

**DAVID S. POWERS**

Department of Near Eastern Studies  
421 White Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, New York 14853  
(607) 255-1332

*EDUCATION*

Ph.D., M.A., Princeton University, Near Eastern Studies, 1979  
B.A., Yale University, Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, 1973

*RESEARCH INTERESTS*

Islamic History, Law, Gender; the Maghrib

*EMPLOYMENT*

Professor, Cornell University, 1992-present  
Adjunct Professor, Cornell Law School, 2000-present  
Associate Professor, Cornell University, 1986-1992  
Assistant Professor, Cornell University, 1979-1986  
Instructor, Princeton University, 1977-1979

*COURSES TAUGHT*

Introduction to Near Eastern Civilization  
Introduction to Islamic Civilization  
Islamic Law and Society  
Law, Society, and Culture in the Middle East, 1300-1500  
Law, Society, and Culture in the Middle East (sophomore seminar)  
Introduction to Islamic Law (Cornell Law School)  
Seminar in Islamic History: Muhammad and the Rise of Islam  
Seminar in Islamic History: The Formation of Islamic Law  
Seminar in Islamic History: The Age of Ibn Khaldun  
Readings in Classical Arabic Texts  
Qur'an and *Tafsir* (Commentary)  
Language of the Qur'an  
Islam and Politics  
Islam and the West  
Jews of Arab Lands  
Western Perceptions of the Middle East (freshman seminar)  
Discovering Islam (freshman seminar)  
Critical Reading and Writing: Revealing Islam (freshman seminar)  
Modern Standard Arabic (Elementary and Intermediate)  
Egyptian Society: Past, Present, Future (Cornell Adult University)  
In the name of Allah: The formation and development of Islamic Law (Cornell Adult University)

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association  
 American Oriental Society  
 Institute for Maghribi Studies  
 International Institute for Islamic Legal Studies (founding member)  
 Middle East Studies Association

### EDITORSHIP

Editor (co-founder), *Islamic Law and Society* (E.J. Brill), 1993-present  
 Sectional Editor (Law), *Encyclopedia of Islam*, 3d edition  
 Member, Editorial Board, Harvard Series in Islamic Law  
 Member, Advisory Board, *UCLA Journal of Near Eastern and Islamic Law*

### ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES AT CORNELL

Chair, Near Eastern Studies, 1993-96  
 Graduate Field Representative, NES 1988-93  
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, NES, fall 1981, 1982-1985, spring 1991, 1997-2000  
 Chair, Comparative Muslim Societies Committee, 2001-4  
 Chairman, Arabic and Islamic Studies Committee, 1988-93  
 Director, Contemporary Near East Studies Program, 1998-2000  
 Interim Director, Contemporary Near Eastern Studies Program, 1995-96  
 Coordinator, Comparative Muslim Societies Seminar, 1989-91  
 Chairman, North Campus Living/Learning Committee, 1999-2000  
 Chairman, Hillel Faculty Board, 1989-90 (member 1988-90)  
 Chairman, Olin Library Users' Committee, 1988-90 (member 1986-90)  
 Member, History Graduate Field, 1991-present  
 Member, Religious Studies Program Steering Committee, 1993-1994  
 Member, Faculty Advisory Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, 2000-02  
 Member, Campus Life Faculty Committee: Subcommittee on Academic Advising, spring 1999  
 Member, North Campus Program Committee, spring 1999-fall 2000  
 Member, University Assembly, 1991-93  
 Member, Faculty-in-Residence Program, 1989-93  
 Member, Faculty Fellows Program, 1985-1989, 1993-present  
 Member, Freedom of Teaching and Learning Committee, 1983-1986  
 Member, Faculty Council of Representatives, 1981-1986  
 Member, Faculty Senate, 1997-98  
 Member, Arts and Sciences Admissions Committee, 1981-1983, 1986-1987, 2005

### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Carnegie Corporation of New York Fellowship, 2007-08  
 Lady Davis Fellowship, 1996-97 (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)  
 Travel Grant, American Institute for Maghribi Studies, 1997  
 Merrill Presidential Teaching Award, spring, 1992  
 National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, fall, 1991  
 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Grant, 1989  
 Cornell Faculty Research Grant, 1983

