

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Spring 2016

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Save the Dates

- ♦ **January 15, 3:30pm, 303 International Center:**
"Islamophobia and American Politics" (Panel)
- ♦ **March 17-20, The Dearborn Inn: The Eighth Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference**
- ♦ **April 14-15: The Ninth Annual MSP Conference (Theme: "Defining the Islamic")**

Message from the Director



This spring semester promises to be an exciting one. We are organizing various events, including a panel on "Islamophobia and American Politics"; stand-alone lectures by renowned scholars, such as Valerie Hoffman, Jonathan Brockopp, and our own Chantal Tetreault; and thought-provoking artistic presentations by Munjulika Rahman and Zarqa Nawaz. We are also continuing our popular *Muslim Journeys* Book Club discussions, which will be led by Salah Hassan, Emine Evered, and Leila Tarakji.

This is a semester replete with conferences, including the Muslim Mental Health Conference organized by Farha Abbasi, a political cartoon conference organized by Sadam Issa, a conference on the European migration crisis organized by Johanna Schuster-Craig, and, of course, the 9th Annual MSP Conference.

The theme of this year's MSP conference

(April 14-15) is "Defining the Islamic." We will be tackling questions such as, What qualifies as "Islamic"? And what are the implications of the "Islamic"? This conference will feature presentations by various eminent scholars and a keynote lecture by Khaled Abou El Fadl of UCLA.

Aside from organizing events we are keeping busy in other ways. This May and June, Russell Lucas and Camelia Suleiman are leading our first ever study abroad program. This fascinating program—involving travel within both Michigan and the United Arab Emirates—is called "Dubai, Detroit, and Dearborn: The Globalization of Consumerism and Community."

This semester we are also utilizing Courseshare (videoconference) technology to "receive" a course on Sufism from the University of Illinois and a course on the Crusades from Penn State University.

Finally, in an attempt to address current events, we have been working with the College of Arts and Letters to create a one-credit mini-course on Islam, Radicalism, and Islamophobia. The course begins in February.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

MSP Welcomes Diana Klein

The Muslim Studies Program is delighted to announce its new Administrative Lead: Diana Klein. Diana holds a Masters degree from Michigan State University in Human Resources Labor Relations. Her hobbies include biking, reading, watching movies, and traveling. She currently resides in East Lansing and has three sons who are attending college. Please join us in welcoming Diana!



Spring Calendar of Events

Jan. 15, 3:30pm, 303 International Center: “Islamophobia and American Politics” (Panel)

Jan. 20, 7pm, MSU Main Library, Green Room (4th Floor, West Wing): *Muslim Journeys* Book Club discussion with Salah Hassan (Book: *House of Stone* by Anthony Shadid)

Jan. 21, 3pm, 303 International Center: “Gendered Dimensions of Ongoing ISIS-Related Conflict in the Middle East” (Panel)

Jan. 29, 3pm, C-20 Snyder Hall: Munjulika Rahman, “Danced Pluralities: Performance of Muslim Identities in Asia”

Feb. 2, 7pm, 303 International Center: Jonathan Brockopp, “The Rise of Islam in a Judaeo-Christian Context”

Feb. 8, 3pm, 303 International Center: Chantal Tetreault, “Transcultural Teens: Performing Youth Identities in French Cities”

Feb. 17, 7pm, MSU Main Library, Green Room (4th Floor, West Wing): *Muslim Journeys* Book Club discussion with Emine Evered (Book: *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi)

Feb. 25, 8pm, B122 Wells Hall: Screening of the film *Persepolis*, with commentary by Kaveh Askari

Tentative: Feb. 29, 3pm, 303 International Center: A presentation by Alan Cooperman, director of religion research at the Pew Research Center

March 14, 6:30pm, Law Building, 3rd Floor: Erin Thompson, “The Destruction of Art During War: History, Consequences, and How We Can Stop It.”

