

# BRANDON R. VAIDYANATHAN

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## POSITION

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Postdoctoral Research Fellow (September 2013 – Present)  
Department of Sociology  
Rice University, Houston, TX

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Sociology, 2014  
University of Notre Dame, USA  
Dissertation: Living in a Secular Age: Work, Lifestyle, and Religion in Bangalore and Dubai

M.Sc., Administration, 2008  
École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) Montréal, Canada.  
Graduated with Great Distinction  
Thesis: Tradition and Modernity in Indian Call Centres

Bachelor of Business Administration, 2002  
St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada.  
Graduated with First Class Honours. University Medal Recipient.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Articles

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, Michael Strand, Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick, Meghan Davis, Amanda Varela, and Thomas Buschman. 2015. “Causality in Contemporary American Sociology: An Empirical Assessment and Critique”. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* (Forthcoming).

\* Honorable Mention, Edward Shils-James Coleman Memorial Award. Theory section, American Sociological Association, 2010.

Christian Smith, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, Nancy Tatom Ammerman, José Casanova, Hilary Davidson, Elaine Howard Ecklund, John H. Evans, Philip S. Gorski, Mary Ellen Konieczny, Jason A. Springs, Jenny Trinitapoli, and Meredith Whitnah. 2013. “Twenty-Three Theses on the Status of Religion in American Sociology—A Mellon Working Group Reflection.” *Journal for the American Academy of Religion* 81(4): 1-36.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**. 2012. “Professionalism ‘from below’: Mobilisation Potential in Indian Call Centres.” *Work, Employment, and Society* 26(2):211-227.

\* Honorable mention, Jeanine A. Becker Memorial Award for best graduate student paper, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame (2010); Joyce Award for best student paper, Higgins Labor Research Center (2010).

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2012. "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf". *Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management Meeting*. doi: 10.5465/AMBPP.2012.209.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon,** Jonathan P. Hill, and Christian Smith. 2011. "Religion and Charitable Financial Giving to Religious and Secular Causes: Does Political Ideology Matter?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50(3):450-469.

Hill, Jonathan P., and **Brandon Vaidyanathan.** 2011. "Substitution or Symbiosis? Rethinking the Relationship between Religious and Secular Giving." *Social Forces* 90(1):157-180.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2011. "Religious Resources or Differential Returns? Early Religious Socialization and Declining Attendance in Emerging Adulthood." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50(2): 366-387.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon,** and Patricia Snell. 2011. "Motivations for and Obstacles to Religious Financial Giving." *Sociology of Religion* 72(2): 189-214.

#### Book Chapters

Smith, Christian and **Brandon Vaidyanathan.** 2010. "Multiple Modernities and Religion." Pp. 250-265 in *Oxford Handbook of Religious Diversity*. Edited by Chad Meister. New York: Oxford University Press.

#### Book Reviews

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2009. Book review of "Globalisation and the Middle Classes in India: The Social and Cultural Impact of Neoliberal Reforms" by Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase and Timothy J. Scrase. *Contemporary Sociology* 38:572-574.

#### Other Publications

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2008. "Corporate Giving: A Literature Review." Research report for the Science of Generosity Project. Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame.

#### Academic Blog Posts

*The Immanent Frame*. Social Science Research Council.  
<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/author/vaidyanathanb/>

*Contending Modernities*. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame.  
<http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/>

## **UNDER REVIEW**

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### Grant proposals

Ecklund, Elaine Howard (PI), Brandon Vaidyanathan (co-PI), and David R. Johnson (co-PI). *Creating Cultures That Foster Ethical Practice Among Biologists* (submitted to the National Science Foundation).

### Peer-reviewed articles

Vaidyanathan, Brandon and Peter Munday. "Settling the Times: Cultures of Money and Congregational Responses to the Economic Crisis". (Revise and Resubmit status).

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Pluralizing National Culture: Traditions and Modernities in Indian Call Centers."

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Vatican II and the Politics of the Liturgy in the Archdiocese of Bangalore." (Book chapter in manuscript under review)

## **IN PREPARATION**

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### Book Manuscript

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. *Mercenaries as Missionaries: The Religious Lives of Global Professionals*. (Expected submission August 2014)

### Peer-reviewed journal articles

Johnson, David R., and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Ethical difficulties among Indian scientists."

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Adriana Garcia, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Creationism's new allies: Latino views on evolution and teaching creationism in schools."

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Simranjit Khalsa, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Religion and environmentally conscious action: Motivations and justifications across religious traditions."

Johnson, David R., and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Structural Strain in Science: Organizational Context, Career Stage, and Disciplinary Differences."

