



ZACHARIAS PIERI

DR. ZACHARIAS P. PIERI, FRASidS

CURRICULUM VITAE

Lecturer, International Relations and Security Studies

EDUCATION

- 2008 – 12 Ph.D., University of Exeter, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, July 2012. Thesis: "The Contentious Politics of Socio-Political Engagement: The Transformation of the Tablighi Jamaat in London." Committee: Jonathan Githens-Mazer (chair), Sajjad Rizvi. Examiners: Stuart Croft, Anthony King.
- 2009 University of Oslo Summer School Anthropology Program. August 2009. "Qualitative Methodologies".
- 2007 – 08 M.Res., University of Exeter, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Modern Middle East Studies, (Distinction with special commendation), September 2008.
- 2002 – 06 M.A. with Honours, University of St. Andrews, International Relations and Modern History, May 2006.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2016 – Present Lecturer, International Relations and Security Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee
- 2012 – 2016 Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Global Initiative on Civil Society and Conflict, University of South Florida. Focus: Conflict & Security, Global Islamist Movements.
- 2009 – 2012 Teaching Fellow, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies/Department of Politics, University of Exeter, UK.
- 2009 – 2012 Interfaith Dialogue Coordinator, Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Team, University of Exeter.
- 2008 – 2012 Warden and Residence Life Team Leader, Student Services, Exeter Halls, University of Exeter.

CONSULTANCY

- 2009 – 2014 Academic Consultant, The MINERVA Initiative (DoD \$16 million grant project): "Finding Allies for the War of Words: Mapping the Diffusion and Influence of Counter-Radical Muslim Discourse".

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Islamist Movements (Boko Haram, Al Qaeda, Tablighi Jamaat, Islamic State)
- International Relations
- Globalization, Conflict and Security
- Changing dynamics of warfare
- Radicalization and Terrorism
- Immigration, Citizenship and Integration
- Ethnography & Qualitative Research Methodologies

AWARDS

- 2014 Arizona State University Conference Travel Award
- 2012 MINERVA Conference Travel Award \$2,500
- 2011 HRH Prince Al Waleed Al Saud Award for field research in Jerusalem £1,600 (\$2,500)
- 2008 PhD Bursary Award, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter (paid for PhD tuition)
- 2008 Special Commendation Award for best Master of Research dissertation
- 2007 HRH Prince Al Waleed Al Saud Award for Arabic studies in Yemen
- 2006 University of St. Andrews Travel Award for participation in the 'Harvard World Model United Nations Conference', Beijing, China. £2500 (\$3,800)
- 2004 Rotary Club Award
- 2002 Norfolk Scholar Award

PUBLICATIONS (* = peer reviewed)

BOOKS

- * **Pieri, Zacharias**, 2015 *Tablighi Jamaat and the Quest for the London "Mega-Mosque": Continuity and Change*, London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- * **Pieri, Zacharias**, 2012 *Tablighi Jamaat: Handy Books on Religion in World Affairs* London: Lapido.

CHAPTERS

- * **Pieri, Zacharias** and Jacob Zenn. 2017. "The Boko Haram Paradox: Ethnicity, Religion, and Historical Memory in Pursuit of a Caliphate", in Hentz, James and Hussein Solomon (eds.), *Understanding Boko Haram: Terrorism and Insurgency in Africa*. New York and London. Routledge.
- * **Pieri, Zacharias** and Atta Barkindo. 2016. "Muslims in Nigeria: Between Challenge and Opportunity", in Mason, Robert (ed.), *Muslim Minority - State Relations: Violence, Integration and Policy*. London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- * Serrano, Rafael and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2014. "By the Numbers: The Nigerian State's Efforts to Counter Boko Haram" in Pérouse de Montclos, Marc-Antoine (ed.), *Boko Haram: Islamism, Politics, Security, and the State in Nigeria*, Ibadan, Leyden, IFRA-Nigeria, Leyden University Press, Waposo Series, N°2.