Cornell Faculty Summer Research Grant, 1980  
 Social Science Research Council Post-Doctoral Training Fellowship, 1979-80  
 (declined)  
 American Research Center in Egypt Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 1979-1980  
 (declined)  
 Charlotte E. Procter Fellowship, Princeton University, 1978-1979  
 National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship, 1975-1978

*VISITING SCHOLAR*

*Directeur d'études-associé*, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociale,  
 December 25, 1998- January 21, 1999  
 Senior scholar, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Working Group on Modernity and  
 Islam, Summer Workshop, Notions of Law and Order in Muslim  
 Societies, Casablanca, Morocco, September 13-25, 1999  
 Fellow, Research group on Islamic law, Institute for Advanced Study, The  
 Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Dec. 1999-January 2000)

*PERSONAL DATA*

Born 7/23/51 in Cleveland, Ohio; married to Jane Levine Powers; two daughters,  
 Kate (21) Sarah (18); son, Andrew (14)

*REFERENCES*: Available on request

## PUBLICATIONS

*Monographs*

- Law, Society, and Culture in the Maghrib, 1300-1500* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)
- Studies in Qur'an and Hadith: The Formation of the Islamic Law of Inheritance.* University of California Press, 1986. Translated into Bahasa Indonesia as *Peralihin Kekayaan dan Politik Kekuasaan: Kritik Histois Hukum Waris* (LkiS, Yogyakarta, 2001)

*Edited Volumes*

- Dispensing Justice in Muslim Courts: Qadi and their Courts*, ed. M. Khalid Masud, Rudolph Peters, David S. Powers (E.J. Brill, 2006)
- Islamic Legal Interpretation: Muftis and their Fatwas*, ed. M. Khalid Masud, Brinkley Messick and David Powers (Harvard University Press, 1996)

*Translation*

- The History of al-Tabari, Volume XXIV: The Caliphates of Sulayman, Umar II, and Yazid.* State University of New York Press, 1989 (annotated translation)

*Articles*

- "Demonizing Zenobia: The Legend of al-Zabba' in Islamic Sources," in *Histories of the Middle East: Studies in Middle Eastern Society, Economy, and Law in Honor of A.L. Udovitch* (E.J. Brill, forthcoming).
- "From the *Mi`yar* of al-Wansharisi to the *New Mi`yar* of al-Wazzani," co-authored with ETTY Terem, *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam* (2007), 235-60.
- "Law and Custom in the Maghrib, 1475-1500: On the Disinheritance of Women," in *Law, Custom, and Statute in the Muslim World: Studies in Honor of Aharon Layish* (E.J. Brill, 2006), 17-40.
- "Qadis and their Courts: An Historical Survey," with M. Khalid Masud and Rudolph Peters, in *Dispensing Justice in Muslim Courts: Qadis and their Courts*, ed. M. Khalid Masud, Rudolph Peters, David S. Powers (E.J. Brill, 2006), 1-46.
- "Women and Courts in the Maghrib, 1100-1500, in *Dispensing Justice in Muslim Courts: Qadis and their Courts*, ed. M. Khalid Masud, Rudolph Peters, David S. Powers (E.J. Brill, 2006), 383-410.
- "Women and Divorce in the Islamic West: Three Cases," *Hawwa*, vol. 1:1 (2003), 29-45.
- "Parents and their Minor Children: Familial Politics in the Middle Maghrib in the Eighth/Fourteenth Century," *Continuity and Change*, August 2001, 177-200.
- "The Islamic Family Endowment (*Waqf*)," *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*, 32:4 (1999), 1167-90.
- "Introduction: The Islamic Inheritance System," *Islamic Law and Society*, 5:3 (1998): 285-90 [theme issue]

