

Curriculum Vitae

Steven C. Caton
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EMPLOYMENT

2015-2017 (Jan.) – Professor, New York University, Abu Dhabi, JTerm.

2014 (Spring) – Professor, New York University, Abu Dhabi. Arab Crossroads Program.

2012 – Khaled bin Abdullah bin Abdurahman Al Saud Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies, Harvard University

2010 (Jan. 16-31) Consultant in Museum Practices, King Abdullah Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

2004-09 – Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University

2002-03 – Acting Chair, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University

JULY 1, 1998– Professor of Contemporary Arab Studies, Anthropology Department, Harvard University.

1995– 1998 Graduate Faculty, The New School for Social Research, Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology.

1990-1995 University of California, Santa Cruz, Associate Professor of Anthropology.

1988-1990 University of California, Santa Cruz, Assistant Professor of Anthropology.

1988-1989 Washington University, Anthropology Department, Mellon Fellow; Hamilton College, promotion to Associate Professor of Linguistics with tenure.

1985-1988 Hamilton College, Mellon Foundation Assistant Professor, Linguistics Program.

1984-1985 Carleton College, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Sociology.

1983-1984 Vassar College, Visiting Lecturer, Anthropology Department.

1981 American Peace Corps, North Yemen; Director of the Arabic Language Program and Training of Volunteers.

1976-1978 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Education, Department of Archaeology and Museums; Director of Center for Archaeological Research and Associate Editor of *Atlat: Journal of Saudi Arabian Archaeology*, Volumes 1 & 2.

HONORARY POSITIONS

2005- Honorary Dean, Yemen College of Middle East Studies (Sana'a, Yemen)

EDUCATION

1973-1984 The University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology and Department of Linguistics. Joint PhD in Anthropology and Linguistics, Awarded with Distinction.

1972-1973 Northwestern University, Anthropology Department, M.A. Degree.

1968-1972 University of Pennsylvania. Anthropology Major. B.A. *cum laude*.

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS

2021-2022, Faculty Sabbatical Grant, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University

2009, Kuwait Foundation, Harvard University, "New Arab Urbanism in the Gulf" (with Nader Ardalan).

2007, MacArthur Foundation, Migration and Human Mobility Program, "Muslims After 9/11: Political Participation and Civic Engagement" (with Jocelyne Cesari).

2005, Wenner Gren, International Collaborative Research

2005, Harvard, Center for the Environment, Research Grant

2005, American Institute for Yemeni Studies, Research Grant

2001, American Institute for Yemeni Studies, Travel Grant

1998-1999 Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ.

1992-1993 Fellow, National Humanities Center.

1992 Middle East Studies Association, Albert Hourani Book Award, Honorable Mention.

1988-1989 Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Arab Middle East Studies, Washington University.

1988-1989 American Council of Learned Societies, Fellowship.

1988-1989 Margaret Bundy Scott Fellowship for Research, Hamilton College.

1988 National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend Fellowship.

1980-1981 Social Science Research Council Fellowship for Pre-Dissertation Field Research.

1979-1980 Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for Pre-Dissertation Field Research.

PUBLISHED WRITINGS

Books

1990 “Peaks of Yemen I Summon”: Poetry as Cultural Practice in a North Yemeni Tribe. Berkeley: University of California Press.

1999 “Lawrence of Arabia”: a film’s anthropology. Berkeley: University of California Press.

2005 Yemen Chronicle: An Anthropology of War and Mediation.” New York: Hill & Wang.

2013 Yemen. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio Books.

2021 Anthropology, Film Industries, Modularity, co-edited with Ramyar Rossoukh. Duke University Press.

Articles in Professional Journals, Encyclopedias, etc.