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Engaged as expats, disengaged as citizens: The civic lives of Catholic professionals in Dubai and Bangalore."

Chan, Esther, Virginia White, Brandon Vaidyanathan, and Elaine Howard Ecklund, "Navigating competing allegiances: How evangelicals and mainline Protestants adhere to science and the Bible."

Hill, Jonathan P., and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Religious influences on everyday financial generosity."

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "The beauty of the thing?: Aesthetics and justice in religious movements."

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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Ecklund, Elaine Howard, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2014. "How scientists in India and the United Kingdom negotiate boundaries between science and religion." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 22-25.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "Leave it at the door: Segmenting faith and work in the corporate workplace." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, October 31-November 2.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "A Cultural Theory of Differentiation." Invited presentation at the Junior Theorists' Symposium of the American Sociological Association. August 21-24, Berkeley, CA.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, David R. Johnson, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2014. "Rejecting conflict: American Jewish and Muslim views on science and religion." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. August 2014, San Francisco, CA.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "From Value Spheres to Experiential Realms: Rethinking Differentiation in Secularization Theory." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. 16-19 August, San Francisco, CA.

Johnson, David R., Brandon Vaidyanathan, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2014. "Structural Strain in Science: Organizational Context, Career Stage, and Disciplinary Differences." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. 16-19 August, San Francisco, CA.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "Overlap and Separation: Religion-Work Boundaries in the Workplace." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management. Philadelphia, PA, 1-4 August.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2013. "The Ambivalence of Religion in the Neoliberal Workplace: Catholicism and Mercenary Professionalism in Dubai and Bangalore" Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Boston, MA, November 2013.

Hill, Jonathan P., and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2013. Religion and everyday financial generosity: Results from a nationally representative survey experiment. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Boston, MA, November 2013.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Pentecostalized Christianity and Corporate Professionals in the Neoliberal City: Catholic Charismatics in Bangalore and Dubai." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Chicago, IL. 17-21 November 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "On studying a minority religion: Methodology and ethics in multi-sited research." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Phoenix, AZ. 9-11 November 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Catholicism, Development, and Transnational Professionals in the Neoliberal City." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Phoenix, AZ. 9-11 November 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Mitigating Dystopia: Catholicism and Economic Survival in the Arabian Gulf." Paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association. Denver, CO. 17-20 August 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf." Paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management. Boston, MA. 3-7 August 2012. [Selected for Best Paper Proceedings]

Munday, Peter, Melissa Pirkey, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2012. "Dollars and Sense: Institutional Logic and Organizational Inertia in Three Congregations." Paper presented at the Couch/Stone Symposium of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. Northwestern University, Chicago. 20-22 April 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Peter Munday. 2011. "Cultures of Money: Explaining Congregational Responses to the Economic Crisis." Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association. Las Vegas, NV. 20 August 2011.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2011. "The Paradox of Professionalism: Enabling and Obstructing Mobilization in Indian Call Centres." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management. San Antonio, TX. 15 August 2011.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Jonathan Hill. 2011. "Religion and Charitable Financial Giving to Religious and Secular Causes: Does Political Ideology Matter?" Paper presented at Annual Symposium on Religion and Politics, Calvin College, Grand Rapids MI, April 28-30 2011.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2010. "'The Beauty of the Thing': Aesthetic Motivation in Religion and Social Movements." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 29-31. Baltimore MD.

Snell, Patricia, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2010. "Who are My Neighbors? Cultural Refraction in Contemporary US Ethnic Conflict" Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association. August 14-16. Atlanta GA.

Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Michael Strand, and Thomas Buschman. 2010. "Causality in Contemporary American Sociology: An Empirical Assessment." Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association. August 14-16. Atlanta GA.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Professionalism 'from below': Normative discourse on Management in Indian Call Centres." Paper presented at the annual International Labour Process Conference. March 15-17. New Brunswick NJ.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2009. "Self, Stuff, and Sex: American Young Adults on Human Flourishing and the Common Good." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Center for Ethics and Culture, University of Notre Dame. November 12-14. Notre Dame IN.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2009. "Understanding Declining Attendance in Emerging Adulthood: Denominational Differences in Early Religious Socialization." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 23-25. Denver CO.

Smith, Christian, Jonathan Hill, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2009. "Religion and Expressions of Generosity." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 23-25. Denver CO.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2009. "The Discourse of Resacralization: Volunteers at the Rimini Meeting." Paper presented at the Secularization and Revival Conference. Oct 8-10. Baylor University. Waco TX.

