

Muslim Studies

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

Fall 2021

Volume 9, Issue 1

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Message from the Director



This fall, the Muslim Studies Program is organizing a combination of in-person, hybrid, and entirely virtual events. These include, among other things, a webinar presentation by Ali Olomi (Penn State) and Nura Sediqe (Princeton) on “Afghanistan in this Critical Moment” (Sept. 9), a cosponsored film screening and presentation by famed Palestinian actor and filmmaker Mohamad Bakri (Sept. 30), a cosponsored in-person presentation by Armenian and Georgian area specialist Khatchig Mouradian (Columbia), a hybrid (in-person and livestreamed) presentation by our very own Rebecca Karam (Oct. 7;

see “Faculty Spotlight” below), a cosponsored webinar on “Globalization, Islam, and Marketing” (Oct. 14), a webinar panel on “Muslims and Medicine: Historical and Contemporary Contributions” (Oct. 21), our first *Muslim Journeys* book discussion of the 2021-22 academic year (Oct. 28; see p. 2 for details), a webinar presentation by Usaama al-Azami (Oxford) on his recent book, *Islam and the Arab Revolutions* (Nov. 16), and a webinar panel on “Navigating Temporality and Faculty Life in Dhaka, Bangladesh” (late November). Please see the MSP Fall Newsletter Insert for a partial list of our fall events and the registration link.

Looking ahead, you don’t want to miss our 15th annual conference, the theme of which is “‘Belong Nowhere’: States of Statelessness in the Muslim World” (Feb. 24-25, 2022).

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Save the Dates

- ◆ **Sept. 9, 7pm, Webinar:** “Afghanistan in this Critical Moment” (our first fall event; see the MSP Fall Newsletter Insert for details and a partial list of our fall events)
- ◆ **Sept. 24, 11am, 204 International Center: MSP Core Faculty Meeting**
- ◆ **Oct. 28, 7pm: *Muslim Journeys*** (see p. 2)
- ◆ **Feb. 24-25, 2022: 15th Annual Conference:** “‘Belong Nowhere’: States of Statelessness in the Muslim World”

Faculty Spotlight: Rebecca A. Karam

Rebecca A. Karam is a Dean’s Research Associate in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University. She earned her PhD in Sociology at the City University of New York-Graduate Center in 2020. She is the author of several articles and chapters on Michigan’s Muslim American community, including the award-winning article “Becoming Muslim by Becoming American” published in *Ethnic & Racial Studies* in 2020. Dr. Karam serves as a fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, a thinktank addressing Muslim American issues, and as a speaker at World Affairs, one of the most vibrant global affairs organizations in the United States. She has also been featured as an expert on Arabs and Muslims in Southeastern Michigan on the PBS television series “No Passport Required.” She will be giving a lecture for MSP entitled “Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents” (Oct. 7; see the Insert for details).



Muslim Journeys Book and Film Discussion Series (2021-22)

Zoë McLaughlin, MSU Libraries and Muslim Studies Program

Join us this year for another *Muslim Journeys* series, centered on the theme of encounters: encounters between friends, encounters between strangers, encounters between people of different faiths, and encounters between individuals and their own faith practices. Our first event, featuring the young adult novel *All-American Muslim Girl* by Nadine Jolie Courtney will be held in late October in a hybrid form. Look for more sessions in 2022, including an event in conjunction with the Libraries' Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections, a talk from a literary translator, a film screening, and more.

