

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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Inside this issue:

In Memoriam: Dr. Houria Hassouna	2
Spring Calendar of Events	2
Snapshots of the Fall	3
History and Mission	4
Undergraduate Minor	4

Save the Dates

- ◆ **April 11-12: The Twelfth Annual Muslim Studies Program Conference** (Theme: “Education under Siege”)
- ◆ **April 25: Muslim Studies Program Student Research Showcase**
- ◆ **See page 2 for a partial list of our spring events.**

Message from the Director



The Muslim Studies Program spring calendar (see p. 2 for details) features events that will surely be of interest to many of you. For starters, we have three *Muslim Journeys* Book Club sessions at the MSU Library (Jan. 15, Feb. 5, Feb. 19). And there was so much interest in our “Conflict in Yemen” panel last fall that we are organizing a follow-up panel featuring, among others, Shireen Al-Adeimi (MSU) and alumna Abdullah Alrebh (GVSU) (March 14). We have also invited Dustin Byrd of Olivet College to discuss “Pope Francis and the Muslims” (January 29), Ula Yvette Taylor of UC-Berkeley to talk about her recent study on “Women and the Nation of Islam” (February 13),

Kirsten Fermaglich (MSU) to give a presentation on Islamophobia and Muslim Name Changing in the US after 9/11 (March 28), and Martin Nguyen of Fairfield Univ. to give a talk on his 2018 book *Modern Muslim Theology* (April 22).

The theme of our twelfth annual conference is “Education under Siege: Attacks on Scholars and Scholarship in Turbulent Times” (April 11-12). This theme, with its global focus, was proposed by two core faculty members, Stephen Gasteyer and Waseem El-Rayes. A third core faculty member, Najib Hourani, is organizing another conference that we are cosponsoring: “Cities of the Arab World” (Feb. 14-15). And a fourth core faculty member, Mara Leichtman, is working with the African Studies Center to organize multiple lectures on Africa that we are cosponsoring (Feb. 28, April 18; there will be a third lecture on April 4/5—details TBA). See you soon!

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Faculty Spotlight: Monir Moniruzzaman

Monir Moniruzzaman is an assistant professor in the MSU Department of Anthropology. He is a medical anthropologist and was recently appointed to the Task Force on Donation and Transplantation of Human Organ and Tissues at the World Health Organization. He was selected to serve on the Task Force on account of his critical research on organ trafficking in Bangladesh. He has published a number of articles and presented research at the Vatican, US Congress Human Rights Commission, and US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. As a member of the Task Force, his role will be to advise and assist the WHO and its member states in developing sustainable transplant systems and achieving national self-sufficiency in order to combat organ trafficking and transplant tourism worldwide.



In Memoriam The MSU community lost **Dr. Houria Suzy Hassouna (1934-2018)**, a world renowned scientist in hematology. Dr. Hassouna joined the medical school at MSU in 1980, after graduating from Cairo University in medicine, and after completing her medical education in London, Edinburgh, Freiburg, and New York (Rockefeller University). She held the Carl and Elsa Rehberg Hematology Research Chair at MSU from 2007 until her death. In addition, Dr. Hassouna also had a number of patents in her name, related to hematology. Lastly, many doctors in the Lansing area and internationally owe her their medical knowledge, as she trained them to become some of the best doctors in the Lansing area and beyond. A member of the glamorous aristocracy of Egypt, she was tutored at home, between Alexandria and Cairo, following King Farouk's residential summer and winter homes. Her father was the personal physician of King Farouk, the last king of Egypt, as well as the Egyptian Swimming Olympic team's physician. Suzy, as she is endeared by her family and friends, was an avid swimmer, with Olympic standards. A great granddaughter of Sheikh Hassouna El Nawawy who was the Sheikh of El Azhar and who has some prominent publications at El Azhar, she was a deeply pious and spiritual Muslim. Her piety translated into community service and charitable causes, and she was a strong voice against injustice, wherever it is. Dr. Paulette Russell, the director of the MSU Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, noted, "Dr. Hassouna was a strong advocate for equity and her passing is a loss for us all." Her privileged upbringing did not prevent her from connecting with people from all walks of life, and from all different social and cultural backgrounds. Dr. Hassouna was also at home in Arabic, English and French. In addition to all the remarkable career achievements, she was an important member of the MSU community, reaching out to units and programs at MSU such as the Muslim Studies Program, with unending support. We lost a trailblazer, a role model, a humanist and a great mind. She is survived by her daughters Shereen and Nimentallah, her son Ibrahim, and her grandchildren. This tribute was written by Camelia Suleiman, Associate Professor, Arabic Studies, Department of Linguistics and Languages, MSU.

