

DePaul University

From the Selected Works of Karen Hunt Ahmed

October, 2011

Curriculum Vitae

Karen Hunt Ahmed, *DePaul University*



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/karen_hunt_ahmed/21/

KAREN HUNT AHMED
Curriculum vitae

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CURRENT POSITIONS

DePaul University College of Commerce
Visiting Assistant Professor of Finance and Management,
August 2007-present

Faculty Fellow, Egan Urban Center, DePaul University
Faculty Advisory Board, Center for Financial Services

Chicago Islamic Microfinance Project, NFP
President, July 2009 – present

EDUCATION

PhD, Psychology: Human Development, August 2007
The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Dissertation title: *The 'Business' of Culture: Morality and Practice in Islamic Finance*

M.A. 2000
The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Master's Thesis title: *Cross-cultural Patterns of Pregnancy Sickness and Food Taboos: An Evolutionary Perspective*

Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.), 1990
John M. Olin School of Business
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

B.A. in Psychology, *magna cum laude*, 1990
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri
Five-year combined B.A./M.B.A. program

Karen Hunt Ahmed

Curriculum vitae

PUBLICATIONS

Martin, W.F. & Hunt-Ahmed, K. 2011. "Executive Compensation: The Role of Shari'a Compliance." *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management*. Volume 4, No. 3, pp. 196-210.

Hunt-Ahmed, Karen. 2009. "Islamic Banking and Finance: Moral Beliefs and Business Practices at Work," in *The Global Corporation: Sustainable, Effective and Ethical Practices*. Laura Hartman and Patricia Werhane, editors. Prentice Hall.

Hunt Ahmed, Karen. 2009. "What does Islamic finance want to be when it grows up?," cover article in *Business Islamica's* special edition entitled "Where is Islamic finance going? Ethical investment strategies. January 2009.

Ahmed, Karen Hunt. 2007. "Gender and Islamic Banking" in *Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Countries*. Brill Publishers.

Ahmed, Karen Hunt. 2007. "Islamic Finance in North America Conference Report," in *The Message*, regional public interest magazine.

Ahmed, Karen Hunt. 2004. "Ajman" in *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*. Macmillan USA

Articles/books in process

"Finding a jewel: identity and gendered space in Islamic Finance" (*Culture & Psychology*; resubmitted after revisions 10/11)

Signed book contract for edited volume with Wiley & Sons Press, June 2011. Working title: *Contemporary Islamic Finance*. Manuscript due March 2012. I have recruited twenty-three of the industry's top academicians, financiers, Shari'a scholars and attorneys to contribute to the book. It will be one of the first academic publications in the history of the industry. I plan to use it as a textbook.

"Shari'a Compliant Mutual Funds in the US: A Case Study", with Monem Salam; presented at Financial Management Association Annual Meeting (Denver), October 21, 2011; paper in write-up stage

"American Muslim Consumer Attitudes toward Islamic Finance", ongoing research project; expected publications from this project

Karen Hunt Ahmed

Curriculum vitae

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

My broad research interest is the interaction of culture, identity and economic behavior, which I examined for my dissertation in the field of Islamic Finance in Dubai. I am currently working with the administration at a Chicago area high school to research culture, identity and economic socialization amongst high school students and their parents. I am developing both a research agenda and a business skills curriculum I can take to other communities for comparative work. This research, which is designed to uncover ways in which culture and identity interact with economic behavior and decision-making in diverse ethnic and cultural groups, arose directly from an entrepreneurship project my students did as part of my service learning class. I have already formed partnerships with the school and with neighborhood groups. There will be many opportunities for student involvement.

I am currently researching “American Muslim Consumer Attitudes toward Islamic Finance” with student research assistants.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Islamic Adaptations Working Group on Culture and the Law

Rick Shweder, University of Chicago, Principle Investigator

Ongoing research on Muslims in America

Performed preliminary interviews at Islamic Cultural Center, Northbrook, IL

Presented findings at Muslim Minorities in Western Europe and North America after September 11 Conference, Duke University, March 2002

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

August 2002 – June 2003

Lived and conducted dissertation research in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

During fieldwork, I conducted semi-structured interviews with professionals in the field of Islamic Finance and Banking.

Observed daily practices in Islamic banks and Islamic finance companies

Karen Hunt Ahmed

Curriculum vitae

TEACHING and SCHOLARLY EXPERIENCE

DePaul University

- Editorial Advisory Board, *International Journal of Islamic and Middle Eastern Finance and Management* (appointed October 2011)
- Examiner for PhD dissertation, Queensland University of Technology, Australia, August 2011
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Religion and Business Ethics*, DePaul University
- Chairperson of *DePaul Islamic Finance Seminar*, March 2008 (<http://newsroom.depaul.edu/NewsReleases/showNews.aspx?NID=1738>)
- Developed curriculum for Master of Science: Islamic Finance program (in Bahrain)
- Islamic Finance (developed original course, graduate and undergraduate levels)
- Islamic Finance online (developed successful online graduate course for DePaul)
- Microfinance (developed original course)
- Introduction to Financial Management; Foundations of Business Thought

