

Acknowledgments

This book has been a long time coming. *Constituting Religion* was initially conceived as a comparative study of Islamist litigation in Egypt, Malaysia, and Pakistan. However, I quickly realized that a significant treatment of the nexus of law, religion, politics, and society in any one of these three countries would require an enormous investment of time and energy. Having already been captivated by initial fieldwork in Malaysia, I chose to shift my full attention to understanding the Malaysian experience as best I could. It is a decision that I have not regretted for a minute.

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