

Muslim Studies

NEWSLETTER OF THE MSU MUSLIM STUDIES PROGRAM

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Fall 2013

Volume 1

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Save the Dates

- ♦ **Sept. 20, 11am-1pm: MSP Core Faculty Meeting, 302 International Center**
- ♦ **Sept. 24, 7pm: MSP panel, "Surviving in Conflict: Life in a War Zone" (*One Book, One Community*), East Lansing Public Library**
- ♦ **Sept. 26, 7pm: Mohammed Ayoob, "Will the Middle East Implode?," Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center**
- ♦ **Oct. 1, 12pm-1pm: Brown Bag Lecture, 201 International Center (see insert)**
- ♦ **Oct. 18, 12pm-1pm, MSP Faculty-Student Meet & Greet Luncheon, 303 International Center**

Message from the Interim Director



As we begin a new academic year, we at the Muslim Studies Program find ourselves in a period of transition. Following years of outstanding and invaluable service to MSP, its founding coordinator Professor Mohammed Ayoob stepped down in the summer of 2012. Last year, Professor Emine Evered proved to be a superb interim coordinator, organizing numerous lectures and events, including the annual MSP conference, the theme of which was revolutions in the Muslim world (see p. 3). We are now in the process of searching for a permanent director.

In the meantime, there is much to look forward to in the 2013-14 academic year. Aside from the annual conference (theme and date to be announced), we are plan-

ning a full slate of events. For instance, as part of East Lansing's *One Book, One Community* program, we are organizing a panel on Kevin Power's *The Yellow Birds* on Sept. 24th. Two days later, Prof. Ayoob returns to campus to discuss his forthcoming book *Will the Middle East Implode?* (See the *Save the Dates* section below for details.) We are also launching a Brown Bag series that will begin on Oct. 1st. I look forward to meeting with our core faculty on Sept. 20th to discuss these and other events, including our exciting *Muslim Journeys* programs (see p. 2). All events will be posted on our website: <http://muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu>. Incidentally, be sure also to visit the thought-provoking, MSP-sponsored *Muslim Subjects* site: <http://www.muslimsubjects.org>.

A period of transition it may be. But with so many talented scholars, staff members, and students working toward the betterment of MSP, we have every reason to be optimistic about our future.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Retirement of Professor Mohammed Ayoob

The founding coordinator of the Muslim Studies Program, Professor Mohammed Ayoob, recently retired. A University Distinguished Professor of International Relations, Professor Ayoob is a world renowned scholar and author of numerous works, including *The Many Faces of Political*

Islam. He took the lead in establishing the Muslim Studies Specialization in 2004 and the Muslim Studies Program in 2006. To be sure, it would be difficult to overstate Professor Ayoob's contributions to the Muslim Studies Program and indeed Michigan State University.



Muslim Journeys Grants and Community Programming

Deborah Margolis, MSU Libraries

MSU has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities for library materials and public programming on Islam and Muslims (*Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys* initiative). All community-wide programming is led by MSU Muslim Studies Program faculty, with events taking place at the MSU Main Library, East Lansing Public Library, and Okemos Public Library (Capital Area District Library).

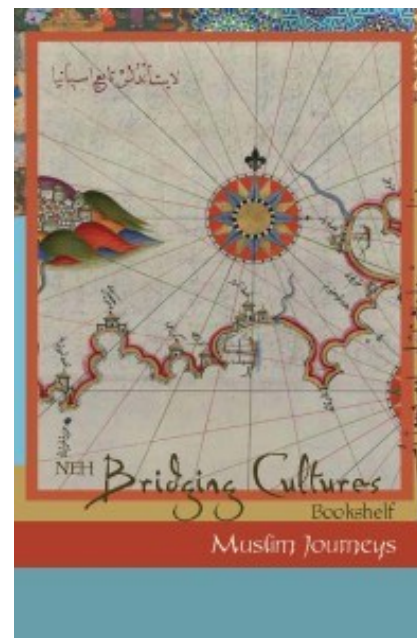
We are halfway through a year of **Muslim Journeys Bookshelf** programs: Salah Hassan led a discussion on the documentary *Wham! Bam! Islam!* at the MSU Main Library; and Mohammad Khalil presented the film *Koran By Heart* at the Okemos Public Library.