Slate of Events:

October 28, 2021:

-*All-American Muslim Girl* by Nadine Jolie Courtney, with presenter Leila Tarakji

Spring 2022:

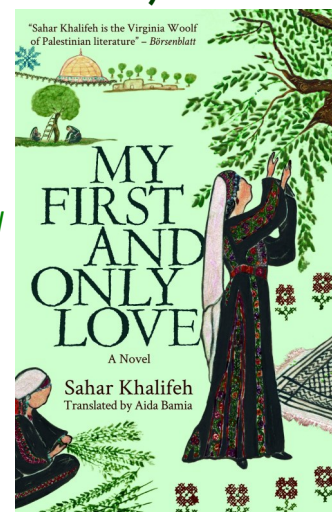
-*Malcolm X* (film) directed by Spike Lee, with presenter Jeffrey Wray

-*Lissa* by Sherine Hamdy and Coleman Nye, illustrated by Sarula Bao and Caroline Brewer

-Special Collections event with presenter Jyotsna Singh

-*My First and Only Love* by Sahar Khalifeh with presenter and translator Aida Bamia

Zoë McLaughlin can be reached at mclau197@msu.edu.



Faculty Accomplishments (2020-21) (Select)

Farha Abbasi (Psychiatry) received an Inspiration award from the MSU Center for Gender in Global Context.

Eric Freedman (Journalism) is the lead editor of the new book *Communicating Endangered Species: Extinction, News and Public Policy* (Routledge, 2021).

Parisa Ghaderi (AAHD) produced a video, "The Impossible Room," that was featured in the *Halal Metropolis* exhibit at Stamps Gallery. **This will be performed live at MSU Auditorium (room 12) on Sept. 12, 3-4pm.** Also, her body of work entitled "Go Home" will be on exhibit at the Broad Museum as part of the faculty triennial.

Najib Hourani (Anthropology) received the MSU College of Social Science Dean's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence Faculty Award.

Jon Keune (Religious Studies) was promoted to Associate Professor.

Nazita Lajevardi (Political Science) received an MSU College of Social Science Diversity Champion Award.

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology) published a chapter on "Transnational Networks and Global Shi'i Islamic NGOs in Tanzania," in Holger Weiss, ed., *Muslim Faith-Based Organizations and Social Welfare in Africa* (Palgrave Macmillan). She also published a policy brief for the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington entitled "Will Kuwait and Senegal's Exceptional Friendship Endure?"

Deborah Margolis (Libraries) co-authored a book chapter (with Karla J. Möller and Leila Tarakji) on Muslim American nonfiction children's literature, in *Reading and Teaching with Diverse Nonfiction Children's Books: Representations*


and Possibilities (National Council of Teachers of English).

A. Sean Pue (Linguistics and Languages) received an award from India's Scheme for the Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) with Professor Nishat Zaidi of the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) in New Delhi to support their collaborative work in the digital humanities.

Jyotsna Singh (English) edited the second edition of *A Companion to the Global Renaissance: Literature and Culture in the Era of Expansion, 1500-1700* (Wiley Blackwell).


Chantal Tetreault (Anthropology) received a Fulbright US Scholar Program Award to support her research project, "What Is Arabic Good for? Future Directions and Current Challenges of Arabic Language Educational Reform in France."

Snapshots of Spring 2021





Finding the *Faqihat*: A Case Study from Marinid Morocco

Rosemary Admiral, PhD
The University of Texas at Dallas



Arabia Before Islam from the Vista of the Quran: Peoples, Gods, and Cultures

Ahmad Al-Jallad (OSU)

Historical Context

British Administrative Division of Bengal in 1905
Strengthening the Bengali Muslim Consciousness

"Bengal united is a power; Bengal divided will pull in several different ways" – H.H. Risley, British administrator

On July 20, 1905, the decision to partition Bengal was announced by Lord Curzon

PARTITION OF BENGAL

Undivided Bengal had an area of 189,000 sq miles (as large as France), a population of nearly 8 crores, and a gross revenue of ₹13 lakhs

The partition took place on Oct 16, 1905

It was supposed to reduce administrative pressures as well as quell the Indian Independence Movement

Bande Mataram and Amar Sonar Bangla became anthems of the protest against the move

Bengal was reunited in 1911 to appease the Bengalis, only to be partitioned again in 1947 to form East Pakistan, which became Bangladesh in 1971




MSP Student Research Showcase with Asif Iqbal



Nazita Lajevardi

14th annual MSP conference (Global Islamophobia and the Media) with keynote speaker Khaled Beydoun (right) and moderator Nazita Lajevardi (left)




Muslim Journeys with author Laury Silvers

Check out our YouTube channel: MSU Muslim Studies Program, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYOZ94QYGrp7J1xbQ27h5A>.