- "The Art of the Judicial Opinion: On *Tawlij* in Fifteenth-Century Tunis," *Islamic Law and Society*, 5:3 (1998): 359-81.
- "Muftis, Fatwas, and Islamic Legal Interpretation, in *Islamic Legal Interpretation: Muftis and their Fatwas* (Harvard University Press, 1996)
- "The Art of the Legal Opinion," in *Islamic Legal Interpretation: Muftis and their Fatwas*, ed. M. Khalid Masud, Brinkley Messick and David Powers (Harvard University Press, 1996)
- "*Kadijustiz* or Qadi-Justice?: A Paternity Dispute from 14th-Century Morocco," *Islamic Law and Society* 1:3 (1994): 332-366 [reprinted in *Law, Morality, and Religion: Global Perspectives*, ed. Alan Watson (Berkeley, Robbins Collection, 1996)]
- "The Maliki Family Endowment: Judicial Norms and Social Practices," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 25:3 (1993): 379-406.
- "Legal Consultation (*Futya*) in Medieval Spain and North Africa," in Chibli Mallat [ed.], *Islam and Public Law*. London: Graham and Trotman, 1993, pp. 1-21.
- "On Judicial Review in Islamic Law," *Law & Society Review* 26:2 (1992): 315-341.
- "*Fatwas* as Sources for Legal and Social History: A Dispute over Endowment Revenues from Fourteenth-Century Fez," *Al-Qantara* 11 (1990): 295-341.
- "Islamic Inheritance Law: A Socio-Historical Approach," in Chibli Mallat and Jane Connors (eds.), *Islamic Family Law and the State*. London: Trotman, 1990, pp. 11-29.
- "A Court Case from Fourteenth-Century North Africa," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 110:2 (1990): 229-254.
- "Colonialism, Orientalism, and Legal History: The Attack on Muslim Family Endowments in Algeria and India," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31 (1989): 535-571.
- "On Bequests in Early Islam," *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 48 (1989): 185-200.  
Translated into Turkish by Halit Ozkan as, "Islam'in İlk Doneminde Vasiyetler," *Hadis Tetkikleri Dergisi*, 2:1 (2004), 105-25.
- "The Literary Genre *Nasikh al-Qur'an*," in Andrew Rippin (ed.), *Approaches to the History of the Interpretation of the Qur'an*. Oxford University Press, 1988.
- "Reading/Misreading One Another's Scriptures," in William Brinner (ed.), *Studies in Judaism and Islam, Volume I*. Scholars Press, 1986.
- "Revenues of Public Endowments in Sixteenth-Century Jerusalem," *Archivum Ottomanicum* 9 (1984): 163-202
- "The Will of Sa'd b. Abi Waqqas: A Reassessment," *Studia Islamica* 58 (1983): 33-53.

"On the Abrogation of the Bequest Verses," *Arabica* 29 (1982): 246-295.

"The Islamic Law of Inheritance, Reconsidered: A New Reading of Q. 4:12b," *Studia Islamica* 55 (1982): 61-94.

#### *Encyclopaedia Entries*

"Appeal", "Adoption", *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.,  
 "Inheritance", "Judicial Review", "Wansharisi", *Encyclopaedia of Legal History*  
 "Endowments", "Inheritance", "Qadis", *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*  
 "Inheritance, Islamic", *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an, E-I* (2002)  
 "Wakf", *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., vol. XI, 69-75  
 "Inheritance," "Endowment," and "Alms-Tax" in the *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*. New York: Scribners, 1983

#### *Book Reviews*

Review: Bernard G. Weiss, *The Spirit of Islamic Law. Law and History Review*, 19:1 (spring, 2001). 189-92

Review: M. Izzi Dien, *The Theory and Practice of Market Law in Medieval Islam. A Study of Kitab Nisab al-Ihtisab of Umar b. Muhammad al-Sunami (fl. 7th-8th/13th-14th Century)*. *Speculum* 75:2 (April 2000), 482-83.

Review: Wael Hallaq: *A History of Islamic Legal Theories: An Introduction to Sunni Usul al-Fiqh*. *Middle East Quarterly* (June 1999).

Review: Chibli Mallat, *The Renewal of Islamic Law: Muhammad Baqer as-Sadr, Najaf and the Shii International*. *American Historical Review* (October, 1995): 1270-72

Review: John Burton, *Sources of Islamic Law*. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (date?): 933-34

Review: L. Rosen, *The Anthropology of Justice: Law as Culture in Islamic Society*. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 111.4 (1991): 790-91.

Review: John Burton (ed.), *Abu Ubaid al-Qasim b. Sallam's K. al-nasikh wa-l-mansukh*. *Speculum* 65 (1990): 933-934.

