

# Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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## Save the Dates

- ♦ **Friday, September 16, 2016, 11am-1pm: MSP Core Faculty Meeting, 302 International Center**
- ♦ **Thursday, September 22, 2016: Our first public event (see Insert for the Fall schedule)**
- ♦ **March 30-April 2, 2017: 9th Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference, MSU**
- ♦ **April 13-14, 2017: 10th Annual MSP Conference (theme: "US Politics, Islam, Muslims"), MSU**

## Message from the Director



Each fall season is special, differing in interesting ways from previous falls. For the Muslim Studies Program (MSP), the upcoming semester features prominent figures who have never before spoken at a MSP event. These include Notre Dame's Ebrahim Moosa, Georgetown's Shireen Hunter (who spoke at MSU before MSP was created in 2006), and the comedian, activist, and part-time Detroit Mercy Law professor Amer Zahr. Professor Moosa will tell us about how he is "Rethinking Muslim Ethics" (Nov. 10); Professor Hunter—the first woman to serve in the Iranian Foreign Service—will join two other eminent scholars, the University of Michigan's Juan Cole and our very own Mohammed Ayoob, to reflect on "The Middle East Today" (Sept. 22); and Zahr

will join Saeed Khan and Sarrah Bu-ageila of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding to discuss "Muslims and the Upcoming US Elections" (Sept. 29).

To be sure, some things this fall will seem familiar. We are once again delighted to host Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, who is nominated to receive an honorary degree from MSU in the winter commencement. On Nov. 2nd, he will give a special lecture for us on India's 1947 Partition. We are also organizing a MSP faculty panel on "Gender Relations and Representations in Asian Muslim Contexts and Beyond" (Oct. 13). And you do not want to miss this year's exciting *Muslim Journeys* book series (see p. 2).

Finally, I am happy to announce that we are launching a Winter Break Study Abroad Program in Dubai that will surely be of interest to many students. Please see the Insert for details.

The Insert also contains our fall schedule.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Farha Abbasi

Dr. Farha Abbasi is an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Psychiatry and Staff Psychiatrist at the University's student health center. She emigrated from Pakistan and settled in the United States in 2000. In 2009, she was awarded the American Psychiatric Association SAMSHA Minority Fellowship. She used the grant money to create awareness about cultural competency. Her areas of interest are cultural psychiatry and teaching medical students how to provide culturally appropriate care to Muslim patients. She established the Muslim Mental Health Conference (the next one will be in the spring at MSU), and is the managing editor for *Journal of Muslim Mental Health*.



## Muslim Journeys Book Club (2016-17)

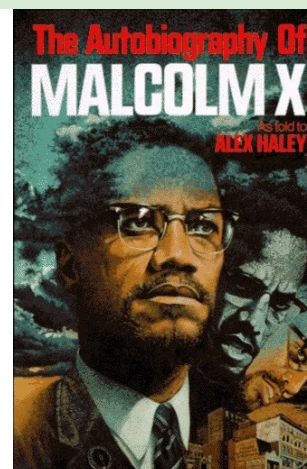
Deborah Margolis, MSU Libraries

The MSU Muslim Studies Program and MSU Libraries are hosting a new *Muslim Journeys* scholar-led book discussion series in 2016-2017. This series focuses on Islam in the U.S. and on Muslim American literature. Our aim is to bring the campus and community together to read and learn about the diversity of Muslim American history, culture, and literature. The 2016-2017 series is co-sponsored by the Islamic Society of Greater Lansing and the East Lansing Area Clergy Association.

In a “sneak peek” session this fall, we will read and discuss the nonfiction work *Thomas Jefferson’s Qur’an: Islam and the Founders* by historian Denise A. Spellberg, with lecture and discussion by Professor Salah Hassan (English). **This session will take place on Wednesday October 26th at 7pm, in the MSU Main Library Green Room (4th floor West side).**

All sessions are free and open to the public. Community members, undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited to participate. Faculty are encouraged to explore incorporating the series into their courses.

The books will be available for purchase at Schuler’s and Everybody Reads, and will be available for reading “on reserve” at the MSU Main Library. *Thomas Jefferson’s Qur’an: Islam and the Founders* is available through MelCat free interlibrary loan.