Coming up in November, we will be screening the French feature film *Tea in A Harem* with Chantal Tetreault and Safoi Babana-Hampton leading the discussion. This event will take place **Sunday, November 17 at 2pm**, at the East Lansing Public Library.

Special thanks to the MSU Muslim Studies Program, the MSU Department of Anthropology, and Sultan's for support of refreshments at the 2013 events.

Beginning in early 2014, the MSU Main Library will be hosting **Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys**, a five-part reading and discussion series led by Mohammad Khalil. This is an in-depth opportunity for students, faculty/staff, and community members to engage in thoughtful discussion on the five books in the *Muslim Journeys*' "Pathways of Faith" theme. The first book to be discussed will be *The Children of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, Islam* by F. E. Peters, on **Thursday, January 30 at 7pm**. Sessions will take place **every other week through late March**. Faculty may consider using this series as an "Honors Option" for related Spring 2014 courses.

Our partners in the *Let's Talk About It: Muslim Journeys* book discussions are the Islamic Society of Greater Lansing, the East Lansing Area Clergy Association, and the Michigan Humanities Council. For more information about this unique learning opportunity, please contact me at deborahm@msu.edu or 517-884-0892.



Faculty Accomplishments (2012-13) (Select)

Following the publication of her book *Empire and Education under the Ottomans* (I. B. Tauris), **Emine Evered** (History) published an article on Ottoman representations of Wahhabism in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, & the Middle East*. In addition, she and **Kyle Evered** (Geography)—who was recently promoted to associate professor—published several articles on the place of prostitution in early republican Turkey in, among other journals, *Gender, Place, & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*.

Eric Freedman (Journalism) was selected as an Interna-

tional Scholar by the Academic Fellowship Program of the Open Society Foundations, and will work with the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication at American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan. In addition, he published articles on press rights in Central Asia in the *Journal of Development Communication, Central Asia & the Caucasus*, and *Media Asia*.

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology) co-edited a special issue of the journal *City and Society* entitled *Muslim Cosmopolitanism*. She also published an article on Lebanese Christians in Senegal in

Anthropological Quarterly and a book chapter on 'Ashura in Senegal in *Shi'i Islam and Identity* (I. B. Tauris).

A. Sean Pue (Linguistics & Languages) was elected to a three-year position on the advisory board of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. He also published an article on progressivism and modernism in Urdu poetry in the journal *Pakistaniaat*.

Chantal Tetreault (Anthropology) published an article on cultural citizenship in France with a focus on the discourse of teens of immigrant heritage in *Language &*

Communication.

Khalida Zaki (Sociology) was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Scholarship (2013-18). She also published an article on Pakistani-Americans in *Immigrants in American History* (ABC-CLIO) and participated in *Voices of America* (a worldwide Urdu radio service).

Karin Zitzewitz (Art History & Visual Culture) curated at the Broad Art Museum for the 2013 exhibit *Naiza Khan*. She also published essays in *Midnight to the Boom* (Thames & Hudson), *Naiza Khan* (Art AsiaPacific), and *The SAHMAT Collective* (Smart Art Museum).

2013 Muslim Studies Program Annual Conference

Emine Ö. Evered, PhD, 2012-2013 Muslim Studies Program Interim Coordinator

On April 4 and 5, 2013, the Muslim Studies Program held its annual conference, *Revolutions Reconsidered: State and Societal Change in the Muslim World*. The Faculty Advisory Committee and I agreed that, though current events in the Middle East and North Africa received much attention from scholars and politicians, we must go beyond the Arab Spring and examine the root causes behind social movements in the Muslim World, be they in Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, or Europe. As such, we hoped to move beyond just religion as the sole factor for explaining tensions in the Muslim world—instead contextualizing both revolution and political Islam in terms of their socio-political and economic settings. Indeed, an over-emphasis on religion as the explanatory factor for understanding social movements is counterproductive to those who seek a more nuanced understanding of past and present events. To this end, organized panels focused on questions such as: (1) freedom of expression—or lack thereof; (2) political oppression; (3) forms of expression found in social movements; and (4) the material or socio-economic dimension of discontent.

