



### **Dr. Erin Stiles**

Erin Stiles is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. She is a cultural anthropologist and specializes in the intersection of religion and law in East Africa; she has been conducting field research in Zanzibar, Tanzania since 1999. She received her B.A. from Duke University, her M.A. from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and her Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Stiles joined the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada,

Reno in 2008. From 2003-2008, she was an assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Religious Studies at California State University, Sacramento. She recently published her first book, *An Islamic Court in Context: An Ethnographic Study of Judicial Reasoning* (Palgrave Macmillan 2009). She has also published several articles on gender and Islamic courts.

## **Women and Islamic law in today's world:**

an African case study

**M**any countries in the world today incorporate Islamic law and courts into state legal systems. Most often, Islamic courts have jurisdiction only over family law matters like marriage, divorce, and inheritance. In many contexts, women bring more claims to the courts than men. Dr. Stiles will discuss her research in Islamic family courts in rural Zanzibar, Tanzania. In Zanzibar, women open the majority of cases in these courts, and they are often very successful in pursuing their claims.

**6:00 to 6:45 pm – Hors d'oeuvres**  
**6:45 to 7:15 pm – Program**  
**7:15 to 8:30 pm – Open Discussion**

*Your early response to confirm your attendance is appreciated. Please call Robyn Powers at 784-6873 or [rpowers@unr.edu](mailto:rpowers@unr.edu), or Stuart Golder at 784-1222 or [sgolder@unr.edu](mailto:sgolder@unr.edu).*

*For directions, please see the map on the next page.*