

**PROFESSOR BRADLEY BOWMAN** specializes in early Islamic history and is Assistant Professor in History/Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Louisville. His work focuses on Christian-Muslim relations during the first few centuries of the Islamic period (approximately 7th-10th centuries). He is especially interested in the region of Syria-Palestine and the Christian monastic communities that flourished there under Muslim rule. Islamic hegemony in the Near East proved to be not only tolerant, but significantly invested in the vitality of local Christian ascetic communities.

His research interests involve Christian monasticism within Late Antiquity and the early Islamic Near East and interreligious contacts between Christians and Muslims in the Umayyad Period. His recently-published articles include “From Acolyte to Sahabi: Christian Monks as Symbols in the Conversion Narrative of Salman al-Farisi,” in *The Harvard Theological Review*, January 2019; and “Refuge in the Bosoms of the Mountains: A Ninth-Century Muslim Appraisal of Christian Monastic Piety,” in *The Journal of Christian-Muslim Relations*, November 2019. An article which has been accepted for publication in the journal *Medieval Encounters*. is “The Monastery as Tavern and Temple in Medieval Islam: The Case for Confessional Flexibility in the Locus of Christian Monasteries”. His book *Christian Monastic Life in Early Islam*, has been accepted for publication by Edinburgh University Press as part of the Classical Islamic World Series. It is expected to be published in the near future.

Professor Bowman is a stellar scholar and teacher and the presentations he has made at *The Salaam Network* programs have been of exceptional quality. Based on his research on the relationship between Muslims and Christians during the time of Prophet Muhammad, *The Salaam Network* designed a poster which has been widely appreciated and circulated. The citations on the poster include the Edicts of Prophet Muhammad and his Companion Caliph ‘Umar Ibn Khattab which mandated that Christian communities living under Muslim rule be treated with respect and graciousness. These Edicts were regarded as normative by many generations of Muslim rulers. Professor Bowman’s profound knowledge of the interaction between Muslims and Christians in early Islamic history has been a great asset for *The Salaam Network* in its endeavor to build bridges of understanding and goodwill between the two largest religious communities in the world.