A., 2005, French (Honors) and Comparative Literature, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

August 2016     Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee,  
Knoxville, TN  
2014, 2015     Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN  
2010             Adjunct Professor, Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy, Spelman College,  
Atlanta, GA  
2010             Instructor, Department of Middle East and South Asian Studies, Emory University,  
Atlanta, GA

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Monographs**

*Between Dung and Blood: Purity, Sainthood, and Power in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean* (under review with The University of California Press).

**Book-length Translations**

Abdelfattah Kilito, *La lengua de Adán y otros relatos*. Translated by Manuela Ceballos. Medellín: Editorial Sílabas, 2023.

**Co-edited Volumes**

*Navigating Language in the Early Islamic World: Multilingualism and Language Change in the First Centuries of Islam*. Edited by Antoine Borrut, Manuela Ceballos, and Alison M. Vacca. Turnhout: Brepols, 2024.

**Peer Reviewed Articles**

“Theology from the Margins: Sīdī Riḍwān al-Januwī and His Community of Outsiders.” In *Dialogue and Disputation in the Medieval Mediterranean*. Edited by Brian Catlos and Alex Novikoff. Special issue of *Medieval Encounters* 24, no. 5–6 (2018): 581–612.

“Life and death by the book: a dramatic reading of Marguerite Porete’s *Le Mirouer des Simples Âmes*.” In *Mysticisms*. Edited by Nan Goodman. Special issue of *English Language Notes* 56, no. 1 (2018): 183–196.

“Sufi fighters as Sufi lovers: Militant piety in Muḥammad ibn Yaggabsh al-Tāzī’s *Book of Jihād*.” In *Invoking Religion in Violent Acts and Rhetoric*. Edited by Margo Kitts and Michael Jerryson. Special Issue of *Journal of Religion and Violence* 2, no. 2 (2014): 333–351.

### Book Chapters

Antoine Borrut, Manuela Ceballos, and Alison M. Vacca. “Multilingualism in the early Islamic World.” In *Navigating Language in the Early Islamic World: Multilingualism and Language Change in the First Centuries of Islam*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2024, pp 13–40.

“Ink, Blood, and Body: Symbolic and Material Intersections.” In *Intersections: Visual Cultures of Islamic Cosmopolitanism*. Edited by Melia Belli Bose. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2021, pp 101–115.

“The Politics and Aesthetics of *Convivencia*.” In *The Routledge Handbook on Muslim Iberia*. Edited by María Isabel Fierro. London: Taylor & Francis, 2019, pp. 659–680.

“Calligraphy as a Sufi Practice.” In *Cultural Fusion of Sufi Islam: Alternative Paths to Mystical Faith*. Edited by Sarwar Alam. London: Routledge, 2019, pp. 149–160.

“Questions of Taste: Critical Pedagogy and Islamic Studies.” In *Teaching Islam in the age of ISIS*. Edited by Courtney Dorroll. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2019, pp. 22–34.

### Encyclopedia Entries

“Moors.” *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World, 2nd Edition*. Edited by Richard Martin, Macmillan Reference USA, 2016.

“Refugees.” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women*, Edited by Natana DeLong-Bas. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

### Annotated Literary Translations and Academic Translations (article-length)

Abdelfattah Kilito. “Los olvidos de Adán.” Translated by Manuela Ceballos. *Revista Síwó* 11, no. 1 (2018): 17–24.

Scott Siraj al-Haqq Kugle. “Recepción del Qur ’ān en la comunidad LGBTQ musulmana.” Translated by Manuela Ceballos. *Revista Síwó* 11, no. 1 (2018): 45–80.

Abdelfattah Kilito. “Palabras caninas.” Translated by Manuela Ceballos. *Estudios de Asia y África* 53, no. 2 (2018): 405–419.

### Invited Publications (not refereed)

Contribution to “Afterword” (Symposium: “Working Toward Justice on Difficult Ground,” *Tennessee Law Review* 90, no. 2 (Spring 2023): 718–719.