Munday, Peter, Katie Spencer and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2009. "Money Talk: Congregational Discourse on the Current Economic Crisis." Paper presented at the 11th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference. February 28. Chicago IL.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2008. "Religious Decline, Persistence and Reform among Call Centre Workers in India." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 16-19. Louisville KY.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2008. "The Catholic Church and the Indian Call Centre Industry: Present Concerns and Future Directions." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Religious Research Association. October 16-19. Louisville KY.

Patricia Snell, Christian Smith, Kari Christoffersen, Carlos Tavares, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2008. "Northern Indiana Youth and Religion Community Forum." Presented at the University of Notre Dame. March 11. Notre Dame IN.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2007. "Globalization, Religion and 'the Reach of Reason.'" Paper presented at the International Symposium on "Pluralism, Politics and God?" September 13-15. McGill University, Montreal QC.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2006. "Moral frameworks and the local-global dynamic." Symposium on "Refractions of modernity: Charles Taylor on Contemporary Culture." November. McGill University, Montreal QC.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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2012-2015: Religion and Science in International Context (India, Italy, UK, USA; Taiwan, Hong Kong, Turkey, France. PI: Elaine Howard Ecklund). Interviews; participant observation; cross-national surveys.

2013-2015: Ethics among Scientists in International Context (UK, USA; PI: Elaine Howard Ecklund). Interviews.

2013-2015: Religious Understandings of Science (USA; PI: Elaine Howard Ecklund). Interviews; participant observation; nationally representative survey.

2012-2014: Giving as Habit? Exploring Modes of Cognition and Charitable Donations. TESS/NSF (USA). (Co-PI, with Jonathan Hill, Calvin College). Experimental and survey design and analysis.

2010-2013: (Dissertation) Secularization in the East?: Capitalism and Catholicism in Bangalore and Dubai (India, UAE). Research design; participant observation; in-person and focus group interviews; analysis.

2012-2014: The Lived History of Vatican II: Archdiocese of Bangalore (India). Archival research; in-person interviews.

2008-2014: National Study of Youth and Religion, Waves 3 and 4 (USA; PI: Christian Smith). Study design; interviews; interview and survey data analysis.

2010-2011: Science of Generosity Project (USA; PI: Christian Smith). Research design; participant observation; in-person interviews; analysis.

2010: Program Analysis, Instituto Cultural de Liderazgo en el Medio-oeste (Midwest Cultural Institute for Leadership) (USA). Interviews; analysis.

2008-2009: Northern Indiana Congregations Study (USA; PI: Patricia Snell). Research design; participant observation; in-person interviews; analysis.

2008-2009: New forms of religious engagement in the modern world: The Rimini Meeting (Italy). Research design; participant observation; in-person and focus-group interviews; analysis.

2007-2008: (Master's Thesis) Tradition and Modernity in Indian Call Centers (India). Research design; interviews; analysis.

2006: Les restructurations organisationelles (Canada; PI: Linda Rouleau). Historical / document analysis.

2001-2002: (BA Thesis) Listening to L'Arche (Canada). In-depth interviews; analysis.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Course Instructor (team), “Religious Diversity and Understanding in Today’s World”  
Sep – Nov 2014, Glasscock School of Continuing Education, Rice University

Course Instructor, “Introduction to Social Problems”  
Aug – Dec 2012, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Teaching Assistant, “Graduate Statistics II” (with Prof. Richard Williams)  
Jan-May 2011, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Course Instructor (team), “Graduate Training Seminar: Stats and Methods”  
Aug – Dec 2008, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Course Instructor, “Organizational Behaviour”  
Aug – Dec 2005, Department of Management, HEC Montreal, Canada

Teaching Assistant, various courses.  
Sep 2001 – Apr 2004, Department of Business Administration; Department of Religious Studies. St Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada

### **Teaching Workshops Attended**

Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University (2013-2015)

Effective Teaching: Planning, Delivery, Participation

The Parts of Teaching Nobody Ever Talks About: Classroom Management, Advising, and More!

Tips and Techniques for Engaging Students

Striking a Balance: How to Manage Our Teaching Workloads

Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame (2009-2012)

Community Based Learning

Articulating Learning Goals

Teaching Well Using Technology

Early Semester Evaluations

Beginning to Write a Teaching Statement

Helping Students in Distress

Designing Grading Rubrics

Teaching Well by Design

Using Blogs for Teaching

Negotiating Power Dynamics

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

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2014-2015: “Dialogue and Friendship across Religions.” Boniuk Institute, Rice University. \$4,990.



2013-2014: Graduate Fellowship, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame: \$25,000 (declined).

2012-2014: “The Lived History of Vatican II” Project, Cushwa Center, University of Notre Dame, for research in Bangalore, India: \$5,000.

