

**CYRA AKILA CHOUDHURY**

RDB 2063a

College of Law

Florida International University

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**EDUCATION**

Georgetown University Law Center, LLM, 2007

Future Law Professor Fellow

Georgetown University Law Center J.D. *cum laude* 2004

Columbia University M.A. in Political Science, 1996

The College of Wooster, BA in Political Science, 1994

Senior Thesis awarded honors.

Ranked 2 in class/Phi Beta Kappa/Departmental Honors/Frank Miller Prize in Comparative Politics

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Florida International University College of Law

Professor of Law, 2014-present

Associate Professor, 2011-2014

Assistant Professor, 2007-2011

Courses: Family Law, Comparative Family Law, Islamic Law, Sales & Leases, Women in the Law, Law & Development, Law & Exclusion.

University of Kentucky

Visiting Professor of Law, 2018-2019

Courses: Contracts I and II, Family Law, Islamic Law

University of Richmond

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2008-2009

Courses: Sales, Payment Systems, Family Law, & Islamic Law

Georgetown University Law Center

Adjunct Professor of Law 2006-2007

Courses: Third World Approaches to International Law seminar & Islamic Law

Georgetown University Law Center

Future Law Professor Fellow 2005-2007

**OTHER TEACHING**

Harvard Law School, Institute for Global Law and Politics Faculty  
Led writing seminars in the summer and regional workshops 2011-present

**PUBLICATIONS IN DISCIPLINE**

Books in progress

ISLAMOPHOBIA AND THE LAW (with Khaled Beydoun, accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press)

CHANGING SUBJECTS: INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE FAMILY (accepted for publication New York University Press).

Articles & Essays

*Muslim Women in National and Transnational Security Regimes*, Encyclopedia of Women in Islamic Cultures (2017) (invited, peer reviewed).

*In the Shadow of Gaslight: Reflections on Identity, Diversity, and Distribution of Power in the Academy* 20 CUNY L. REV. 467 (2017) (invited).

*Introduction: New Approaches and Challenges to Reproductive Justice* 12 FIU L. REV. 1 (2017).

*Transnational Commercial Surrogacy: Contracts, Conflicts, and the Prospects of International Legal Regulation*, OXFORD HANDBOOK IN LAW ONLINE (Oxford Univ. Press, 2016) (invited, peer reviewed).

*Beyond Culture: Human Rights Universalisms versus Cultural and Religious Relativism in the Activism for Gender Justice* 30 BERKELEY J. OF GENDER AND L. 266 (2015) (lead article).

*Ideology, Identity and Law in the Production of Islamophobia*, 39 DIALECTICAL ANTHROPOLOGY 47 (2015) (peer refereed).

*The Political Economy and Legal Regulation of Transnational Surrogacy* 48 VANDERBILT J. OF TRANSNATIONAL L. 1 (2015) (lead article).

*Law, Gender, and the Burdens of Culture*, PROCEEDINGS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER AND THE LAW Kate Stoneman Conference, Albany Law School, available at <http://www.albanylaw.edu/gender/Documents/Kate%20Stoneman%20Conference%20Papers.pdf>. 3-17 (2014) (invited).

*Shari'ah Law as National Security Threat* 46 AKRON L. REV. 49 (2013).

*Between Tradition and Progress: A Comparative Perspective on Polygamy in the United States and India* 83 U. COLORADO L. REV. 963 (2012) (lead article).

*Exporting Subjects: Globalizing Family Law Progress Through International Human Rights*, 32 MICH. INT'L L. J. 259 (2011).

*Globalizing the Margins: Legal Exiles in the War on Terror and Liberal Feminism's War for Muslim Women* 9.2 INT'L REV. OF CONSTITUTIONALISM, 241-261 (2010) (peer edited, invited).

*Empowerment or Estrangement: Liberal Feminism's Visions of the "Progress" of Muslim Women* 39.2 U. BALTIMORE L. FORUM 153-172 (2009).

