

**Edgar Melgar** [edgar.a.melgar@gmail.com] is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, specializing in comparative intellectual, social and legal history. His current research project traces the global circulation of ideas regarding secularization, constitutionalism and legal codification between France, Mexico, and the Ottoman Empire, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. As a supplement to his historical work on secularization in Latin America and the Middle East as an intellectual and political program, Edgar has become interested in exploring, from a more social and anthropological perspective, the experience of Muslims in the West, in specific relation to the way prevailing models of secularization, or separation of religion and state, have responded to growing and increasingly diverse Muslim populations. Prior to attending Princeton, Edgar received an M.A. in Latin American studies from the University of Pennsylvania (2012), and a B.A. in comparative literature from Yale University (2010).