2011: Student Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, for Dissertation Research: \$3,000.

2011: Zahm Research Travel Award, University of Notre Dame, for Dissertation Research: \$5,000.

2011: Andrew W. Mellon Summer Stipend for Dissertation Research: \$6,000.

2011-12: Dissertation Year Fellowship, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame: \$17,500.

2010: ISLA-Mellon award for designing and organizing Interdisciplinary Workshop on Morality and Cognition: \$5,000.

2010: Notebaert Award, University of Notre Dame. For research in Italy: \$2,000

2010: Graduate Initiatives Grant, Nanovic Institute for European Studies, for research in Italy: \$750.

2010: Graduate Research Grant, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame. For pre-dissertation research in Bangalore and Dubai: \$7,000.

2010: Graduate Student Professional Development Award, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame: \$800.

2009: Zahm Research Travel Award, for research in United Arab Emirates. Graduate School, University of Notre Dame: \$2,420.

2008: Graduate Research Grant, for research in Italy. Nanovic Institute: \$2,500.

2008: Downes Travel Grant. University of Notre Dame. Panel Data Analysis workshop, ICPSR, University of Michigan: \$1,000

2006-07: International Travel Grant and Studentship Award, for research in Bangalore, India. CRIMT (Inter-university Research Centre on Globalization and Work): \$16,500.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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2014: Paper selected for Junior Theorists’ Symposium of the American Sociological Association: “A cultural theory of differentiation.”

2012: Paper selected for Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management: “Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf.”

2011: John J. Kane Award for most outstanding graduate student, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame.

2011: William D’Antonio Award for Graduate Student Excellence in the Sociology of Religion, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame.

2011: Invited participant, Religion and International Affairs Dissertation Workshop, Social Science Research Council.

2011: “Striving for Excellence in Teaching” Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame.

2010: Honorable mention, Jeanine A. Becker Memorial Award for best graduate student paper, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, for “Professionalism ‘from below’: Normative Discourse on Management in Indian Call Centers”.

2010: Joyce Award for best student paper, Higgins Labor Research Center, University of Notre Dame, for “Professionalism ‘from below’: Normative Discourse on Management in Indian Call Centers”.

2010: Honorable Mention, Edward Shils-James Coleman Memorial Award. Theory section, American Sociological Association, for “Causality in Contemporary American Sociology: An Empirical Assessment” (co-authored with A. Choi-Fitzpatrick, M. Strand, and T. Buschman).

2002: University Silver Medal, St Francis Xavier University.

2000: Alumni Recognition Award for contribution to the community. St Francis Xavier University.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES**

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Convener, Session on “Economics and the Economy,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion 2012.

Member, Andrew W. Mellon Working Group on Religion and Sociology, 2010-2013.

Session Reviewer, Annual Conference of the Academy of Management, 2011.

Organizer, Interdisciplinary Workshop in Morality and Cognition, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Institute for the Study of Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, 2010-2011.

Organizer, Session on “Future Directions in the Sociological Study of Religion and Social Movements,” Annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 29-31, 2010, Baltimore MD.

Consultant, Instituto Cultural de Liderazgo en el Medio-oeste (Midwest Cultural Institute for Leadership) (ICLM), Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2009-2010. Program evaluations to assess impact of leadership education programs.

Convener, Session on “Religion and Emerging Adult Contexts and Relationships.” Annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 23-25 2009, Denver CO.

Co-organizer, Session on “Rethinking the Boundary between ‘Religion’ and ‘Secular’ in Social Movements”, Secularization and Revival: The Fate of Religion in Modern Intellectual History Conference, Oct 8-10 2009. Baylor University, Waco TX.

Co-organizer, International Symposium on “Pluralism, Politics and God?” September 13-15 2007. McGill University, Montreal QC.

Co-organizer, Colloquium on “Refractions of Modernity: Charles Taylor on Contemporary Culture.” November 2 2006. McGill University, Montreal QC.

Departmental Representative, Graduate Student Union, University of Notre Dame, 2009-2010.

Occasional Reviewer: *Social Forces*, *Mobilization*, *Global Networks*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*.

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

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American Sociological Association

*Sections:* Cultural Sociology; Sociology of Religion; Occupations, Organizations, and Work; Sociology of Emotions; Sociological Theory; Global and Transnational Sociology

Academy of Management

*Sections:* Organizational and Management Theory; Organizational Behavior; Critical Management Studies; Management, Spirituality, and Religion

American Academy of Religion

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Association for the Sociology of Religion

## **LANGUAGES**

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Tamil, Hindi, French, Italian: Intermediate-Advanced;  
Arabic, Spanish: Basic.