*(Mis)Appropriated Justice: Muslim Personal Law Reform, the Uniform Civil Code and the Rights of Muslim Women in India* 17 COLUMBIA J. OF GENDER AND L. 45 (2008).

*Terrorists & Muslims: The Construction, Performance, and Regulation of Muslim Identities in the Post-9/11 United States* 7 RUTGERS J. OF L. & RELIG. 8 (2006).

*Comprehending "Our" Violence: Reflections on the Liberal Universalist Tradition, National Identity and the War on Iraq* 3 MUSLIM WORLD J. OF HUM. RIGHTS 1 (2006) (peer reviewed, invited).

### Book Chapters

*Property Lawfare: Historical Racism and Present Islamophobia in Anti-Mosque Activism in ISLAMOPHOBIA AND THE LAW* (Cyra A. Choudhury & Khaled Beydoun, eds., forthcoming, Cambridge University Press 2019)

*From Bandung 1955 to Bangladesh 1971: Self-Determination and Third World Failures in South Asia* in BANDUNG AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH: 60 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIVE INTERNATIONAL LAW (Eslava, Fakhri, and Nesiah, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2017) (invited).

*Governance Feminism's Imperial Misadventure: Progress, International Law, and the Security of Afghan Women* in CONTESTATORY FEMINISMS, CONTESTORY SPACES (Huma A. Ghosh, ed., SUNY Press, 2015) (invited).

*Collateral Damage: The Ghettoization of Muslims in the Race for the White House* in RACE 2008: CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON AN HISTORICAL CAMPAIGN 61-76 (2010).

### Solicited Book Reviews & Review Essays

*Islamic Law and International Human Rights Law: Searching for Common Ground?* J. SOC. FOR CONT. THOUGHT AND THE ISLAMICATE WORLD (March 1, 2016).

*After Abu Ghraib: Exploring Human Rights in America and the Middle East* 63 MIDDLE EAST J. 682 (2009).

*"The Politics of the Veil"* 24 J. OF L. AND RELIG. 1, 247 (2008).

### Other Writings

*A Socialist Feminist Legal Theory For Our Times*, Jotwell: Equality 2017 republished by Legal Forum.

*Liberty, Equality, Polygamy?* Jotwell: Equality, 2016.

*The Cruel Optimism of Human Rights*, Jotwell: International & Comparative 2016.

*A Different Kind of Marriage Equality*, Jotwell: Family 2016.

*The Threat of Secular World*, Islamic Monthly, April 2015 (Feature article)

*The Limited Vision of the Neoliberal Family*, Jotwell: Family, 2015.

*Solidarity, Speech, and Islamophobia in the Wake of Charlie Hebdo*, Centering the Periphery, 2015

*Comprehending Our Violence-Revisited*, Centering the Periphery, 2014

*After Ferguson: The Myths of a Post-Racial America*, Centering the Periphery, 2014

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*Surrogacy Work and the Limits of Contract Law*

*Islamophobia and Property Lawfare* (monograph proposal)

*Development, Families and Gender: From Colonial Legal Construction to Modern Economic Restructuring*

### **GRANTS AND FUNDED RESEARCH**

Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar Fellowship, 2016-2018 (declined due to visa restrictions).

Cyra Akila Choudhury and Vanja Hamzic (SOAS, UK), 2014, Heterodox Approaches to Islamic Law and Policy, conference. Award amount: \$15,000, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School.

Cyra Akila Choudhury, 2013, *Domestic Servitude and the Family: Transnational Migrant Labor Regulation from South Asia to the Gulf*. Award amount: \$2500, Doha-Santander Grant, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University Law School (competitive).

Florida International University Summer Research Grants 2008-present .

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES**

*Structures of Resistance/Control and "Declassifying" the War on Terror*, ClassCrits X, New Orleans, 2017.

*Deconstructing the International Public/Private Divide: Reproductive Rights and International Law*, International Law Weekend, New York, 2017.

*Islamophobia and Property Lawfare*, Invited Lecture, University of Windsor, Ontario, 2017.

*Islamophobia and Property Lawfare*, LatCrit X, Orlando, 2017.