- 2020 “New Old Imperialism in the Arabian Peninsula: an Intervention.” *History of the Present* 10 (1): 101-115.
- 2020 “Power as Persuasion in Yemeni Tribal Society.” Special Issue on Tribes in Yemen, Marieke Brandt (ed.). *Tribes in Modern Yemen: An Anthology*, (= Series Eduard Glaser), Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- 2018 “Trump, Twitter and the Base: A Shift to a New Form of Presidential Talk” (with Galen Stolee), *Signs and Society* Vol. 6 (No.1):147-165.
- 2010 “Yemen is not on the verge of collapse.” *Foreign Policy*. August 12.
- 2010 “Water Sustainability: Anthropological Approaches and Prospects” (with Ben Orlove). *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 39: 401-415
- 2010 “Abu Ghraib, the security apparatus, and the performativity of power.” *American Ethnologist* 37 (2):203-211.
2009. “Introduction.” *Muslims in the West*. Special Issue. *Harvard Middle East and Islamic Review*.
- 2006 “Linguistic Ideologies, Text Regulation, and the Question of Post-Structuralism.” *Reviews in Anthropology* 35:221-251.
- 2006 “Coetzee, Agamben, and the Passion of Abu Ghraib.” *American Anthropologist* 108 (1):114-123.
- 2006 “Yemen.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Folklore and Folklife*. Vol. 2, Southeast Asia and India, Central and East Asia, Middle East. Ed. William M. Clements, pp. 439-444. Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press.
- 2004 “Transitions.” *Reflections on the Past, Visions for the Future: Fiftieth Anniversary Volume*. Ed. Don Babai, pp. 125-138. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.
- 2000 “The Sheik.” In *A Hundred and One Nights: American Orientalism, 1870-1930*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Exhibition Catalog, Clark Institute of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- 1997 “Pragmatics,” “Semantics,” “Voice,” “Humanistic Anthropology,” for the *Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, ed. Thomas Barfield. Oxford: Blackwell.
- 1993 “Anger be now thy song:” reflections of media representation of the Middle East. *Ideas* 3 (1) (Summer):34-47.

- 1993 Icons of the Person: Lacan's Imago in the Yemeni Male's Tribal Wedding. *Asian Folklore Studies* 52 (1): 360-81.
- 1991 Diglossia in North Yemen: The Case of Competing Linguistic Communities. *Journal of Anthropological Research*, special issue. Alan Hudson-Edwards. 10 (1): 143-59.
- 1987 Contributions of Roman Jakobson. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 16: 223-60.
- 1986 Salam Tahiya: Greetings from the Highlands of Yemen. *American Ethnologist* 13 (1): 290-308.

Chapters in Books

- 2021 "Introduction" (with Ramyar Rossoukh). *Anthropology, Film Industries, Modularity* (co-edited with Ramyar Rossoukh). Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2021 "'The Most Reluctant of Romantic Cities in the World': Film Industry in Sana'a. *Anthropology, Film Industries, Modularity* (co-edited with Ramyar Rossoukh). Durham: Duke University Press.
- 2014 "Poetry of Protest: Tribes in Yemen's 'Change Revolution' (co-authored with Hazim Al-Eryani and Rayman Aryani), The Political Aesthetics of Global Protest: the Arab Spring and Beyond, ed. Pnina Werbner, Martin Webb and Kathryn Spellman-Poots, pp. 121-144. Edinburgh, Scotland: Edinburgh University Press.
- 2014 "Global Water Security and the Demonization of *Qat*." IN Bioinsecurity and Vulnerability, ed. Nancy N. Chen and Lesley A. Sharp, pp. 103-120. School for Advanced Research (Advanced Seminar Series). Santa Fe, N.M.
- 2013 "From Lawrence of Arabia to Special Operations Forces: The 'White Sheik' as a Modular Image in Twentieth-Century Popular Culture." IN *Images that Move*, ed. Mary Steedly and Patsy Spyer, pp. 381-409. Santa Fe, NM: SAR Press.
- 2011 "Abu Ghraib and the Problem of Evil." IN Ordinary Ethics, ed. Michael Lambeck, pp. 165-184. New York: Fordham University Press.
- 2006 "What is an 'Authorizing Discourse'?" IN *Powers of the Secular Modern: Talal Asad and His Interlocutors*. Ed. David Scott and Charles Hirschkind, pp. 31-56. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- 1993 "To Mount at-Tiyal He Declared": Some Poetry from the Yemeni Civil War. IN *Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East*, ed. By Donna Lee Bowen and Evelyn A. Early, pp. 271-75. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University

Press.