University of Chicago

- Developed syllabus and taught a stand-alone course entitled “Culture and Economy”, Fall 2005
- Center for Teaching and Learning’s “Workshop on Teaching in the College,” University of Chicago, September 2005
- Center for Teaching and Learning’s “Seminar on Course Design”, University of Chicago, Spring 2005
- Supervised Senior Honors Thesis for undergraduate student in Sociology, 2002: research topic was the Islamic education system in the United States
- Coordinator: *Culture, Life Course and Mental Health Workshop*, Academic year 2000-2001

INVITED LECTURES

- Discussant, Midwest Financial Association Annual Meeting, March 2011
- Chicago Booth School of Business (University of Chicago) Microfinance Conference: Invited panelist for “Faith and Microfinance” session, May 2010 (<http://www.chicagomicrofinance.com/bios.shtml#Ahmed>)
- Fourth UC Berkeley Islamic Finance Forum, Invited panelist for “Islamic finance and poverty alleviation” session, April 2011

Karen Hunt Ahmed

Curriculum vitae

- Invited to speak on risk management at University of Durham (UK) Islamic Finance Seminar, July 2010; invited but unable to attend.
- American Islamic College: Keynote speaker for seminar on “Personal investing and Islamic finance” session, June 2010
- “Doing business in the GCC” panelist, North American South Asian Bar Association Annual Meeting (NASABA), Boston, June 2010
- ISNA: panel member for “Islamic finance and wealth management strategies”, July 2010
- Moderator for session on “Economy of Communion: John Mundell” for World Catholicism Week, DePaul University, April 2010
- “Microfinance I,” Invited panelist for World Catholicism Week session, DePaul University, April 2010
- “Islamic law, finance and debt in Dubai,” Invited guest speaker for Money, Markets & Consumption Workshop at University of Chicago, February 2010
- “Introduction to Islamic finance,” Keynote speaker for South Asian Law Students Association annual conference, Northwestern University Law School, January 26, 2009
- “Contemporary issues in Islamic finance,” panel discussion at NASABA annual meeting, Chicago, IL, June 2008.
- “Globalization and finance: the future of Islamic finance as an ethical investment,” *Ten Years Hence* speaker series, Notre Dame University, Mendoza School of Business, February 2008. (Website: <http://www.nd.edu/~cba/tenyearshence/>)
- “Islamic finance as an ethical investment,” 2nd Islamic Finance World Summit (formerly “Islamic Finance in North America”), New York City, October 2008
- “An overview of Islamic finance,” Northwestern University/Kellogg School of Management Finance Department, November 2007.

Karen Hunt Ahmed
Curriculum vitae

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

RefugeeOne, NFP

Chicago, Illinois

Treasurer of the Board; Finance Committee, July 2010 – present

Haven Youth Services, NFP

Wilmette, Illinois

Board Member and Finance Committee, October 2010 - present

Chicago Islamic Microfinance Project, NFP

Chicago, IL

President, July 2009 – present

Founding partner in not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to promoting economic and social development in the Chicago area. Represented the organization at President Obama's Entrepreneurship Summit for Muslim Communities, April 2010.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, non-academic

Crescent Capital Management, LLC

Chicago, IL

Chief Operating Officer

1997 – 2005

Responsible for all aspects of daily management

Arabian General Investment Corporation (AGICO)

Company is now called SHUAA Capital p.s.c.

Dubai, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)

Project Analyst

June 1992 – March 1994

Responsible for all aspects of credit evaluation for new and existing direct investments in Middle East, Africa and Europe

American National Bank and Trust Company

Chicago, Illinois

Commercial Banking and Real Estate Analyst

July 1990 – December 1991

Karen Hunt Ahmed

Curriculum vitae

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

The University of Chicago

Bernice Neugarten Lectureship in Department of Comparative Human Development for Fall Quarter 2005

Travel Grant from Department of Comparative Human Development, 2005

Markovitz Dissertation Fellowship on Social and Economic Behaviors, Academic Year 2004-2005

Social Science Research Council "Corporation as Social Institution" Fellowship, 2002

University of Chicago Tuition Fellowship

Washington University in St. Louis

Academic Scholarship

Arts and Sciences Honor Roll

Mortar Board National Honorary

Psi Chi National Psychology Honorary

Secretary of "Chimes", the Junior Women's Honorary Society

Co-chair of Cultural Celebration:

Prepared budget and allocated funds

Supervised volunteers: Served as liaison between international student groups, sororities, and faculty members

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of Midwest Finance Association, 2011

Chicago Consumer Culture Committee, DePaul, since 2008

Member of American Anthropological Association since 1999

Member of Society for Psychological Anthropology since 1999

Member of the Board of Directors of the Averroes Islamic School, Northbrook, Illinois, USA, 2004-2005

Member of American Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates in U.A.E., 1992-1996 and 2002-2003

PERSONAL

Enjoy karate and squash

Lived and worked in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 1991 to 1996 and August 2002-June 2003

Traveled extensively in Europe, Arabian Gulf States, Pakistan, East Africa and Mexico

Read, write and speak basic level Spanish and Urdu