

Muslim Studies

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

Fall 2022

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Message from the Director



This fall, the Muslim Studies Program is hosting multiple renowned scholars and a politician. Our first fall event is a lecture by Nizar Farsakh (George Washington Univ.) on “Palestinian History, Demographics, and Politics” (Sept. 7). This will be followed by a special *Muslim Journeys* session at the Broad Art Museum featuring Edward E. Curtis IV (Indiana-Purdue, IUPUI) (see p. 2 for details); a conversation with MSU alum Junaid Mattu, mayor of Srinagar, India’s sole Muslim-majority state (Oct. 12); a lecture by Matthew Kuiper (Hope College) on “Da’wa: Islamic Missionary Thought and Practice” (Oct. 18); a webinar by Evelyn Alsultany (USC) exploring “How Hollywood Responded to the ‘Muslim Ban’” (Nov. 7); and a lecture by K. So-raya Batmanghelichi (Univ. of Oslo) titled

“Revolutionary Bodies: Technologies of Gender, Sex, and Self in Contemporary Iran” (late Nov.). Please see the MSP Fall Newsletter Insert for details.

Last spring, thanks to your generous gifts, we introduced two new lecture series: the Malcolm X and Malcolm and Ann Kerr Community Lectures. Our 2nd Malcolm X lecture is scheduled for late January. However, our 2nd Malcolm and Ann Kerr lecture will be held this semester, on Oct. 26. Our featured speaker will be the distinguished historian Judith Tucker (Georgetown Univ.).

Looking ahead, you don’t want to miss our 16th annual conference, the theme of which is “Measuring Muslim Publics” (Feb. 23-24, 2023). The conference theme was proposed by Russell Lucas (James Madison College) and Camelia Suleiman (Linguistics, Languages, & Cultures).

Finally, I would like to congratulate Marc Bernstein, Timur Kocaoglu, and Jyotsna Singh on their well-deserved retirements! Please see the Newsletter Insert for a simple token of recognition.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Save the Dates

- ♦ **Sept. 7, 12pm, 303 International Center: Nizar Farsakh, “Palestinian History, Demographics, and History”** (our first fall event; see the MSP Fall Newsletter Insert for details and a partial list of our fall events)
- ♦ **Sept. 23, 11am, 302 International Center: MSP Core Faculty Meeting**
- ♦ **Sept. 28, 7pm: *Muslim Journeys* at the Broad Museum** (see p. 2)
- ♦ **Oct. 26: 2nd Annual Malcolm & Ann Kerr Muslim Studies Community Lecture with Judith Tucker**
- ♦ **Feb. 23-24, 2023: 16th Annual Conference: “Measuring Muslim Publics”**

MSP Receives Templeton Religion Trust Grant

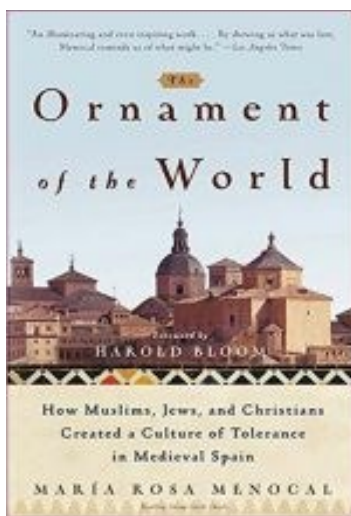
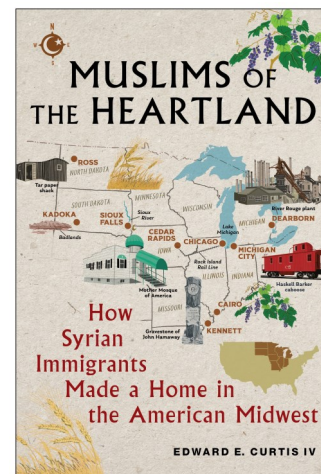
This past spring, the Muslim Studies Program—in conjunction with James Madison College and Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities—applied for and received a \$228,000 Templeton Religion Trust grant for a project looking at Islamic architecture and interreligious relations. The project is led by Martha Olcott, Mohammad Khalil, and Salah Hassan and involves numerous contributors. Thus far, the project has organized various events (including a major workshop) and is currently developing a digital archive.



Muslim Journeys, 2022-23

Deborah Margolis, MSU Libraries and Muslim Studies Program

On September 28, we have a special program planned: **Muslim Journeys at the Broad Art Museum** with Dr. Edward Curtis! We'll have the opportunity to view the new Zaha Hadid exhibit (6-7pm), hear Dr. Curtis and discuss his new book *Muslims of the Heartland: How Syrian Immigrants Made a Home in the American Midwest* (7pm), and also there will be a book signing (8:15). Thank you to Rachel Winter, emerging curator of global art with an emphasis on contemporary art from Middle East, and new Muslim Studies Program faculty member, for talking a leading role in organizing this event!



