

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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Save the Dates

- ♦ **April 16-17: The Thirteenth Annual Muslim Studies Program Conference** (Theme: "Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation")
- ♦ **April 23: Muslim Studies Program Student Research Showcase**
- ♦ **See page 2 for a partial list of our spring events.**

Message from the Director



We at the Muslim Studies Program have a busy spring ahead of us! (Please see p. 2 for our spring calendar of events.) For starters, we are organizing three events focused on South Asia. These include lectures on ethics in late-colonial India (by Prof. Farina Mir of the Univ. of Michigan; Jan. 16), the crisis in Kashmir (by Prof. Hafsa Kanjwal of Lafayette College; Jan. 22), and nature and ecology in Sindh, Pakistan (by Prof. Nosheen Ali of New York Univ.; Feb. 21). We are also inviting Prof. Bedross Der Matossian (Univ. of Nebraska) to give a lecture on the Armenian minorities of the Middle East (tentatively scheduled for April 6). And our very own Prof. Nazita Lajevardi will give a presentation on her forthcoming

book, *Outsiders at Home: The Politics of American Islamophobia*. Speaking of new books, our very own Prof. Mohammed Ayooob has just published (with Danielle Lussier) the second edition of *The Many Faces of Political Islam*.

Book lovers won't want to miss our *Muslim Journeys* Book Club sessions at the East Lansing Public Library (Jan. 29) and MSU Library (Feb. 18, March 10). The session on March 10 will feature the acclaimed author Ausma Zehanat Khan, who will present her popular book *The Unquiet Dead*. And on April 15, we will discuss *What the Eyes Don't See*, an award-winning book about the Flint water crisis. This will serve as a lead-in to our thirteenth annual conference (April 16-17), the theme of which is "Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation." This conference will feature various prominent international scholars. And, finally, on April 23, we will have our second annual student research showcase. I hope to see you soon!

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Graduate Student Spotlight: Juan Maefield

Juan Maefield is a PhD Candidate and Instructor in the Department of African American and African Studies at MSU. He has received several awards including the Honor Scholar of the Year at the University of Michigan–Dearborn (2014) and the Somers Excellence in Teaching Award at Michigan State University (2017). His dissertation research, entitled *Islam in Black Detroit: A Case Study*, examines the lived experiences of African American Muslims in Detroit, Michigan. His study seeks to interrogate the ways in which the sociocultural particularities of the African American community informs their Islamic beliefs and practices.



Spring Calendar of Events *

Cosponsored exhibit: Jan. 10-Feb. 14, SCENE Metrospace: *7500 Miles: An Internal Turn*—a curatorial project co-curated by Parisa Ghaderi and Mahsa Soroudi of artwork made by Iranian women artists

Jan. 16, 1:30pm, 303 International Ctr.: Farina Mir (University of Michigan), “Vernacular Texts on Ethics in Late-Colonial India”

Jan. 22, 7pm, 303 International Ctr.: Hafsa Kanjwal (Lafayette College), “The Crisis in Kashmir”

Cosponsored lecture: Jan. 23, 12:15pm, MSU Museum Auditorium: Salah Hassan, “Middle East to Middle West: Arab Merchants on the US Frontier, 1900-1920”

Cosponsored lecture: Jan. 24, 12pm, 302 International Center: Timur Kocaoglu, “Continuity and Change: The Muslim Reformists (Jadids) of Central Eurasia, 1800-1938”

Jan. 29, 7pm, East Lansing Public Library, Main Meeting Room: *Muslim Journeys Book Club—Internment* by Samira Ahmed, led by Salah Hassan (MSU) and Leila Tarakji (MSU)

Feb. 18, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—Yes, I’m Hot in This: The Hilarious Truth about Life in a Hijab* by Huda Fahmy, led by Mohammad Khalil (MSU)

Feb. 21, 3pm, 201 International Ctr.: Nosheen Ali (New York University), “Seed as Sanctuary: Re-writing Nature and Ecology in Sindh, Pakistan”

Cosponsored conference: Feb. 28, Kellogg Center (Big Ten C): MSU Women of Color Community Conference: “(Re)imagining Our Communities”