*International Law and the Struggle to Become Experts: Other Terrains and Other Expertise in David Kennedy's "A World of Struggle"* International Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland, 2017.

*New Approaches & Challenges to Reproductive Justice*, FIU Law Review Symposium, Miami, 2016.

*Development, Families and Gender: From Colonial Legal Construction to Modern Economic Restructuring*, Law and Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2016.

*Development, Families and Gender: From Colonial Legal Construction to Modern Economic Restructuring*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers, New Orleans 2016.

*Asian-Americans in the Law: Achieving Visibility as Well as Success*, National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, Diversity Conference, Chicago, 2016.

*International Labor and the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership*, Nova Southeastern Shepard Broad School of Law, 2015.

*Rethinking Postcolonial and Islamic Scholarship: ISIS and Islamist Violence as Competing Imperialism*, Institute for Global Law and Policy Conference, Harvard University, 2015.

*ISIS, Islamic Law and Third World Approaches to International Law: A Failure of Analysis*, Third World Approaches to International Law Conference, American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt, February 2015.

*The Political Economy of Transnational Reproductive Labor and Its Legal Regulation*, Plenary Panel of Experts on International Family Law, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Doha, Qatar, January, 2014.

*The Political Economy of Transnational Reproductive Labor and Its Legal Regulation*, Beyond Roe Conference, Rutgers University Law School-Camden, October 2013.

*Hard Labor: The Legal Regulation of Migrant Domestic Workers from South Asia to the Gulf*, LatCritXVI, Chicago, IL, October 2013.

*Economies of Desire* Proseminar, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University, 2013.

*Transnational Surrogacy and Its Legal Regulation*, IGLP at 5 Conference, Harvard University, 2013.

*Domestic Violence in Comparison: A Response to Leigh Goodmark's "Troubled Marriages"*, Feminist Legal Theory-Collaborative Research Network, Law and Society, May 2013 (invited).

*Transnational Surrogacy and Its Legal Regulation*, Feminist Legal Theory-Collaborative Research Network, Law and Society, May 2013.

*Contesting the Oppositional Religious Stance Against LGBTIQ Recognition in India*, The Association of American Law Schools Conference Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2013 (invited).

*Outsourcing Wombs*, ClassCrits Conference, University of Wisconsin Law School, (panel convener and moderator) October 2012.

*Outsourcing Wombs*, Social Justice Feminism Conference, University of Cincinnati Law School (presenter, panel convener and moderator), October 2012.

*Teaching TWAIL in a Time of Terror*, SALT Conference, University of Baltimore School of Law, October 2012.

*The Gendered Effects of Development Displacement*, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop, Harvard University Law School, June 2012.

*Exporting Subjects*, selected as one of 4 panelists for “New Voices in Human Rights,” The Association of American Law Schools, Washington, DC January 6, 2012.

*Gendered Effects/Distributing Progress*, Third World Approaches to International Law Conference, University of Oregon School of Law, 2011.

*Between Tradition and Progress: A Comparative Perspective on U.S. and Indian Family Law*, invited presenter at the Symposium on Indian and U.S. Family Law, University of Colorado Law School, 2011 (invited).

*Exporting Subjects*, at Workshop on Reproduction and Sex in Contemporary Governmentalities: Governance Feminism and its Others, Harvard Law School, September 16, 2011 (invited).

*Gendered Effects/Distributing Progress through Indian Public Interest Litigation: lessons from the last thirty years*, SEALS, Hilton Head, S.C., 2011 (invited).

*Shari’ah as National Security Threat(?)*, presenter, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop, Harvard University Law School, 2011.

*Shari’ah as National Security Threat(?)*, presenter, Faculty Workshop, Florida International University College of Law, 2011.

*FIU Symposium, The U.S. Immigration Crises, Panel II*, Panel Commentator, Florida International University, 2011.

*Who’s Afraid of Islamic Law?* Panelist, University of Miami School of Law, 2011 (invited).

*Islamic Secularism: A Contradiction in Terms?* Public Lecture, Middle East Society, Florida International University, 2011 (invited).

