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EDITORIAL BOARD

Tula Connell (Ph.D. American History; M.A. European History) is an historian of the United States focusing on 20th century labor and social movements, and author of *Conservative Counterrevolution: Challenging Liberalism in 1950s Milwaukee* (University of Illinois Press, 2016), in the series, "The Working Class in American History". Connell is a writer, editor and media professional with more than 20 years' experience in labor communications. She serves on the board of the Labor and Working Class History Association, where she co-chairs the Committee on Independent Scholars.

Joan Cunningham (Ph.D. Public Health: Epidemiology) is a cancer epidemiologist, recently retired from the Medical University of South Carolina. She holds an MSc (Biology: aquatic eco-embryology) from the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada and Ph.D. (Public Health: epidemiology) from the University of Texas School of Public Health (Houston). Her work focuses on racial disparities in breast cancer, and non-pharmacological mitigation of cancer treatment side effects. She also gives invited lectures on cancer epidemiology to the graduate program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas.

Amanda Haste (Ph.D. Musicology; Dip.Trans.IoLET) is a British musicologist and academic translator whose research interests include identity construction through music and language. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists and teaches courses in Translation and in English for Specific Purposes at Aix-Marseille University, France. Her research has been published in leading journals and books by major editors, and she co-authored *Constructing Identity in an Age of Globalization* (Paris: Ex Modio, 2015); and her awards include the Louise Dyer Award for research into British music, and the Elizabeth Eisenstein Essay Prize (2018).

Annie Rehill (Ph.D. Modern French Studies, MFA) specializes in the literature and history of Francophone Canada, focusing on intercultural expressions and implications. Most recently she has studied Métis literature and art. Previous work in ecocriticism centered on representations of the Canadian *coureur de bois* figure, and on Francophone Caribbean writings. Her publications include "Le Travail dans la nature canadienne: L'Équilibre (et le déséquilibre) humain tel qu'il est représenté par Louis Goulet et Joseph-Charles Taché" (2018); "An Ecocritical Reading of Joseph-Charles Taché's *Forestiers et voyageurs*" (2018); *Backwoodsmen As Ecocritical Motif in French Canadian Literature* (2016); and "Inscriptions of Nature from Guadeloupe, Haiti, and Martinique" (2015).

Laurence Dana Schiller (Ph.D. History) is a retired Adjunct Professor from Northwestern University, from which he holds a Ph.D. in African History, and was also the Head Fencing Coach there for 38 seasons. He has authored several papers on East African history, including "Female Royals of the Lake Kingdoms of East Africa: An Examination of Their Power and Status" but is now primarily engaged in writing on the American Civil War. He has produced works on cavalry tactics including the Blue Gray Education Society monograph, *Of Sabres and Carbines: The Emergence of the Federal Dragoon*.

Shelby Shapiro (Ph.D. American Studies), the General Editor of *The Independent Scholar*, served for many years as the English-language editor of *Tsum punkt/To the Point*, the magazine of Yiddish of Greater Washington, as well as for its predecessor publication. He is currently Associate Editor of *Records of the State of Connecticut*. His Ph.D. dissertation dealt with acculturation and American Jewish women in the Yiddish press; he is a Yiddish-English translator, and his research interests include Jazz and Blues (having presented jazz radio programs for nine years), the labor movement, the First World War, and immigrant anarchism.

Patricia Silver (Ph.D. Anthropology) is a sociocultural anthropologist whose research has centered on the Puerto Rican diaspora in the U.S. states. Her publications have appeared in *American Ethnologist*, *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, *Identities*, *Global Studies in Culture and Power*, *Op. Cit.: Revista del Centro de Investigaciones Históricas*, *Southern Cultures*, *Memory Studies*, and *Latino Studies*. Her book, *Sunbelt Diaspora: Race, Class, and Latino Politics in Puerto Rican Orlando* was published in 2020.

Tim Woolley (Ph.D. Theology) is a British Methodist minister and adjunct lecturer at Cliff College, tutor for the Methodist E-Academy and the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education, and research associate of Wesley House, Cambridge. He researches 19C British Methodism, the Holiness Movement, Revivalism and Nonconformity and has co-written *Mission Shaped Intro* (2nd ed.) for Fresh Expressions of Church and *Talking of God and Worship: Leading and Preaching* for The Methodist Church in Britain.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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Manuscripts and queries should be sent to the General Editor at tis@ncis.org.