*Spring Calendar of Events **

Jan. 15, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—Does My Head Look Big in This?* (young adult novel) by Randa Abdel-Fattah, led by Leila Tarakji (English)

Jan. 29, 6:30pm, 303 International Ctr.: Dustin Byrd (Olivet College), "Pope Francis & the Muslims"

Feb. 5, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—Prince Among Slaves* (film screening), led by David Glovsky (History)

Cosponsored conference: Feb. 14-15, MSU Union Bldg. (Lake Huron): "Cities of the Arab World"

Feb. 13, 6:30pm, 303 International Ctr.: Ula Y. Taylor (UC-Berkeley), "Women and the Nation of Islam"

Feb. 19, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—Green Lanterns Vol. 1 (Rebirth): Rage Planet* (comic book), led by Julian Chambliss (English) & Salah Hassan (English)

Cosponsored event: Feb. 28, 12pm, 201 International Ctr.: Alexander Thurston (University of Ohio), "Boko Haram's Internal Disputes and International Connections"

March 14, 2:30pm, Erickson Kiva: "Conflict in Yemen" panel featuring (among others) Shireen Al-Adeimi (MSU) and Abdullah Alrebh (GVSU)

March 28, 12pm, 303 International Ctr.: Kirsten Fermaglich (MSU), "Islamophobia and Muslim Name Changing in the US after 9/11"

April 11-12 (details TBA): 12th Annual MSP Conference (Theme: "Education under Siege")

Cosponsored event: April 18, 12pm, 201 International Ctr.: Noah Salomon (Carleton College), "For Love of the Prophet: The Art of Islamic State-Making in Sudan"

April 22, 6:30pm, 303 International Ctr.: Martin Nguyen (Fairfield Univ.), "Modern Muslim Theology"

April 25 (details TBA): Muslim Studies Program Student Research Showcase

* This is a partial list of our spring events. Sign up for the biweekly e-newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/ci08p1>.

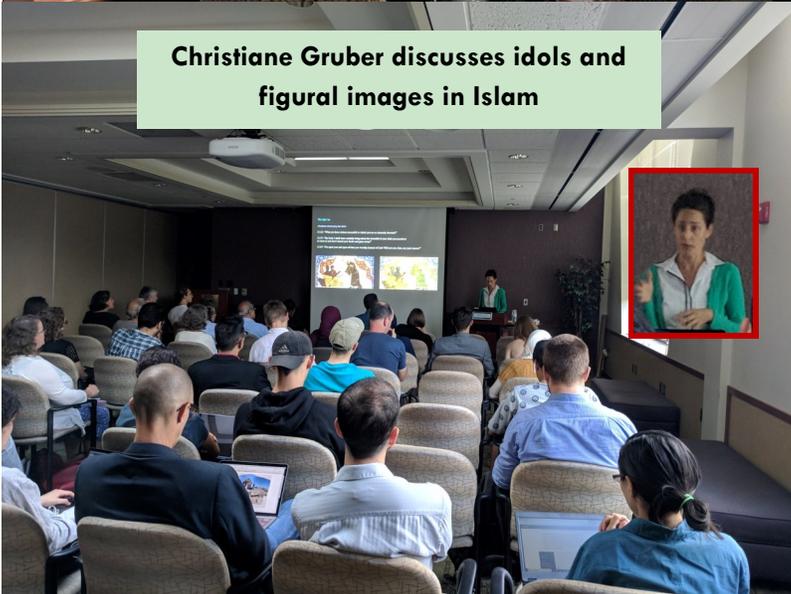
Snapshots of the Fall



Dalia Mogahed discusses US politics



Director Sam Kadi presents his film *Little Gandhi*



Christiane Gruber discusses idols and figural images in Islam



Our first "Crisis in Yemen" panel



Qais Assali presents his art



3rd Education Abroad in Dubai (photo credit: Russell Lucas)



Muslim Journeys at the MSU Library with Nazita Lajevardi

Photo credits: Mary Firdaws

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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Sign up for the biweekly e-newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/ci08p1>

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) prior to enrollment in any course. For more information, please visit:

muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/students/undergrad-specialization

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.