Review: P. Crone, *Roman, provincial, and Islamic law*. *Journal of Semitic Studies* 35 (1999): 326-330.

Review: N.J. Coulson and Abdelwadoud Yehia, *Studien zum Islamischen Recht*. *The Muslim World* 77 (1987): 139.

Review: M. Ayyoub, *The Qur'an and its Interpreters*. *The Muslim World* 75 (1985): 51-52.

Review: J. Esposito (ed.), *Islam and Development*. *NYU Journal of International Law and Politics* 15 (1982): 479-486.

*Work in Progress*

*Monograph:*

*"Muhammad is not the Father of any of Your Men": The Making of the Last Prophet*

*Edited Volume:*

*A Compendium of Muslim Jurists*, with Oussama Arabi and Susan Sectorsky  
(approx. 20 chapters, each devoted to the life and writings of great Muslim jurists)

*Casebook:*

*Islamic Law* (for law students, in progress)

*Articles*

"Law and Sufism"

PAPERS AT SCHOLARLY MEETINGS AND ACADEMIC LECTURES

- "Bibliothèque Nationale 328a and Q. 4:176", Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Chicago, March 15, 2008"
- "A Founder Without Sons: The Making of the Last Prophet" (Keynote Speech), Yale University, MacMillan Center, Symposium on *Islam: The Politics of Reform*, March 1, 2008
- "Jewish and Christian Roots of Islamic Martyrdom Discourses," Emory University Conference, *The Wrathful God: Religious Extremism in Comparative Perspective*, March 3-4, 2008
- "From Nuzi to Medina: Q. 4:12b Revisited," at the bi-annual international conference, *The Qur'an: Text, Interpretation, Translation*, London, 7-9 Nov. 2007
- "L'Adoption aux origines de l'islam," at the international colloquium, *Les réformes du droit de la famille dans les sociétés musulmanes*, Paris, 6-8 Nov., 2007
- "From Nuzi to Medina: The Qur'anic Law of Inheritance in the Context of Ancient Near Eastern Adoption Contracts," Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin, May 23, 24, and 25 (three workshops)
- "Fathers and Sons: The Foundation Narratives of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, University of Pennsylvania, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, April 23, 2007
- "From Nuzi to Medina or the Birth Hour of Islamic Law," UCLA, Center for Near Eastern Studies, October 6, 2006.
- "From Nuzi to Medina, Q. 4:12b, Revisited", International Conference: *From Jahiliyya to Islam*, Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University, July 2-7, 2006
- "Ijtihad and Taqlid in the Maghrib in a 15<sup>th</sup> century Fatwa," International Research Workshop: *Facing Modernity: Rethinking 'Ulama' in the Arab Middle East*, Hebrew University, June 26-27, 2006
- "Law and Sufism," Annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 19, 2005
- "Law and Sufism", Harvard, Middle East Studies Center, Oct. 9, 2003
- "Law and Sufism in the Maghrib in the 9<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century", 4<sup>th</sup> Islamic Legal Studies Conference, Murcia, Spain, 7 May, 2003
- "Women and the Legal Profession in the Maghrib, 1300-1500," Harvard Law School conference on "Women and the Labor market: The Islamic World, Past and Present", May 26, 2002,
- "Women and Divorce in the Maghrib: Five Cases," ISIM workshop, *Qadis and their Courts*, Leiden, October, 2001
- "Parents and their Minor Children: Familial Politics in the Middle Maghrib in the Eighth/Fourteenth Century," Conference on *Family History in Middle Eastern Studies*, Berkeley, April 7-8, 2000
- "A Riparian Dispute From Morocco, ca. 1285-1421 C.E.", Workshop on *Evidence in Islamic Law*, New York University, April 2-3, 1999
- "Familial Politics in the Fourteenth Century Maghrib," conference on *Family and the Social Order*, Ben-Gurion University, Israel, June 22, 1998