In the Spring semester, we are hoping to screen an episode of PBS' *The Great Muslim American Road Trip* at the **East Lansing Public Library**, in celebration of Black History Month. We also are planning to read *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* by Maria Rosa Menocal as part of the **Templeton Religious Trust** grant on Islamic architecture in interreligious contexts. I have already learned a lot from reading the first third of the book, and can't wait to learn more from a noted scholar (to be determined). I hope to see you, your students, friends/family, and community at these events!

Deborah Margolis can be reached at deborahm@msu.edu.

Faculty Accomplishments (2021-22) (Select)

Catherine Grosso (Law) was elected to the prestigious American Law Institute.

Emine Evered (History) published an article entitled "Anti-alcoholism, Turkish and American Non-state Actors, and their Mutual Pursuits of National and Global Sobriety," in *Middle Eastern Studies*.

Jamil Hanifi (Anthropology) co-authored an article entitled "Crypto-Colonial Independence Rituals in Afghanistan," in *Afghanistan*.

Salah Hassan (English) was appointed director of MSU Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities.

Sadam Issa and **Ayman Mohamed** (both in Linguistics, Languages, & Cultures) published

freely available online textbooks, *Elementary Arabic I* and *II* (Pressbooks).

Nazita Lajevardi (Political Science) was promoted to Associate Professor. She also co-authored an article entitled "Hate, amplified? Social Media News Consumption and Support for Anti-Muslim Policies," in *Journal of Public Policy*.

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology) published an article entitled "Da'wa as Development: Kuwaiti Islamic Charity in East and West Africa," in *The Muslim World*.

Russell Lucas (James Madison College) published an article entitled "Public Attitudes on Peace with Israel in Jordanian Politics," in

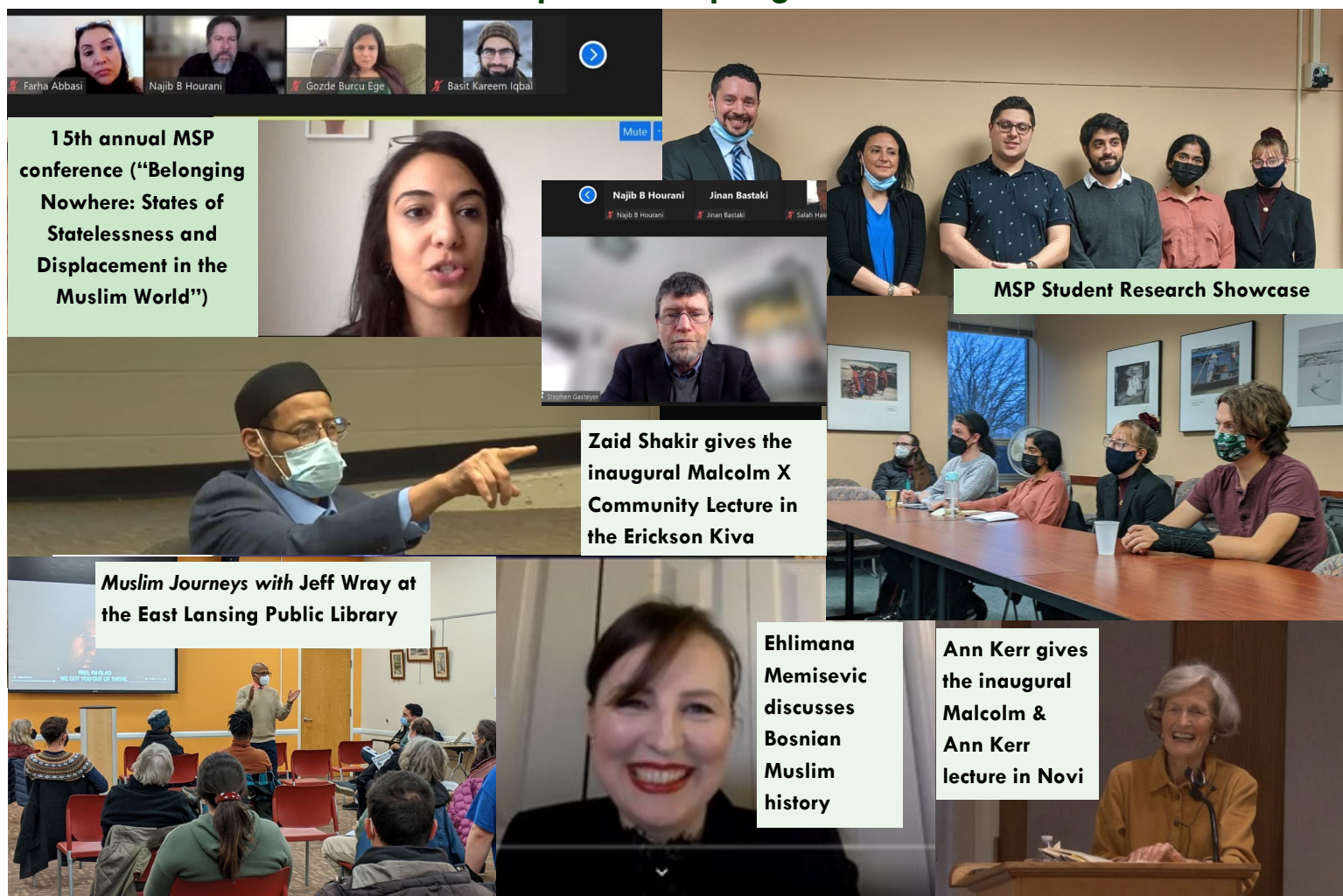
Middle Eastern Studies.