Tentative: March 15, 3pm, 303 International Center: A presentation by Jean-Yves Duclos, the Canadian Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

March 16, 7pm, MSU Main Library, Green Room (4th Floor, West Wing): *Muslim Journeys* Book Club discussion with Leila Tarakji (Book: *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson)

March 17-20, The Dearborn Inn – A Marriott Hotel: 8th Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference

March 22, 1pm, 303 International Center: Valerie Hoffman, “Sufism, Politics, and Interfaith Relations in Contemporary Egypt”

March 25, MSU, Room TBA: “‘Them Damned Pictures’: Explorations in African and Middle Eastern Political Cartoon Art” (Conference)

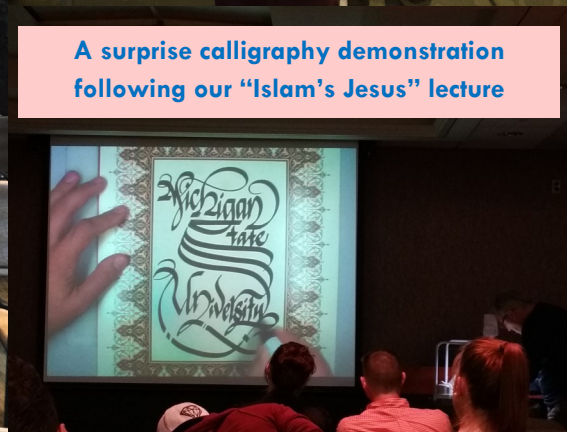
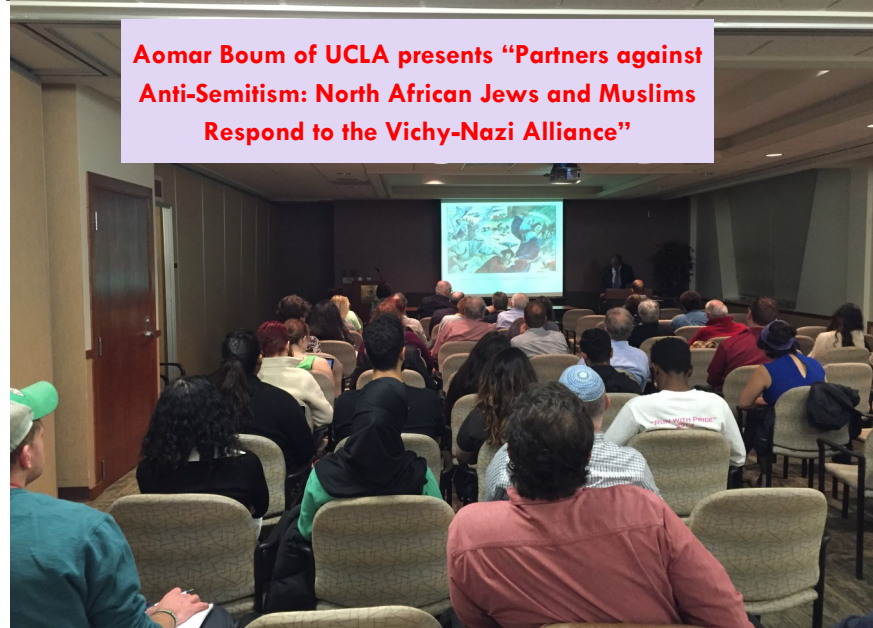
March 31, 3pm, C-20 Snyder Hall: A presentation by Zarqa Nawaz, creator of the hit Canadian sitcom *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and the documentary *Me and the Mosque*

April 1-2, MSU, Room TBA: “European Migration Crisis” (Conference)

Wed. April 13, Location and Time TBA – Screening of the film *He Named Me Malala*, with commentary by Khalida Zaki

April 14-15, 303 International Center: 9th Annual MSP Conference (Theme: “Defining the Islamic”) featuring multiple panels and a keynote lecture by Khaled Abou El Fadl

Snapshots of the Fall



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 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/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.