1992 The Importance of Reflexive Language in George H. Mead's Theory of Self and Communication. IN *Reflexive Language: Reported Speech and Metapragmatics*, ed. By John A. Lucy, pp. 31-37. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

1991 The 'Voice' of the Despicable: Deviance, Speaking and Power in a Yemeni Tribal Society. IN *Deviance: Cross-Cultural Perspectives*. Ed. by Morris Freilich, Douglas Raybeck, and Joel Savishinsky, pp. 133-48. New York: Bergin and Garvey.

1989 Anthropological Theories of Tribe and State Formation in the Middle East: Ideology and the Semiotics of Power. IN *Tribe and State Formation in the Middle East*, ed. by Philip Khoury and Joseph Kostiner, pp. 74-108. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Book Reviews

2019 *Everyday Conversions: Islam, Domestic Work, and South Asian Migrant Women in Kuwait* by Attiya Ahmed. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 75 (1): 127-128

2016 *The Rise and Fall of Human Rights: Cynicism and Politics in Occupied Palestine* by Lori Allen. *POLAR*, 3 May

2007 *Memoirs from the field: Éclipse de lune au Yémen: émotions et désarrois d'une ethnologue* by Geneviève Bedoucha. *Current Anthropology* 48 (5):766-767

2003 *Islamist Mobilization in Turkey*, by Jenny White. *American Ethnologist* 30 (4) (on line).

2002 *Possessions: Indigenous Art/Colonial Culture*, by Nicholas Thomas. Thames and Hudson, 1999. 304 pp. *American Anthropologist* (forthcoming).

1997 *Lords of the Lebanese Marches*, by Michael Gilsean and *Memories of Revolt*, by Ted Swedenburg. *American Anthropologist* .

1997 *Showing Signs of Violence*, by Kenneth M. George. *American Ethnologist* 24 (1) (February): 257-58.

1994 *The Calligraphic State*, by Brinkley Messick. *American Ethnologist*.

1994 *The Bedouin of Cyrenaica: Studies in Personal and Corporate Power*, by Emrys L. Peters. Ed. by Jack Goody and Emanuel Marx. *Ethnohistory*.

1993 *Verbal Art in San Blas*, by Joel Sherzer. *Journal of Linguistic*

Anthropology 3 (1): 123.

1993 Bedouin Poetry of the Negev, by Clinton Bailey. Middle East Journal 46 (2): 330-31.

1993 Rhetorics and Politics in Afghan Traditional Storytelling, by Margaret Mills. Anthropological Linguistics 33 (3):1-2.

1993 Sumatran Politics and Poetics, by John R. Bowen. Ethnohistory 40 (4):99-100.

1992 Debating Muslims, by Michael J. Fischer and Mehdi Abedi. American Ethnologist 94 (3): 718-19.

1991 Anthropology, Genuine and Surious: Review of Edward Sapir's Selected Writings in Language, Culture, and Personality, ed. by David G. Mandelbaum and Nira Reiss' Speech Act Taxonomy. Reviews in Anthropology 19:129-143.

1991 Social Action and Human Nature, by Axel Honneth and Hans Joas. American Ethnologist 18 (2): 375.

1991 Structure and Style in Javanese, by J. Joseph Errington. Semiotica 80 (1):153-60.

1990 Tribes. Government and History in Yemen, by Dresch. Times Literary Supplement May 18-24: 532.

1990 Social Change in a Yemeni Highlands Town, by Thomas B. Stevenson and Development and Change in Highland Yemen, by Charles F. Swagman. International J. of Islamic and Arabic Studies 7 (2):16-18.

