

COLLOQUIUM ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF RELIGION

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The Contingency of the Religious Return among Palestinians in Chicago – A Meditation on the Dialectics of Loss and Hope in Exile

Presented by Loren Lybarger, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Classics and World Religions, Ohio University

Friday, March 2nd
11:45am-1:00pm
3130 Eck Law Building



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Since 2006, Loren D. Lybarger has served as an assistant professor in Ohio University's Department of Classics and World Religions, where he teaches a variety of courses on classical and contemporary Islam and administers the Certificate Program in Islamic Studies. His research focuses on the comparative ethnographic study of contemporary religious revitalization and its effects on social and political identities among Palestinians and Somalis in the Middle East, East Africa, and North America. He is currently at work on a new ethnographic project provisionally titled, *Divided Diasporas: Religion and Nationalism among Second Generation Palestinian Immigrants in the United States*. Funded partly by the National Endowment for the Humanities, this project draws on life history interviews and field observations to explore the dynamics of religious return among Muslims and Palestinians on Chicago's southwest side and in the adjoining southwest suburbs. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors of the Palestinian American Research Center based in Ramallah, Palestine and Washington, D.C.