ARTICLES

- * Zenn, Jacob and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2017. "How Much Takfir is too much Takfir? The Evolution of Boko Haram's Factionalization". *Journal for Deradicalization*. 11(3): 281-308
- * Deckard, Natalie and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2017. "The Implications of Endemic Corruption For State Legitimacy in Developing Nations: An Empirical Exploration of the Nigerian Case". *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*.
- * **Pieri, Zacharias** and Jacob Zenn. 2016. "The Boko Haram Paradox: Claiming Dan Fodio for a Kanuri Caliphate". *African Security*, 9(1)
- * **Pieri, Zacharias** and Rafael Serrano. 2014. "Insurgency Prolonged: Nigeria's Lack of Strategic Adaptation & The Rising Boko Haram Death Toll", *West Africa Insight*, May, Centre for Democracy and Development, Abjua.
- * **Pieri, Zacharias**. 2014. "Anyone For Tabligh?" *Critical Muslim*, 10, pp. 101-113.
- * **Pieri, Zacharias**; Woodward, Mark; Yahya, Mariani; Hassan, Ibrahim; Rohmaniyah, Inayah. 2013. "Commanding Good and Prohibiting Evil in Contemporary Islam: Cases from Britain, Nigeria and Southeast Asia." *Contemporary Islam*, 8(1): 37-55.
- * DeHannas, Daniel and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2011. 'Olympic Proportions: The Expanding Scalar Politics of the "Olympics Mega-Mosque" Controversy.' *Sociology*, 45(5): 798-814.
- * Githens-Mazer, J., Robert Lambert, Abdul-Haqq Baker, Safiyah Cohen-Baker and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2010. *Muslim Communities Perspectives on Radicalisation in Leicester, UK*, Centre for Studies in Islamism and Radicalisation: Aarhus Denmark.

PRODUCTS

- Global Initiative on Civil Society and Conflict (collaborative effort) Nigeria and Boko Haram Tracker II, <http://www.usfglobalinitiative.org/newsletter/> 4 May, 2015.
- Global Initiative on Civil Society and Conflict (collaborative effort) Nigeria and Boko Haram Tracker I, <http://www.usfglobalinitiative.org/newsletter/> 19 March, 2015.

MEDIA ARTICLES & ENGAGEMENT

- 2017 **ABC News**, Trump's directive on offensive airstrikes in Somalia could fuel terrorism recruitment, experts warn, 1 April. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/trumps-directive-offensive-airstrikes-somalia-fuel-terrorism-recruitment/story?id=46490369>
- 2016 **Pieri, Zacharias**. "What now for Tablighi Jamaat after death of leader?", Lapido Media, 20 February <http://www.lapidomedia.com/what-now-tablighi-jamaat-after-death-leader>
- 2016 **International Business Times**. "Presidential Election 2016: Guide To Candidates, Key Issues, Rules And Results". Interviewed by Morgan Winsor. 20 February. <http://www.ibtimes.com/niger-presidential-election-2016-guide-candidates-key-issues-rules-results-2315604>