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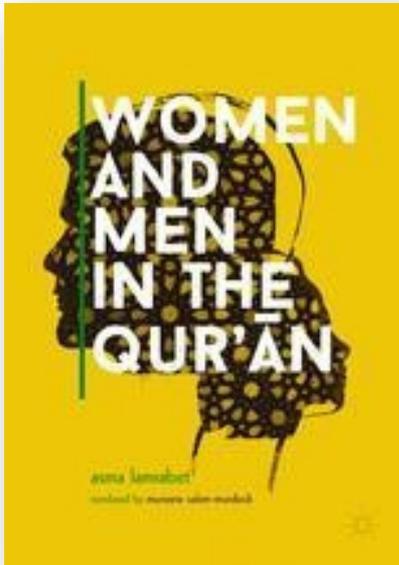
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Women And Men in The Qur'an

Asma Lamrabet

Translated by Muneera Salem-Murdock

Washington, DC, USA: Palgrave, 2018

195 pages

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Review by Sara Jamil.

First published online 18 June 2021 and will appear in Volume 8 of *The Independent Scholar*.

Women and Men in The Qur'an is a breath of fresh air in the discourse around gender equality in Islam. Dr. Lamrabet, a Muslim woman and extremely knowledgeable scholar, takes the reader on an intricate and comprehensive journey of dismantling and disrupting stereotypical narratives through a beautiful, in-depth study of the sacred text of the Quran. The universal egalitarian message of the Qur'an is the red thread, which is skillfully interwoven throughout the book.

Women and Men in the Qur'an is divided into three main parts:

1. Women in Islam: A New Approach
2. Women and Men in the Qur'an: The Key Concepts
3. Equality, the Time of a Revolution.

The eighteen chapters of the book each meticulously analyse selected relevant verses in the Quran as well as traditional interpretations, which are referred to in most of the Muslim world.

Dr. Lamrabet challenges these and uses the spiritual source itself in her arguments in a clear and confident manner, so as to shift the perspective from a fixed to an evolving interpretation that transcends the discourse of women *or* men to one of gender equality. Nonetheless, empowered with sound knowledge and refreshing perspective, Dr. Lamrabet does not shy away from calling out the prevalent patriarchal, misogynistic and manipulative interpretations of the spiritual message of the Qur'an. She thoroughly addresses the underlying biases, as well as those outside Islam, of "the Muslim woman, the general tendency being to view all Muslim women as a monolithic group – often done deliberately with the intent of marginalizing this group. For too long the opponents of Islam, the media and the power-hungry Muslim clerics have been allowed and enabled to make the sacred message of the Qur'an profane – not so on Dr. Lamrabet's watch!

She concludes by suggesting that it is time for those who love and honour this sacred, spiritual message to educate themselves by studying the text from within

the context in which it was revealed, and to consult various interpretations. This would allow the next generation in particular to be presented with a model, grounded in the spirit of democracy that relates to current times: an interpretation that serves not only women but all of humanity. She invites anyone outside Islam, regardless of sex, gender, race and social status, to also consider embracing this universal egalitarian message of the Qur'an.

There is no doubt that the author knows very well what she is talking about, and that her approach will push boundaries. In fact, that is her stated intent in the introduction. I am confident that it will be graciously received by scholars with a keen interest in studying Islam, gender equity and interfaith studies among other disciplines. Furthermore, it will resonate with the younger generation of Muslims – especially women and their feminist allies – as it offers hope and possibility for a narrative that serves everyone equally. However, the wording at times is too academic and scholarly for a layperson to truly connect with the important message that Dr. Lamrabet wishes to convey. Nonetheless, I strongly believe that increasing self-awareness is the only way to empower people in their agency, and this book undoubtedly provides a strong and sound foundation for anyone who is on a journey of self-discovery to explore further.

Sara Jamil is an educator, mentor and sacred activist. She is the contributing author of *"Dreams Unleashed"*, founder of *CompassionFirst* and Lead Volunteer of *Charter for Compassion International*. As a lover of humanity, Sara passionately advocates for her faith community's motto "Love For All Hatred For None" as well as her own message of "A Better World Starts With Me".

Reviewer's Disclaimer: Although I have attempted to provide a review as objectively as possible, I am doing so as a Muslim woman from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. This is noteworthy because my community's views are not recognized by the majority of the Muslim Ummah, and particularly the clergy.