March 10, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—The Unquiet Dead* by Ausma Zehanat Khan, led by the author herself

March 12, 12pm, 303 International Ctr.: Nazita Lajevardi (MSU), “Outsiders at Home: The Politics of American Islamophobia” (book talk)

Cosponsored conference: March 27-29, Chicago: Muslim Mental Health Conference

Tentative date: April 6, 7pm, 303 International Center: Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska), “Armenians of the Middle East”

April 15, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): Pre-Conference Book Discussion—*What the Eyes Don’t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City* (a book about the Flint water crisis) by Mona Hanna-Attisha

April 16-17 (details TBA): 13th Annual MSP Conference (Theme: “Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation”)

April 23 (details TBA): Muslim Studies Program Student Research Showcase

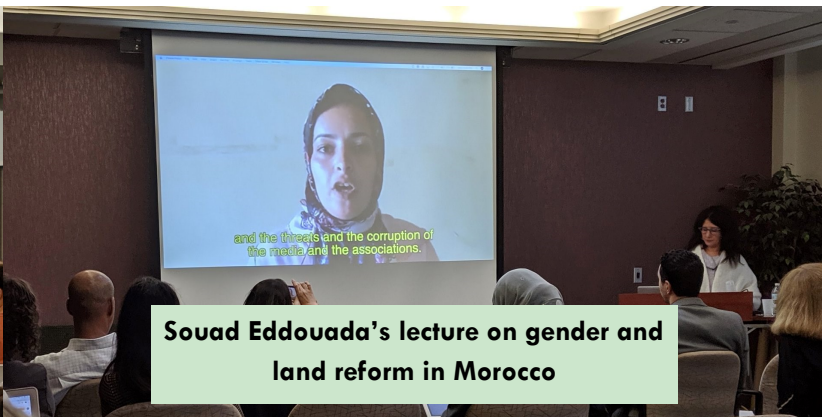
* This is a partial list of our spring events. Sign up for the biweekly e-newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/ci08p1>.

Snapshots of the Fall

"Building Community, Resisting Hate" Teach-In



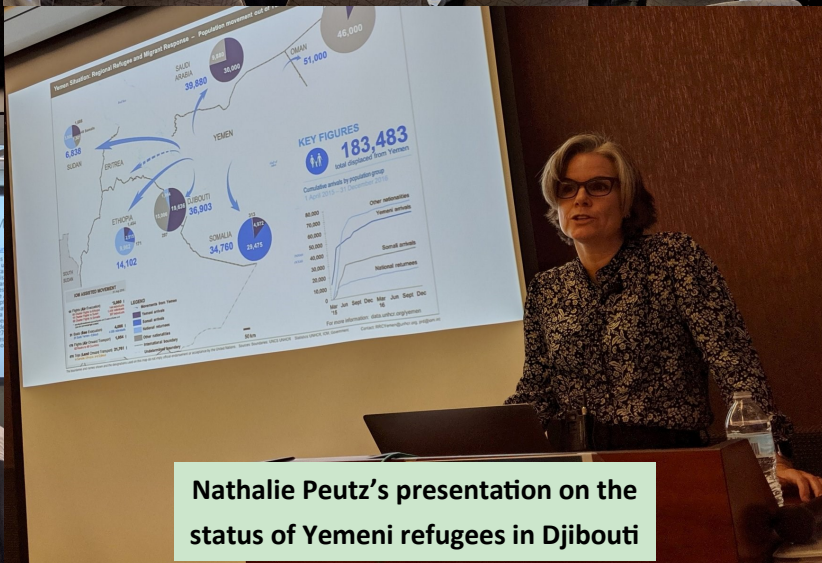
Souad Eddouada's lecture on gender and land reform in Morocco



Muslim Journeys at the MSU Library with Martha Olcott



Nathalie Peutz's presentation on the status of Yemeni refugees in Djibouti



Sarah Hillewaert's lecture on Islam in coastal Kenya



Mohammed Ayoob's presentation on modern India



Farha Abbasi, Deborah Margolis, and Salah Hassan's roundtable on the films American Muslim and The Sinkhole



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.