



© Wissenschaftskolleg

Finbarr Barry Flood, Ph.D.

William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of the Humanities

New York University

Born in 1965 in Dublin
Studied Mental and Moral Science with Classical Archaeology at Trinity College Dublin and Art History at the University of Edinburgh

PROJECT

1. Islam and Image: Materials for a History (book project)

Ad 1. In recent European debates on immigration and assimilation, Islam's relationship to the shibboleths of secularism has sometimes been emblemized by a problematic relation to the image. The articulation of notions of cultural and religious alterity around incommensurate concepts of the image has a long history in European representations of Islam. This book project opens by tracing that history across the *longue durée*. It then considers a range of normative textual materials for the history of attitudes toward images in Islam, including aspects of hadith and fiqh (jurisprudence), attempting to relate the norms promoted in such texts to the world of artistic and quotidian practice. The final section of the book considers the reception of new modes of the image (such as monumental public statuary) and new imaging technologies (such as lithography and photography) in the Islamic world and its implications for both histories of the image and discourses of modernity.

2. Copying the ka'ba: Surrogacy and Sanctity in Medieval Islam (book project)

Ad 2. This project addresses tensions between presentation (or "presentification") and representation, between originals and copies, doubles and substitutes as they relate to the materiality of devotional practice in the Islamic world. It engages questions of animacy, efficacy, and materiality, as well as more prosaic questions of circulation, transmission, and reception, topics that are of contemporary interest across a range of disciplines and fields. The aim is to explore three distinct but interrelated aspects of devotional practice, building toward a reevaluation of mimesis itself: copies of the Ka'ba, the focal shrine of Islam; the replication of certain relics of the Prophet as images; and associated practices of devotion that involve the ingestion of texts (logophagy) and images (iconophagy). The project aims to explore the materiality of devotion comparatively, considering similar objects and practices in Christianity and Judaism, for example, in relation to tensions between being, imitating, and becoming that all three phenomena engage in different ways.

Recommended Reading

Flood, Finbarr B. *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval "Hindu-Muslim" Encounter*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009.

- "Bodies and Becoming: Mimesis, Mediation and the Ingestion of the Sacred in Christianity and Islam." In *Sensational Religion: Sensory Cultures in Material Practice*, edited by Sally M. Promey, 459-493. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2014.

- "From the Prophet to Postmodernism? New World Orders and the End of Islamic Art." In *Making Art History: A Changing Discipline and its Institutions*, edited by Elizabeth C. Mansfield, 31-53. New York: Routledge, 2007.

29.05.2016

European Moments in the Making of Islam's "Image Problem"

The image of Islam in the West has been consistently informed by the idea that Islam fosters distinctive attitudes towards the image. Recent controversies about Islam, aniconism and iconoclasm are typical in this respect, often taking the idea of an Islamic Bilderverbot as a given. Seen from the perspective of the *longue durée*, however, the idea of an image problem is only partly informed by knowledge or understanding of beliefs and practices that are internal to Islam. Representations of Islam produced by non-Muslims over more than a millennium have been no less important to the perception, perhaps even creation, of an Islamic Bilderverbot. This persistent idea should, therefore, be analyzed not only in light of the tenets of Islam, but also as an aspect of European intellectual history. Doing so sheds light upon the current reinvestment of the image as a site for the construction of difference in debates about Islam, secularism and European identity.

Flood, Finbarr Barry (Munich,2019)

There where you are not

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1666167568>

Zusammenstellung::There where you are not

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1666167568>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (Chicago, Ill.,2018)

Picasso the Muslim : or, how the Bilderverbot became modern (part 2)

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1762711974>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (Chicago, Ill.,2017)

Picasso the Muslim : or, how the Bilderverbot became modern (part 1)

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1762711354>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (Vienna,2017)

A Turk in the Dukhang? Comparative perspectives on elite dressin medieval Ladakh and the Caucasus

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1762710382>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (Biggleswade,2016)

Idol-breaking as image-making in the 'Islamic State' : Finbarr barry Flood and Jás Elsner

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1762708515>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (2016)

"God's Wonder" : marble as medium and the natural image in mosques and modernism

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1042084939>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (2016)

Animal, vegetal, and mineral

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=855385243>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (2015)

Foreword

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=855389664>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (2015)

Idea and idiom : knowledge as praxis in South Asian and Islamic architecture

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=855389273>

Flood, Finbarr Barry (2015)

Staging traces of histories not easy disavowed

<https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=85538414X>