MEDIA ARTICLES & ENGAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

- 2016 **International Business Times**, 'Where Is Abubakar Shekau? Boko Haram Leader's Absence Underscores Nigerian Military's 'Failure''. Interviewed by Morgan Winsor, 10 February. <http://www.ibtimes.com/where-abubakar-shekau-boko-haram-leaders-absence-underscores-nigerian-militarys-2302020>
- 2016 **International Business Times**, 'ISIS, Al Qaeda In Africa: US Commander Warns Of Collaboration Between AQIM And Islamic State Group'. Interviewed by Morgan Winsor, 10 February. <http://www.ibtimes.com/isis-al-qaeda-africa-us-commander-warns-collaboration-between-aqim-islamic-state-2304240>. 12 February 2016
- 2015 **Tampa Bay Times**, 'As St. Pete Pride interfaith service nears, some religious groups stay away' Interviewed by Waveney Ann Moore, 25 June. <http://www.tampabay.com/news/religion/as-st-pete-pride-interfaith-service-nears-some-religious-groups-stay-away/2235036>
- 2015 **MISNA**, 'Boko Haram and Islamic State, Between Pledges and Reality', Interviewed by Vincenzo Giardina, 13 March.
- 2015 **BBC World Service News: Newsday**, Interview on links between Boko Haram and Islamic State, 9 March.
- 2015 **ara.cat**, 'L'amenca Jhisista: Boko Haram se subordina a l'EI'. Interviewed by Marta Rodriguez, 9 March.
- 2015 **The Washington Post**, 'In New Beheading Video, Boko Haram may be taking pointers from Islamic State'. Interviewed by Sarah Kaplan, 3 March. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/03/03/in-new-beheading-video-boko-haram-may-be-taking-pointers-from-islamic-state>
- 2015 **L'Adigetto**, 'Le elezioni più incerte della storia della Nigeria'. Interviewed by Di Marco Cochi, February 2. <http://www.ladigetto.it/permalink/40954.html>
- 2015 **Les Temps**, 'Et, pendant ce temps, Boko Haram continue ses massacres'. Interviewed by Christine von Garnier, 21 January. http://www.letemps.ch/Page/Uuid/2d2d79f8-a192-11e4-b189-26eecf90f1b5/Et_pendant_ce_temps_Boko_Haram_continue_ses_massacres
- 2015 **MISNA**, 'Boko Haram: Jihad is Local'. Interviewed by Vincenzo Giardina, 16 January.
- 2014 **Pieri, Zacharias**. 'Analysis: Forced conversion their only Hope?', Lapid Media, <http://www.lapidomedia.com/analysis-forced-conversion-their-only-hope> (16 May).
- 2014 **Canadian Television News (TV)**, Live News at 8pm. Interviewed on Boko Haram and the Kidnapped Chibok Schoolgirls. 12 May.
- 2012 **BBC Radio 4**. The Sunday Programme. Interviewed on Tablighi Jamaat and developments surrounding the "mega-mosque Project". 9 December.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Boko Haram: The Promise of Islamist Violence*. This is a co-authored book with David Jacobson and Atta Barkindo. The book examines the evolution of Boko Haram and Islamist violence in Northern Nigeria. The book is a result of a grant funded project and based on extensive survey and ethnographic work in Nigeria.
- *Restoring the Caliphate in Nigeria: Boko Haram and the Question of Dan Fodio's Legacy*. This is a co-authored chapter with Jacob Zenn for the Routledge *Handbook of Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism*, Edited by Andrew Silke.
- *"Western Education is Sin": The Ideological Development of Boko Haram*. This is a single authored paper based on primary ethnographic and archival field research in Nigeria.
- *Its all about the context: researching British Muslims in a post-7/7 Britain*. This is a single authored article on the practical aspects of conducting qualitative methodologies amongst Muslim communities in post-7/7 Britain.

ORGANISED AND CHAIRED SYMPOSIUM

- 2017 Religion and Division: Causes, Consequences, & Counters, Session C4: Religion and Violence, Panel Chair. 79th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal: Canada, 13 August.
- 2014 Boko Haram: The Dynamics of Social and Political Conflict. Organizer. The Oxford Exchange, Tampa, Florida 24-12 April.
- 2013 Tributaries, Eddies, and Cross-Currents: Religion Outside the Mainstream. Session D2: Islam in the U.S. panel Chair, 75th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, 11 August.
- 2012 Northern Nigeria: The Dynamics of Social and Political Conflict: Organisation Committee member and Religion Panel Chair, University of South Florida, Tampa, 13-15 November.

ORGANISED AND CHAIRED SYMPOSIUM (CONTINUED)

- 2010 Ethno-Politics in a Globalised World: Violent Radicalization and Terrorism in the Ethno-Politicized World Panel Chair, University of Exeter.
- 2008 University of Exeter 30th Anniversary Gulf Conference: Organisation Committee member.