In Spring 2017 we are planning 4 sessions on Wednesday evenings from late January through mid-March. These sessions will also be held 7pm at the MSU Main Library:

January 25 (tentative): *The Moor’s Account* by Laila Lalami (discussion leader to be announced)

February 8: *The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley*, led by Professor Austin Jackson

February 22: *Ms. Marvel* by G. Willow Wilson, led by Professor Morgan Shipley (Religious Studies)

March 15: *E-mails from Scheherazad* by Mohja Kahf, led by Leila Tarakji (Ph.D. Candidate, English)

For more information, please contact Deborah Margolis at [deborahm@msu.edu](mailto:deborahm@msu.edu).

## Faculty Accomplishments (2015-16) (Select)

**Mark Bernstein** (Linguistics and Languages) participated in the June 2016 “Shared Society” conference at Givat Haviva, an organization working to build an inclusive, socially cohesive society in Israel. He also chaired a session at the 2016 meeting of the Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies.

**Brahim Chakrani** (Linguistics and Languages) was promoted to Associate Professor.

**Emine Evered** (History) and **Kyle Evered** (Geography) co-authored four peer-reviewed journal articles that were published in 2016 in *Journal of Drug Policy*, *Historia Agraria*, *Political Geography*, and *Space and Polity*. These articles cover, among other topics, agricultural expansion in Turkey

and the place of alcohol in early republican Turkey.

**Norman Graham** (Madison College) published his tenth book, *Turkish-Azerbaijani Relations—One Nation, Two States* (Routledge), which was co-edited with Murad Ismayilov. He also recently published a paper in *Freshwater, Fish and the Future* (Rome, 2015) on regional governance of inland fisheries in Central Eurasia.

**Najib Hourani** (Anthropology) was promoted to Associate Professor.

**Mara Leichtman** (Anthropology) received three grants for a research project entitled “Humanitarian Islam: Transnational Religion and Kuwaiti

Development Projects in Africa.” She was also recently elected to the board of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, a section of the American Anthropological Association.

**Stephanie Nawyn** (Sociology) was appointed as Co-Director for Academic Programs, Outreach, and Engagement in the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenGen). She also published an article on “Human Trafficking and Migration Management in the Global South” in *International Journal of Sociology*.

**Chantal Tetreault** (Anthropology) was promoted to Associate Professor. Her book *Transcultural Teens: Performing Youth Identities in French Cities* was published in 2015 by Wiley-Blackwell.

## Snapshots of the 2016 MSP Annual Conference (*Defining the Islamic*)



### **AWARDS (2015-16)**

#### **Undergraduate Student Award—Charles A. and Marjorie A. Gliozzo Scholarship**

Ani Karibian (Madison College)

#### **Graduate Student Paper/Essay Prize**

Kyle Craig (Anthropology)

#### **Faculty Awards**

#### **Conference Travel**

Brahim Chakrani (Linguistics and Languages), Emine Evered (History), Kyle Evered (Geography), Salah Hassan (English), Najib Hourani (Anthropology), and Mara Leichtman (Anthropology)

#### **Research Travel**

Jyotsna Singh (English) and Karin Zitzewitz (Art and Art History)

#### **Course Buyout**

Brahim Chakrani (Linguistics and Languages) and Russell Lucas (Madison College; Linguistics and Languages)

## **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 Muslims and Muslim-majority societies and states. Additionally, it organizes lectures, workshops, and conferences on a wide range of topics that reflect the rich diversity of Muslims and Muslim communities around the world. The MSP is unique in the sense that instead of a regional focus, it has a global view of Muslims and Muslim-majority societies and states. It is an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary center whose faculty has appointments in various disciplines at MSU.



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## **Muslim Studies Minor for Undergraduate Students**

The Minor 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 minor 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 minor 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 Minor Coordinator, Professor Waseem El-Rayes ([elrayes@msu.edu](mailto:elrayes@msu.edu)) prior to enrollment in any course. For more information, please visit: [muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/academics/](http://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.