AWARDS (2020-21)

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

Ahmad Hammad and Emerson Wigand

Graduate Student Paper Prize (awarded at the MSP Student Research Showcase in April 2020)

Leila Tarakji (Graduate, English)

Faculty Awards

Conference Travel

Brahim Chakrani (Linguistics & Languages), Timur Kocaoglu (James Madison College), Mara Leichtman (Anthropology), Deborah Margolis (Libraries), and Riyadh Shahjahan (Education)

Research Travel

Najib Hourani (Anthropology) and Russell Lucas (James Madison College)

Course Buyout

Camelia Suleiman (Linguistics & Languages) and Chantal Tetreault (Anthropology)

MSP 2021-22 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 2021 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://cepur1.com/ci08p1>.

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

Thu. Sept. 9, 7pm, Webinar: “Afghanistan in this Critical Moment” featuring Ali Olomi (Penn State) and Nura Sediqe (Princeton) and moderated by Zarena Aslami (MSU)

Mid-September (details TBA): Cosponsored event: Screening of a film by Mohammad Bakri

Fri. Sept. 24, 11am, 204 International Center: Muslim Studies Program Core Faculty Meeting

Thu. Sept. 30 (details TBA): Cosponsored event: Conversation with Palestinian actor and filmmaker Mohammad Bakri

Mon. Oct. 4 (details TBA): Cosponsored event: Presentation by Khatchig Mouradian (Columbia), author of *Resistance Network: The Armenian Genocide and Humanitarianism in Ottoman Syria, 1915-1918*

Thu. Oct. 7, 12pm, 303 International Center and online (hybrid event): Rebecca Karam (MSU), “Meeting the Moral Markers of Success: Concerted Cultivation among Second-Generation Muslim Parents”

Thu. Oct. 14, 1pm, Webinar: Cosponsored event: “Globalization, Islam, and Marketing” panel featuring Jonathan Wilson (Regent’s Univ. London), Elif Izberk-Bilgin (Univ. of Michigan-Dearborn), Cedimir Nestorovic (ESSEC Singapore)

Thu. Oct. 21, 12pm, Webinar: “Muslims and Medicine: Historical and Contemporary Contributions” panel featuring Farha Abbasi (MSU), Mohamad Hussein (Univ. of South Florida), Reza Nassiri (MSU), and Khalida Zaki (MSU)

Thu. Oct. 28, 7pm (details TBA): *Muslim Journeys* series: Discussion of Nadine Jolie Courtney’s *All-American Muslim Girl*, led by Leila Tarakji (MSU)

Tue. Nov. 16, 12:30pm, Webinar: Usaama al-Azami (Oxford), “Islam and the Arab Revolutions”

Late November (details TBA), Webinar: “Navigating Temporality and Faculty Life in Dhaka, Bangladesh” panel featuring Tasnim A. Ema (Univ. of Dhaka), Nisharggo Nilloy (Univ. of Dhaka), and Riyadh Shahjahan (MSU)

The Qisasna Podcast Project



MSU Undergrads:

Are you interested in –
Storytelling?
Engaging in dialogue?
The Middle East?

If so, this unique and exciting opportunity is for you! The Qisasna Project is seeking a limited number of MSU students to work with peers in Yemen to co-create original podcasts that educate, entertain, or simply document topics of mutual interest.

No previous podcast experience is necessary!

Sign up now for either Fall 2021 or Spring 2022—
spots are limited!

If interested, please email Prof. Mohammad H. Khalil (khalilmo@msu.edu), Director of the MSU Muslim Studies Program.