This multi-disciplinary conference brought together faculty from MSU and other institutions and featured papers covering history, anthropology, religious studies, economics, sociology, political science, art, and literature; it examined revolutions and popular movements in the Muslim world from a variety of perspectives. This well-attended conference allowed scholars to share their knowledge with MSU students, faculty, and staff as well as the wider community since the event was free and open to the public. Faculty Advisory Committee members Professors Mara Leichtman, Mohammad Khalil, and Brahim Chakrani; program secretary Julia Grimm; and student assistants Mohammad Al-Kabour and Adreanna Scribner worked diligently with me to bring another Muslim Studies-themed conference to the MSU community.



AWARDS (2012-13)

Student Awards—Charles A. and Marjorie A. Gliozzo Scholarship

Kristin Cross (James Madison) Andrew Smith (Residential College in Arts & Humanities)

Faculty Awards

Conference Travel

Brahim Chakrani (Linguistics & Languages) Kyle Evered (Geography) Salah Hassan (English)
Austin Jackson (Residential College in Arts & Humanities) Mara Leichtman (Anthropology)
Etga Ugur (James Madison) Karin Zitzewitz (Art History & Visual Culture)

Research Travel

Kyle Evered (Geography) A. Sean Pue (Linguistics & Languages)

Course Buyout

Brahim Chakrani (Linguistics & Languages) Karin Zitzewitz (Art History & Visual Culture)

MSP 2013-14 funding notification will be sent out mid-September, with a deadline of Oct. 25; Gliozzo, Dec. 15

ISP Glen L. Taggart Award for Community Contribution to International Understanding

Dr. Mohammed H. Elnabtity (Human Medicine) Dr. Abdalmajid Katranji (Human Medicine)

Professor Mohammed Ayoob: “Drs. Elnabtity and Katranji took the lead to establish the Muslim Benefactors of Muslim Studies Endowment Fund at MSU. They are committed to helping MSU strengthen a field of study which is concerned with the big questions facing Muslim societies world-wide and at home.”

MUSLIM STUDIES PROGRAM HISTORY AND MISSION



Established at MSU in 2006 and housed in International Studies and Programs, the Muslim Studies Program coordinates research, teaching, and outreach about Muslim societies and states. Additionally, it organizes speakers, workshops, and conferences on a wide range of topics that reflect the rich diversity of Muslim communities around the world. The MSP is unique in the sense that instead of a regional focus, it has a global view of Muslim societies and states. It is an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary center whose faculty has appointments in various disciplines of social sciences and humanities at MSU.



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Muslim Studies Specialization for Undergraduate Students

The Specialization in Muslim Studies, administered by James Madison College, is available as an elective to students who are enrolled in bachelor's degree programs at Michigan State University. The specialization provides students with the opportunity for sustained study of Muslim societies and Islam in a range of disciplines and topics.

With the approval of the department that administers the student's degree program, courses that are used

to satisfy the requirements of the specialization may also be used to satisfy the requirements for the bachelor's degree.

The student's program of study must be approved by the Muslim Studies coordinator prior to enrollment in any course.

For more information, please visit:

muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/academics/

If you would like to support the MSU Muslim Studies Program through a financial contribution, please visit <http://www.giveto.msu.edu/give.html>, or send a check to: University Development, Michigan State University, 300 Spartan Way, East Lansing, MI 48824-1005. Please make checks payable to "Michigan State University," with Muslim Studies on the memo line of your check. Thank you for considering a gift.