“Presentación: acercamientos al islam.” *Revista Síwó* 11, no. 1 (2018): 5–15.

“Espejo y metáfora: hacia una lectura comparada de San Juan de la Cruz e Ibn ‘Arabi.” *El Azufre Rojo* 5 (2018): 136–144.

“Portrait of Benaïssa Bouhmala.” Translated into Arabic by Benaïssa and Zakariae Bouhmala. In *Ṭāʾir al-Fīmiq: manāra istikshāfiyya ḥanla tajribat Benaïssa Bouhmala al-naqdiyya (The Phoenix: Beacons of light on the literary criticism of Benaïssa Bouhmala.)* Edited by Abderrezak Hidrani. Rabat: Dar al Amane, 2017, pp. 187–189.

“Economías de la convivencia: musulmanes, cristianos, judíos y el fantasma de la España medieval.” *Revista Vida y Pensamiento* 35, no. 1 (2015): 113–142.

## GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- 2023–2024 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship  
RaceB4Race Mentoring Network
- 2023 F. Stanley Lusby and John O. Hodges Teaching Award, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
RaceB4Race First Book Institute
- 2022–2023 Faculty Research Development Academy, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 2022 SARIF-EPPE Book Subvention, UT Humanities Center/Office of Research and Engagement
- 2019–2022 “Among humans and non-humans: An anthropological study of interspecific relations in Morocco, Ceuta, and Melilla.” I+D Project, National Agency of Research, Spanish Ministry of Sciences, Innovation, and Universities  
Research Team: Araceli González Vázquez, Institución Milà i Fontanals-CSIC, Barcelona, Spain (P.I.), Manuela Ceballos (team member); award amount: 54,000 euros
- 2019 Wabash Early Career Workshop Fellowship: Teaching through Translation
- 2018–2019 Junior Faculty Teaching Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Wabash Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Religion Faculty in Colleges and Universities
- 2017–2018 Short-Term Fellowship, Newberry Library
- 2013 Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium/Luce Dissertation Fellowship, Princeton Theological Seminary
- 2012 American Association of University Women (AAUW) American Dissertation Fellowship  
Mellon Graduate Teaching Fellowship at Spelman College (declined for AAUW), Emory University
- 2006–2011 Arts and Sciences Fellowship, Laney Graduate School, Emory University
- 2008 Graduate School Competitive Research Funding, Laney Graduate School, Emory University
- 2007 Department of Religion Competitive Research Funding, Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University
- 2006 Bryn Mawr College Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Bryn Mawr College  
Institute d’Études Françaises d’Avignon Scholarship, Bryn Mawr College
- 2005 Richmond Lattimore Prize for Poetic Translation, Bryn Mawr College

## INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2023 Presentation of the literary translation *La lengua de Adán y otros relatos* by Abdelfattah Kilito, Medellín Book Fair, Medellín, Colombia, September 17.

## Papers presented

- 2023 “Matter and Meaning.” Telling Stories Workshop, Boston College, Boston, MA, June 12–13.

- 2022 “Ética del cuidado y animales en la historia de un santo marroquí del siglo XVI.”  
Between Humans and non-Humans: Interspecies Interactions and Islam (online).  
Institución Milà i Fontanals de Investigación en Humanidades CSIC, Barcelona, Spain.  
September 28.
- 2018 “Ink, blood, and body: Transmission and Ritual Purity in the Early Modern Western  
Mediterranean.” Islamic Art Symposium: Intersections: The Visual Cultures of Islamic  
Cosmopolitanism, Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History, Islamic Art Revival Series,  
and Aga Khan Council for the Central United States, Dallas, TX, May 3–6.
- 2018 “Relics and Bodies of Saints: Corporeality and Sainthood in Early Modern  
Iberia.” Of Prophets and Saints: Literary Traditions and *Convivencia* in Medieval and Early  
Modern Iberia, National Spanish Research Council, Madrid, Spain, February 22–23.
- 2015 “Speaking to, for, and about Others: Sufism and the Politics of Representation in Early  
Modern Morocco.” Political Theologies of Medieval and Early Modern Islam Conference,  
University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA, October 30–31.
- 2015 “Espejo y metáfora: hacia una lectura comparada de San Juan de la Cruz e Ibn ‘Arabi.”  
Muhayiddin Ibn Arabi Society (MIAS) Latina, V Symposium, University of Murcia, Spain,  
May 15–17.
- 2014 “A Home Elsewhere: Imagining Egypt in a Sixteenth-Century Moroccan Hagiography.”  
Al-Andalus in Alexandria Conference, University of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt,  
December 14–17.
- 2012 “Rethinking Violence and *convivencia*.” Spring History Colloquium, University of New  
Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, May 4.