Riyad Shahjahan (Education) co-authored an article entitled "'Decolonizing' Curriculum and Pedagogy: A Comparative Review across Disciplines and Global Higher Education Contexts," in *Review of Educational Research*.

Rachel Winter (Broad Art Museum) published an article entitled "Arabian Nights in the Mississippi Delta: The Embroideries of Ethel Wrights Mohamed," in *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art*.

Karin Zitzewitz (Art, Art History, & Design) was appointed interim director of the MSU Citizen Scholars Program.

Snapshots of Spring 2022



Check out our YouTube channel: MSU Muslim Studies Program, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYOZ94QYGrp07JlxbQ27h5A>.

AWARDS (2021-22)

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

Kyle Nguyen (College of Social Sciences) and Rachel Peters (James Madison College)

Undergraduate Student Paper Prize (awarded at the MSP Student Research Showcase in March 2022)

Abbie Barnum (James Madison College)

Graduate Student Paper Prize (awarded at the MSP Student Research Showcase in March 2022)

Hanan Aly (English)

Faculty Conference Travel Award

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology)

Faculty Course Buyout Award

Elizabeth Drexler (Anthropology)

MSP 2022-23 awards announcements will be circulated in late September, with a deadline of Dec. 31.

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

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

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

If you would like to support the MSU Muslim Studies Program through a financial contribution, please visit <https://givingto.msu.edu/gift>, or send a check to: MSU University Advancement, Spartan Way, 535 Chestnut Rd., Room 300, East Lansing, MI 48824. Please make checks payable to "Michigan State University," with Muslim Studies on the memo line of your check. Thank you for considering a gift.

The Muslim Studies Program Fall 2022 Calendar

Please note: this is a partial list of our events. All events will be announced on our listserv.

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

Register for all virtual events at <https://muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/about/reg-links>.

Wed. Sept. 7, 12pm, 303 International Center and online (hybrid event): Nizar Farsukh (George Washington Univ.), "Palestinian History, Demographics, and Politics (Local and Diaspora)"

Fri. Sept. 23, 11am, 302 International Center: Muslim Studies Program Core Faculty Meeting

Wed. Sept. 28, 7pm (6pm museum tour), Broad Art Museum: *Muslim Journeys* series: Edward E. Curtis IV (Indiana-Purdue, IUPUI), "Muslims of the Heartland: How Syrian Immigrants Made a Home in the American Midwest" (book talk)

Wed. Oct. 12, 12pm, Webinar: "A Conversation with Junaid Mattu, Mayor of Srinagar, India's Sole Muslim-Majority State"

Tue. Oct. 18, 4:30pm, 303 International Center: Matthew Kuiper (Hope College), "Da'wa: Islamic Missionary Thought and Practice"

Wed. Oct. 26, evening (details TBD): 2nd Annual Malcolm and Ann Kerr Muslim Studies Community Lecture featuring Judith Tucker (Georgetown)

Nov. 7, 7:00pm, Webinar: Evelyn Alsultany (USC), "How Hollywood Responded to the 'Muslim Ban'"

Nov. 18, 1:30pm (location TBD), Cosponsored event: Camelia Suleiman (MSU), "To Be Maqdisi in Jerusalem: Palestinian Women Education"

Late November (day and time TBD), Webinar: K. Soraya Batmanghelichi (Univ. of Oslo), "Revolutionary Bodies: Technologies of Gender, Sex, and Self in Contemporary Iran"

Looking ahead to the spring...

Late January (day and time TBD): 2nd Annual Malcolm X Muslim Studies Community Lecture

Feb. 23 and 24: 16th Annual Muslim Studies Program Conference: "Measuring Muslim Publics"

**The Muslim Studies Program congratulates
Professors Marc Bernstein, Timur Kocaoglu, and
Jyotsna Singh on their well-deserved retirements!**



Professor Marc Bernstein (Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures) taught courses on Hebrew literature and the Middle East. His research interests include the transfer of cultural artifacts between Muslim and Jewish societies; in particular, the pool of traditions surrounding biblical figures who also appear in Islam.



Professor Timur Kocaoglu (James Madison College) is a scholar of Central Eurasian Studies. He taught international relations and Turkic languages at MSU. He also served as associate director of the Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (CERES).



Professor Jyotsna G. Singh (English) taught and researched early modern literature and culture, including Shakespeare, travel writing, postcolonial theory, early modern histories of Islam, and gender and race studies, often exploring the intersections of these different fields and periods.