- "Immoral Conduct and the Problem of Judicial Legitimacy," workshop on *Family and the Social Order*, Ben-Gurion University, Israel, June 9, 1998
- "Parents and their Minor Children," Annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, New Orleans, April 6, 1998
- "The Crafting of a Legal Opinion," Princeton Mellon Seminar on *Fatwas in Islam: Text, Subtext, Hidden Agenda*, March 13, 1998
- "Familial Politics in 14th Century Algeria," seminar on *Women and Children in Muslim Society*, Haifa University, May 27, 1997
- "Immoral Conduct and the Problem of Judicial Legitimacy," seminar on *The Public Sphere in Muslim Society*, Van Leer Institute, April 17, 1997
- "The Dynamics of Legal Continuity," workshop on *The Dynamics of Legal Change in Muslim Societies*, The Hebrew University, March 19, 1997
- "The Art of the Judicial Opinion: On *Tawlij* in 14th-Century Tunis," Forum in memory of Professor Baneth, Hebrew University, February 26, 1997.
- "The Art of the Judicial Opinion in Islamic Law," Yale University, conference, September 1993.
- "Conflicting Conceptions of Property in Fifteenth Century Morocco," Washington University Conference, *Law and Praxis*, St. Louis, May, 1992
- "Law and Language," Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, March, 1992
- "Waqf and *Hadith*," Fourth International Colloquium on *Hadith*, Amsterdam, August 26, 1991
- "The Maliki Family Endowment: ca. 900-1500," International Colloquium: *Normes Juridiques et Pratiques Sociales dans le Monde Musulman*, Paris, January 1991
- "On Judicial Review in Islamic Law," SOAS conference, *Islamic Public Law*, London, June 30, 1990
- "On Judicial Review in Islamic Law," Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society Atlanta, Georgia, March 26, 1990
- "*Fatwas* as Sources for Legal and Social History," SSRC Conference, *The Making of a Fatwa*, Granada, Spain, January 1990
- "Islamic Inheritance Law: A Socio-Historical Approach," SOAS conference, *Islamic Family Law and the State*, London, May 1989
- "Islamic Conceptions of the Afterlife," Free Inquiry Conference, San Francisco, July 1989
- "The Exegetical Genre *Nasikh al-Qur'an*," Calgary Conference, *The History of the Interpretation of the Qur'an*, Calgary, April 1985
- "The *Asbab al-Nuzul* and Legal History," Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern

Studies Association, San Francisco, November 1984

"Reading/Misreading One Another's Scriptures," Institute of Jewish/Islamic Studies, Denver, May 1984

"The Schacht-Coulson Debate: A Reassessment," Oxford Colloquium on Islamic History, Oxford, October 1982

"On the Abrogation of Q. 2:180 and 2:240," Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, December 1981

"The Will of Sa'd b. Abi Waqqas," Annual Meeting of the American Oriental Society, Boston, March 1981

"Muhammad, the Qur'an and the Islamic Law of Inheritance," Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, Salt Lake City, November 1979

"Family Endowments in Medieval Spain and North Africa," Annual Meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, Ann Arbor, November 1978

*GENERAL PUBLIC LECTURES*

"Why America needs to understand Islam," First annual memorial lecture in honor of George E. Spencer III, University School, Cleveland, Ohio, September 13, 2002.

"Immorality and Judicial Legitimacy: The Case of the Mocking Jurist in 14th Century Fez," Harvard Law School. October 7, 1999.

"Muslim-Jewish Polemics in Medieval Spain," Near Eastern Studies Department, University of Michigan, December 3, 1992

"Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Is Conflict Inevitable?" Cornell's Adult University, Skytop, PA, May 1, 1992.

"Judaism and Islam," Ithaca College (February, 1992)

"The Koran: A Model for Political Action," International Living Center, Cornell University, February 19, 1987

"Reinterpreting the Qur'an," Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, January 23, 1986

"The Current Mood in Israel," Jewish Community Federation of Syracuse, March 22, 1985

"The Islamic Law of Inheritance," Harvard Law School, December 1983

"Religion and Politics in the Middle East," Cornell University, April 25, 1983

Speaker, *Law and Society Research Workshop*, April 1981

Co-chairman, *Cornell Symposium on the Islamic Revival*, October 1980

"Islamic Inheritance, Reconsidered," March 10, 1980, Arab Club, SUNY Binghamton

Speaker, *Colloquium on the Iran-Iraq War*, sponsored by the Cornell International Affairs Association, 1980

Speaker, "Perspectives on the Iranian Crisis," sponsored by the *Cornell Daily Sun*, December 1979