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

### Papers presented

- 2023 “Blood and Dung in the Hagiography of a Sixteenth-Century Moroccan Saint,” RSA  
Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR, March 9–11.
- 2022 “The Blood and Body of Saint Teresa.” AAR Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November  
19–22.
- 2019 “Blood and bloodlines in Moroccan Sufism.” SENSIS, University of Utrecht, Utrecht,  
The Netherlands, September 12–13.
- 2019 “The Residual Afterlives of Blood.” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium Seminar “From Life  
to Afterlives: Creative Re-presentation in the Premodern World,” University of the South,  
Sewanee, TN, April 13.
- 2018 “Transmission and Purity in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean.” AAR Annual  
Meeting, Denver, CO, November 17–20.
- 2018 “On Blood and Circulation: Two Case Studies from the Western Mediterranean.” MAA  
Annual Meeting, Emory University, GA, March 1–3.

- 2017 “Words that Burn: Text and Performance in Marguerite Porete’s *Le Mirouer des Simples Âmes*.” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, March 10–11.
- 2016 “Juan Goytisolo’s Hermeneutics of Longing: Reading the Lost Pages of John of the Cross’ Corpus.” ACLA Annual Meeting, Cambridge, MA, March 17–21.
- 2015 “*Convivencia, mestizaje*, and the ‘melting pot:’ on nostalgia for al-Andalus and multicultural imaginaries.” LASA Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 27–30.
- 2014 “Power and vulnerability in the biography of a sixteenth-century Moroccan saint.” Power Relations and Religious Communities in the Western Mediterranean Conference, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, May 2.
- 2014 “The trouble with origins: Christians, Jews, and converts in the hagiography of a sixteenth-century Moroccan saint.” AHA Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 2–5.
- 2013 “Sufi fighters as Sufi lovers: Militant piety in Muḥammad ibn Yaggabsh al-Tāzī’s *Book of Jihād*.” AAR Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 23–26.
- 2013 “Marginal theology or theology from the margins? Converts, Jews, Christians, and refugees in the biography of a sixteenth-century Muslim saint.” Workshop I of “Being Muslim: How Local Islam Overturns Narratives of Exceptionalism.” Vanderbilt University Department of Religious Studies, Nashville, September 26–29.
- 2013 “Reshaping desire: boundary-crossing and boundary-making in Teresa de Jesús’ *The Book of Her Life*.” ACLA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, April 4–7.
- 2011 “Rethinking the narrative of *convivencia*.” SERMEISS (Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar), Valle Crucis, NC, October 7–9.

### Roundtable participation

- 2021 “Latinx Perspectives on Ecumenism: Challenges from the Past and Prospects for the Future.” Hispanic Theological Initiative 25th Anniversary, Duke Divinity, June 25 (invited speaker).
- 2018 “Inquisiciones e imperios transoceánicos modernos: escritura, prácticas y sujetos en una Inquisición globalizada.” LASA Annual Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, May 23–26.

### Panels Organized and/or Chaired

- 2021 “Gender and Hierarchy.” Chair. Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, April 9–10.
- 2017 “Mystical Demarcations.” Panel Organizer. Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, March 10–11.
- “Early Islam.” Chair. Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, March 10–11.
- 2016 “Legal Challenges to Post-Gender Inequities in the Middle East and North Africa.” Chair.