*NeoFeminism: Exploring New Feminist Analyses and Methodologies* panel presenter, LatCrit XV, Denver, Colorado, 2010.

*Globalizing the Margins*, Third National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, 2010.

*Neofeminism Workshop* Co-organizer and presenter, Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference, University of Baltimore, 2010.

*Obama's Public Religion, Moderator of panel*, LatCrit XIV American University, Washington, D.C., 2009.

*The Regulation of Latino Migrant "Economic Terrorists" in the New Jim Crow?* LatCrit XIV American University, Washington, D.C., 2009.

*A bit on the side?* Moderator of panel at Law and Society, Denver, Colorado, 2009.

*Liberal Feminism's International Embrace*, Law and Society, Denver, Colorado, 2009.

*Islamic Law and New Approaches to Comparative Law*, Law and Society, 2009 (invited panelist).

*Comparative Islamic Family Law: Divorce and Maintenance* Emerging Family Law Scholars, Cardozo Law School, New York, 2009.

*International Human Rights: Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* University of Maryland School of Law, invited commentor on law and the claims of culture and religion, 2008.

•Freedom House Roundtable on Saudi Legal Reform, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., 2008.

•*Empowerment and Estrangement: Liberal (Feminist) Theory's Alliance with International Human Rights and Muslim Women's Progress into the Third Wave* paper presented at University of Baltimore School of Law, Feminist Legal Theory and Feminisms Conference, 2008.

•Critical Legal Theory Seminar, Guest Lecturer, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., Fall 2006.

#### **PROFESSIONAL HONORS, PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2016-2018, Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar Award (declined).

2015, Fellow, Center for Health Law, Ethics and Technology, Jindal Global Law School, Sonipat, India.

2014, Affiliated Scholar, Ottoman Legacies in Post-Conflict Societies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

2014, Docent, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University Law School, (competitive selection).

2013, Recipient, Doha-Santander Grant, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University Law School (competitive).

2012, Docent, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University Law School, (competitive selection).

2012 Selected Panelist “New Voices in Human Rights”, AALS Human Rights Interest Group.

2011 Docent, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard University Law School, (competitive selection).

2005-2008 Future Law Professor Fellowship.

### **MEDIA**

Interviewed and quoted in: The Atlantic, Salon, Politico, Palm Beach Post, Tampa Bay Times, Electronic Intifada, New Jersey Star Ledger, and other outlets. Appeared as twice as expert guest on WPBT “Viewpoint”.

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

#### **College of Law Faculty Committees**

2016-present, Adjunct Review Committee  
2014-present, Appointments Committee  
2007-present, Library Committee  
2009-present, Lecturer Review Committee  
2012-2014, LL.M Admissions Committee  
2010, Faculty Director of the Seville Program in Spain  
2009-2010, Law Review Committee  
2007-2008, Graduate Programs Committee

#### **College of Law Student Service**

Organizer, *New Approaches & Challenges to Reproductive Justice*, FIU Law Review Symposium  
Advisor, Law Review Note, Lauren Canina  
Advisor, Law Review Note, Heather Miller  
Advisor, Law Review Note, Katherine Miller  
Advisor, Law Review Note, Jonathan Rodriguez  
Judge, Moot preparation for Justice Alito  
Judge, HBNA Arbitration Competition  
Judge, Weschler Competition  
Judge, Jessup Competition



Advisor to Muslim Law Students Association

Advisor to Women's Law Society

Panel Commentator, *FIU Symposium, The U.S. Immigration Crises, Panel II*, Florida International University, 2011.

### **University Service**

2014- present, Member, Middle East Studies Program Coordinating Committee

2014, Panelist, Teaching Same-Sex Issues, FIU Diversity Week

2013, Plenary Panelist, SIPA Geopolitical Summit

2013-present, Member SIPA Muslim World Certificate program committee

2012-2014, Senator, FIU Faculty Senate

2012-2014, Member, FIU Senate Steering Committee

2012-2014, Member, Awards Committee

2012-Panelist, "E Pluribus Unum", FIU Diversity Week

2010-2011, Member, Committee for Graduate Certificate Program for Marriage & Family Therapy

2011-Public Lecture, *Islamic Secularism: A Contradiction in Terms?* Middle East Society, Florida International University, 2011 (invited).