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

- 2017 **Boko Haram and the Promise of Islamist Violence: The Use of Takfir and other Justifications in Pursuit of an Islamic State**, Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, Canada, 13 August
- 2017 **Work, Mission and Transformation of the Self: The Case of Tablighi Jamaat**, Symposium on Modernity, Islamic Traditions and the Good Life, Georg von Vollmar Akademie, Kochel, Germany, 9 June.
- 2016 **"Little Green Birds": Deciphering the Poetry of Contemporary Jihad**, Humanities Institute Speaker Series, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 26 April
- 2016 **The Evolution of Boko Haram Ideologies and Narratives**, Workshop on Empowering Local Communities to Combat Extremism and Terrorism in Nigeria and West Africa, Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping, Cairo, 21 March
- 2015 **Roundtable Discussion on Contemporary Global Security Issues: Conflict & Conflict Resolution**, part of the International Visitor Leadership Program: U.S. – European Security Issues (organized by the U.S. Department of State), Patel Center for Global Solutions, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 22 July.
- 2015 **Briefing on Boko Haram, conflict and insecurity in West Africa**, Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, 9 June.
- 2015 *Tablighi Jamaat and the Quest for the London Mega Mosque*, public lecture and chaired discussion, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 6 May.
- 2015 Roundtable Forum on Contemporary Global Security Issues: Conflict & Conflict Resolution, part of the International Visitor Leadership Program: U.S. – European Security Issues (organized by the U.S. Department of State), Patel Center for Global Solutions, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 22 July.
- 2015 Briefing on Boko Haram, conflict and insecurity in West Africa, Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, 9 June.
- 2015 *Boko Haram, Islamic State, and the Changing Dynamics of Global Jihad*, Embry Riddle University, Daytona, FL, 25 March.
- 2015 *The Limits of Tolerance in Liberal Democracies: Case Studies of Muslims in Britain*, Global Initiative on Civil Society and Conflict, Faculty Lecture Series, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 18 March.
- 2014 Religion, Violence and Change in Northern Nigeria: The Case of Boko Haram, Session H4: Religious Identities, Narratives and Strategies, Religion as a Social Force, 76th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, 15 August.
- 2014 Counter-Radical Narratives: Challenging Britain's "Shari'a vigilantes" from within, Finding Allies: Mapping Counter-Radical Muslim Discourse, Arizona State University, 25 February.
- 2014 Conference Participant/Discussant, The Roots of Religious and Ethnic Intolerance: An International Interfaith Conference, The Centre for Democracy and Development, Denis Hotel, Abuja, 14 January.
- 2013 Re-framing the London Mega-Mosque: The Contentious Politics of Mosque Construction, Session F5: Islam Across the Globe, Tributaries, Eddies, and Cross-Currents: Religion Outside the Mainstream. 75th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, 12 August.
- 2013 "Tablighi Jamaat and the case of the London Mega-Mosque: Between Isolationism and Engagement", Social Movements Research Group, University of South Florida, Tampa, 15 April.
- 2013 "Al-Qaeda and Islamist Militant Influences on Tribal Dynamics: The Northern Mali and Northeastern Nigeria Regions" (with David Jacobson, Rafael Serrano and Natalie Deckard), Trust and Influence Program Review, Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Dayton, Ohio, 16 January.
- 2012 "Tablighi Jamaat Transformed? Speech for Lapido Media Tablighi Jamaat Handy Book Launch", Frontline Club, London, 27 September.
- 2012 "The Expanding Scalar Politics of the "Olympics Mega-Mosque" (with Daniel DeHanas), London City of Paradox Conference, University of East London, 3-5 April.

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES (CONTINUED)

- 2012 "Commanding Good and Forbidding Evil: The Rise of Shari'a Zones in London and Lessons from Further a Field", Conference on Sins, Vices and Virtues, Prague, 18-20 March.
- 2012 "Hisba Reinterpreted: The Case of Shari'a Enforcement Zones in London, UK", Arizona State University, Arizona, 9 February.
- 2010 "Deobandi Communities of London", MINERVA Project European Research Workshop, CERI, Paris, 6-8 July.
- 2009 "Tablighi Jamaat and the Politics of Insider/Outsider Research" Methodology Workshop, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter.
- 2009 Briefing on Afghanistan to Sea Kings-U, Culdrose Naval Base, Cornwall UK.