1988 Language, Status and Power in Iran, by William O. Beeman. The Middle East Journal 4 (1): 135-36.

1987 The Art of Reciting the Qur'an, by Kristina Nelson. American Ethnologist 14 (3):568-69.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recent Public Lectures

2019 Exeter University, "X" Keynote Address, Gulf Studies Conference on Yemen, organized by Ross Porter. July 1.

2017 St. Olaf College, "Ethnography of Film Industries"; Carleton College, "Up the

Creek: Land, Water and Development in Dubai,” Northfield, Minnesota. May.

2016 Sabbagh Lecture, “Oasis, Coast and Mountain: Land/Waterscapes of Culture and History in the Gulf,” Arizona State University, Tucson, Arizona, February.

2015 Distinguished Lecture, “Water as Resource, Water as design,” Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. September

2012 “Water, Expert Knowledge, and the Politics of Sustainability on the Arabian Peninsula.” NYUAD Institute Distinguished Lecture, NYU in Abu Dhabi. April

2012 “Politics of Water Sustainability” Yale University,” Anthropology Department, Brown University, March

2012 “Politics of Water Sustainability” Yale University,” CMES Colloquium, April

2011 “Water,” Conference “Yemen Without Saleh,” Institute for National Strategic Studies (Washington, DC), May

2011 “Water,” CAORC Conference on Yemen, Istanbul, June

2010 “An Anthropology of Water,” Institute of Water and Agriculture, Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands, March

2010 “The Return,” Anthropology Seminar on Migration and Return, University of Nanterre, Paris, March

Recent Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

2017 “Soil, Flesh and Flows: Environmental Temporalities and Expertise in the Middle East.” A Research Workshop, co-organized with Natalia Gutkowski, Center for Middle East Studies and the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University. March.

2017, “Design Anthropology,” A seminar organized with Gareth Doherty bringing together architects, urban planners and anthropologists. Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. April.

2012 “Yemen in Transition: Challenges and Opportunities.” Harvard University, October, Organized by Steven C. Caton

2011 “Biosecurity and Vulnerability” (organized by Nancy N. Chen and Lesley A. Sharp). Seminar Participant. School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM, October

2008 “Images Without Borders” (organized by Mary Steedly and Patsy Spyer. Seminar Participant. School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM. May.

2005-06, 2009, 2013 Two-Day Interdisciplinary Workshops on “Water” (Sponsored by Harvard CMES), May, Organized by Steven C. Caton

Social Science Research Council Pre-Dissertation Proposal Workshop

“Water Sustainability” (with Ben Orlove, UC/Davis)

May and September, 2007

Courses Regularly Taught at Harvard

Undergraduate: “Language and Culture,” “Anthropology, Cultural Studies and Film,” “Anthropology of Arabia” (Gen Ed SW and Summer School), “Grounding the Global: Introduction to Social Anthropology,” “Anthropology of Water” (Summer School), Sophomore Tutorial (Introduction to the Anthropology Concentration), and “Methods”

Graduate: “Proseminar (Fall & Spring)” (Required for Incoming Graduate Students), “Anthropology of Events,” “Linguistic Pragmatics and Cultural Description,” “Middle East Ethnography,” “The Frankfurt School”

Undergraduate Course Taught at NYU/Abu Dhabi: Oasis, Coast and Mountain: Landscapes of History and Culture (with Donald M. Scott). “JTerm.” January 2016, 2017

Major Administrative Work

Honorary Dean (pro-bono), Yemen College for Middle East Studies; 2006-present
Director, Center of Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, 2004-2009;
Acting Chair, Department of Anthropology, 2002-2003;
Director of Undergraduate Studies and Head Tutor, Anthropology Department (multiple times)