2010-Public Lecture, *Racial Profiling and the Construction of Muslim Identities after 9/11* Middle East Society Public Lecture Series (invited).

2009-present, Affiliated faculty, School of International and Public Affairs

2007-present, faculty, Middle East Studies

2007- present, Affiliated faculty, Women's Studies Department

2007-present, Affiliated faculty, Asian Studies Department

### **National and International Service**

Peer Reviewer:

*Theory, Society and Culture*, UK

*Feminist Formations Journal*, USA

*Law in Context Journal*, Australia

*Asian Journal of International Law*, UK

*Hypatia*, USA

Contributing Editor:

*Jotwell*, Equality Section, 2016-Present

*Jotwell*, Family Law Section, 2014-2016

Co-organizer, Feminist Legal Theory CRN, Law & Society 2017.

Faculty: Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School

Speed Mentor, The Association of American Law Schools, Women in Legal Education Interest Group, Annual Meeting, Louisiana, 2013.

Panelist, Diversity Leadership Panel, South Asian Bar Association of Florida, FIU College of Law, November 8, 2013.

Member, Steering Committee, Emerging Family Law Scholars Conference, May 2012.

**Organization, Conferences and Workshop Service**

Organizer, International Law Weekend, Reproductive Rights and International Law, New York, 2017.

Organizer, LatCrit X, Islamophobia Panel, Orlando, 2017.

Co-Organizer, Feminist Legal Theory CRN, Law and Society, 2017.

Faculty Organizer, New Approaches & Challenges to Reproductive Justice, FIU Law Review Symposium, 2016.

Faculty, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop, Cape Town, South Africa 2016.

Faculty, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop, Bogota, Colombia, 2015.

Convener and Organizer, Heterodox Approaches to Islamic Law and Policy Conference, Harvard Law School, 2014.

Moderator, Human Trafficking panel, Converge! Conference, University of Miami, 2014.

Docent, Islamic Law and Policy Workshop, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop, Harvard University Law School, January 2014

Moderator and Panel Convener, *Sex, Reproduction and Class in Domestic and Global Perspective* Social Justice Feminism Conference, University of Cincinnati Law School (presenter, panel convener and moderator), October 2012.

Commentator, Governance Feminism Study Group, University of Florida/Harvard University, September 2011-present.

Docent, Writing Workshop, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop, Harvard University Law School, June 2012.

Rapporteur, Third World Approaches to International Law Conference, University of Oregon School of Law, October, 2011.

Moderator, *Navigating the Terrains of International Law, Capitalism and Imperialism*, Third World Approaches to International Law Conference, University of Oregon School of Law October, 2011.

Docent, Writing Workshop, Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop, Harvard University Law School, 2011.

Co-organizer, *NeoFeminism: Exploring New Feminist Analyses and Methodologies*, LatCrit XV, University of Denver, 2010.

Co-organizer and presenter, *Globalizing the Margins*, Neofeminism Workshop Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference, University of Baltimore, March 2010.

Moderator, *Obama's Public Religion*, LatCrit XIV, American University, Washington, D.C., 2009.

Moderator, *A bit on the side?* Law and Society, Denver, Colorado, 2009.

### **Public Service**

2000- present, Member, Board of Directors, U.S.-Bangladesh Advisory Committee

2004-present, pro bono counsel for small nonprofits including Women's Ordination Committee, Black Earth Institute, and the Open Hearth Foundation

2005-2008 Chairperson, Foundation for the Advancement of Women in Religion

### **Organizations and Memberships**

New York State Bar (inactive)

District of Columbia Bar

American Association of Law Schools

Human Rights

Islamic Law

American Society of International Law

International Legal Theory group

Human Rights Interest Group

Law and Society

Feminist Legal Theory CRN