TEACHING

- 2016 Instructor: Understanding Extremism in the 21st Century (Online) (INR 4931), College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee
- 2016 Instructor: Interdisciplinary Research Inquiry: Internship (ISS 3937), College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee
- 2016 Adjunct Professor: Understanding Religious Extremism in the 21st Century (IDH 3400), Honors College, University of South Florida (2 sections).
- 2016 Adjunct Professor: Nigeria in West Africa: History, Culture & Power Politics (IDH 4200), Honors College, University of South Florida.
- 2015 Adjunct Professor: Acquisition of Knowledge (IDH 2010), Honors College, University of South Florida, (3 sections).
- 2015 Instructor: Islam in the Modern World (REL 3367), University of South Florida.
- 2015 Course Leader: Islam in the Modern World (REL 3367), University of South Florida.
- 2015 Guest Lecturer: International Terrorism and Human Rights, University of South Florida.
- 2013 Guest lecturer: Sociology of Global Islam, University of South Florida
- 2012 Course coordinator and course instructor: Muslims in Britain (ARA 2150). University of Exeter
- 2011 Seminar Leader: Armed Islamist Movements (ARA 3158). University of Exeter
- 2011 Seminar Leader: Nationalisms in the Middle East (ARA 3129). University of Exeter
- 2010 Seminar Leader: Islamist Movements: From the Muslim Brotherhood to Al Qaeda (ARA 2160), University of Exeter
- 2010 Teaching Assistant: Politics and Economy of the Contemporary Middle East (ARA 1010), University of Exeter
- 2009 Teaching Assistant: Power and Politics in North Africa (POL 3141), University of Exeter

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| 2014 – Present | Nigeria Security Network | 2010 – Present | Muslims in Britain Research Network |
| 2014 – Present | British Association for Islamic Studies | 2009 – Present | The Royal Asiatic Society |
| 2013 – Present | International Studies Association | 2009 | HuSS Student Staff Liaison Committee (PhD Rep) |
| 2013 – Present | Association for the Sociology of Religion | 2008 | IAIS Student Staff Liaison Committee (Masters Rep) |
| 2013 – Present | American Political Science Association | | |

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2015 – Present Reviewer, *Globalizations*
- 2014 – Present Reviewer, *British Journal of Sociology*
- 2014 – Present Article Editor, *Sage*
- 2013 – Present Reviewer, *Qualitative Research*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2013 "Compelling Writing for Persuasive Grants & Grant Budgets", University of South Florida Workshop Series, July 16-18
- 2013 "Department of Defence Grants", University of South Florida Workshop Series, 13-15 July
- 2009 University of Oslo Summer School Anthropology Program. August 2009. "Qualitative Methodologies"
- 2009 Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (LTHE) Stage II
- 2008 Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (LTHE) Stage I

FIELDWORK/RESEARCH TRAVEL

- 2012 – Present Grant funded research project on Islamist violence in Northern Nigeria. The project has overseen an in-depth survey carried out in Northern Nigeria and followed up with extensive ethnographic research. Further, the project has included archival research on the British colonial experiences in Nigeria (National Archives in London, The Bodleian Library Oxford, National Library in Nigeria and the National Archives of Nigeria in Ibadan).
- 2011 – Present Research focusing on how some Muslim groups and individuals are using “Shari’a” as a means of social control amongst what they regard to be predominantly Muslim areas in Britain. Key issues focus on the perceptions of women, questions around sexuality and identity. As a follow up, the research examines Muslim community responses to Shari’a patrols and Shari’a vigilantism.
- 2009 – 2012 An Ethnographic Study of the Tablighi Jamaat in Britain, with a special focus on London, and TJ’s attempts at constructing what has become known as the “London Mega-Mosque”.

FIELDWORK/RESEARCH TRAVEL (CONTINUED)

- 2008 – 2009 London based Saudi opposition movements. An in-depth study of the Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia (MIRA) and the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR).

LANGUAGES

English (Native) French (Intermediate)
Modern Greek (Fluent) Arabic (Elementary)

TRAVEL FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES:

UK, France, Germany, Cyprus, Israel, Burma, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Qatar, Yemen, USA

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