Law and Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2–5.

### University of Tennessee Research Lectures

- 2018 “Cats, Dogs, and Ritual Purity in Moroccan Sufism.” Transmissions Research Seminar, Humanities Center, University of Tennessee, September 17.
- 2017 “Ink and Blood: Transmission and Circulation in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean.” Transmissions Research Seminar, Humanities Center, University of Tennessee, September 27.
- 2017 “Theorizing Boundaries: Genealogies of *convivencia*.” Middle East Studies Research Group, Humanities Center, University of Tennessee, March 7.
- 2016 “Reconstructing the Legacy of the Saints.” Manuscript Cultures Research Seminar, Humanities Center, University of Tennessee, November 16.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Islam and the Body  
 Gender and Religion  
 Religion, Illness, Health, and Death (senior capstone seminar for the Department of Religious Studies)  
 Religion and the Body (first-year course)  
 Independent study (master’s level) on Sufi Literatures  
 Introduction to the Study of Islam  
 Methods and Theories in Religious Studies  
 Islam in the Modern World  
 Introduction to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam  
 Classical Islam  
 Seminar in Western Religions: Sufism in the Western Mediterranean  
 Literatures of Islam

#### Emory University

- Summer 2009 Graduate Teaching Associate, “Introduction to Islam,” (Instructor of record: Richard Martin), Department of Religion
- Spring 2008 Graduate Teaching Assistant, “Beyond Borders: Imagining the Middle East and South Asia,” (Instructor of record: Vincent Cornell), Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies
- Fall 2007 Graduate Teaching Assistant, “The Qur’an,” (Instructor of record: Devin Stewart), Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies

#### Bryn Mawr College

- 2005–2006 Graduate Teaching Assistant, “Intermediate French,” Department of French

### RESEARCH GROUPS AND SEMINARS

2017–2019	University of Tennessee “Transmissions” Research Seminar
2017–2018	University of Tennessee Medical Humanities Research Seminar
2016–2017	University of Tennessee Manuscript Cultures Research Seminar
2015–2017	University of Tennessee Middle East Studies Research Group

### **STUDY ABROAD AND LANGUAGE TRAINING**

2022	Aljamiado Summer Skills Seminar, Mediterranean Seminar
2017	Arabic Codicology Course, sponsored by Complutense University of Madrid, San Lorenzo del Escorial, Spain
2008–2009	Qalam wa Lawh Arabic School, Rabat, Morocco Intensive Modern Standard Arabic training at an advanced level.
2007, 2008	Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco Intensive summer coursework in Arabic language and literature.
2005	Institut d’Études Françaises d’Avignon, Avignon, France Graduate coursework in French literature.
2004	American Programs Abroad, Paris, France French literature (license and maîtrise coursework at Paris X Nanterre.)
2003	Institut d’Études Françaises d’Avignon, Avignon, France French Studies

### **LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY**

Spanish (native); English and French (fluent); Arabic (proficient).

### **DOCTORAL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION**

2019	PhD Qualifying Examination committee for Lucia Elgerud, Anthropology, University of Tennessee
2017–2018	PhD Committee for Nuray Karaman, Sociology, University of Tennessee-Knoxville (defended, July 2018)
2016–2017	PhD Committee for Tamara Centis, Modern Foreign Languages, University of Tennessee-Knoxville (defended, August 2017) Evaluating Committee for the Doctoral Dissertation of Luis Fernando Bustamante Zapata, EAFIT University, Medellín, Colombia (defended, March 2017).

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

Colloquium Advisory Committee, Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, The University of the South, Sewanee, TN (2017–present).

Member-at-large, Board of Directors of the North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (2024–present).

### **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2011–2012	ESL Instructor for Refugees, Catholic Charities, Albuquerque Office.
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### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
American Comparative Literature Association  
Latin American Studies Association  
Middle East Studies Association  
Medieval Academy of America  
Mediterranean Seminar  
RaceB4Race  
Renaissance Society of America  
Spain/North Africa Project

**References available upon request.**