

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Fall 2015

Volume 3, Issue 1

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Save the Dates

- ♦ **Friday, September 11, 2015, noon-1pm: MSP Meet and Greet Luncheon with featured guest Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, 303 International Center**
- ♦ **Friday, September 18, 2015, 11am-1pm: MSP Core Faculty Meeting, 302 International Center**
- ♦ **April 14-15, 2016: MSP Annual Conference (theme: "Defining the Islamic"; details t.b.a.)**

Message from the Director



This fall the Muslim Studies Program is sponsoring and cosponsoring numerous events that will surely be of interest to many members of our campus community. Among the well-known scholars coming to campus this semester are Aomar Boum, Juan Cole, Zeki Saritoprak, May Seikaly, MSP founding coordinator Mohammed Ayooob, and several prominent speakers participating in the "Muslim Communities in India and South Asia" series, which was organized by our own A. Sean Pue. We are also hosting stand-alone lectures by MSP faculty, including Mara Leichtman and Jamil Hanifi. Please see the Fall 2015 Calendar insert for details.

Thanks to the efforts of our own Deborah Margolis, MSP is also organizing a

"Muslim Journeys" book club throughout this academic year. Please see p. 2 of this newsletter for details, and consider signing up for this wonderful program.

Finally, I would like to invite all interested students, faculty, and staff members to attend our annual Meet and Greet Luncheon (free food!) with featured guest Professor Rajmohan Gandhi on Friday, September 11 at noon in room 303 of the International Center. Last year, MSP invited Professor Gandhi to campus to give an enormously successful lecture on his grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi, and Hindu-Muslim relations. During his visit, MSU offered Professor Gandhi a Visiting Hannah Professorship, an offer he graciously accepted. This fall (from September 8 to October 8) Professor Gandhi will be offering a Madison College course on "Exclusion and Inclusion in Society, Politics and Religion: The South Asian Experience." Please join me in welcoming Professor Gandhi at our Meet and Greet Luncheon.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Retirement of Professor Khalida Zaki

This past academic year, our colleague Professor Khalida Zaki officially retired. An active member of MSP and a true Spartan, Professor Zaki received her Ph.D. from MSU and spent well over two decades as a professor in the MSU Department of Sociology. We will always appreciate her invaluable contributions, including her research on Pakistan and Pakistani Americans, and her memorable 2006 conference on "Islam and Gender." Fortunately for us, she plans to remain in town (though travel often), and we look forward to seeing her at many future MSP events!



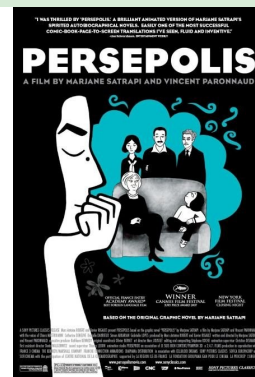
Muslim Journeys Book Club 2015-16

Deborah Margolis, MSU Libraries

Community members, undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited to participate in a new "Muslim Journeys" series, with this year's focus on memoir. This MSP scholar-led book club will begin in October 2015, and be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm in October, November, January, February and March. Each session will start with a short lecture, followed by facilitated book discussion and Q and A.

We will begin by reading *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life* by Ingrid Mattson, with short lecture and discussion facilitated by Associate Professor and Muslim Studies Program director Mohammad Khalil, held at the East Lansing Public Library on October 21. On November 18 Professor Jyotsna Singh will teach the memoir *Istanbul: Memories and the City* by Orhan Pamuk, at the MSU Main Library. Associate Professor Salah Hassan will guide our reading of *House of Stone: A Memoir of Home, Family, and a Lost Middle East* by Anthony Shadid, at the MSU Main Library on January 20. On February 17 we have a special opportunity to read the graphic novel *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi, with lecture and discussion by Associate Professor Emine Evered, followed the next week by a screening and discussion of the animated feature film *Persepolis* (February 25 at 8pm, Wells Hall, in cooperation with MSU Film Studies and MSU Comics Forum). The book club will conclude on March 16 at the East Lansing Public Library with a discussion of *The Butterfly Mosque* by G. Willow Wilson, led by doctoral student Leila Tarakji.

We hope you'll join us for one or up to all five sessions; there's no sign-up required. All programming is free and open to the public, with light refreshments served. For more information, contact MSU Muslim Studies librarian Deborah Margolis (deborahm@msu.edu).



Announcement: DVD Release of Migrations of Islam

***Migrations of Islam: Muslim American Voices in the 21st century* is an hour-long documentary film about the different ways that Muslims in the US are participating in public performances and producing culture. The documentary is set in Michigan and highlights the voices of young Americans who challenge narrow ideas about Muslims in the 21st century.**

***Migrations of Islam* is directed by MSP Professor S. Pillai Eswaran and produced by Professor Salah Hassan, who are available to screen and discuss the film on campuses, in classes, or for community groups. For more information, contact Professor Hassan (hassans3@msu.edu).**



Faculty Accomplishments (2014-15) (Select)

Eric Freedman (Journalism) was promoted to full professor. He also published an article with C. Sultanalieva on "Press Coverage of Environmental News in Kyrgyzstan and the Role of Eco-Nongovernmental Organizations" in *Central Asia and the Caucasus*.

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology) published a book entitled *Shi'i Cosmopolitanisms in Africa: Lebanese Migrations and Religious Conversion in Senegal* (Indiana University Press). She was also a visiting fellow at the Ali Vural Ak Center for Global Islamic Studies at George Mason University in Virginia in the spring of 2015.

Russell Lucas (Linguistics & Languages) served as a Special

Section Editor of the Dec. 2014 issue of the *Journal of Arabian Studies*, in which he had an article entitled "Monarchies and Protests in the Arab Uprisings."

Sammy Mansour (Law) was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor of Law and appointed as Director of LL.M. Curriculum.

Deborah Margolis (Libraries) traveled to Amman and Jerusalem in summer 2015, collecting materials for MSU Libraries and making contacts at libraries in the region. She presented at a conference at the University of Jordan, visited MSU's Arabic study abroad program in Amman, and supported MSU Jewish Studies' study abroad course "Communities, Identities

and Intergroup Relations in Jerusalem and Galilee," taught by recent MSP visiting professor Chen Bram.

A. Sean Pue (Linguistics & Languages) was appointed as Director of Digital Humanities.

Ani Sarkissian (Political Science) was promoted to Associate Professor. She also published a book entitled *The Varieties of Religious Repression: Why Governments Restrict Religion* (Oxford University Press).

Karin Zitzewitz (Art History & Visual Culture) was promoted to Associate Professor.

Snapshots of the 2015 MSP Annual Conference (*Global Halal*)



For footage of the conference, please visit <http://www.muslimsubjects.org/americanhalal/videos/global-halal-conference/>

AWARDS (2014-15)

Student Awards—Charles A. and Marjorie A. Gliozzo Scholarship

Marissa Marinello (Anthropology)

Nicholas Messina (Political Theory)

Faculty Awards

Conference Travel

Brahim Chakrani (Linguistics & Languages)

S. Pillai Eswaran (English)

Emine Evered (History)

Kyle Evered (Geography)

Salah Hassan (English)

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology)

Research Travel

Elizabeth Drexler (Anthropology)

Kyle Evered (Geography)

Course Buyout

A. Sean Pue (Linguistics & Languages)

Camelia Suleiman (Linguistics & Languages)

MSP 2015-16 awards announcements will be circulated in late September, with a deadline of Dec. 19

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.



Contact information:

Muslim Studies Program
Michigan State University
International Center
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 304
East Lansing, MI 48824
<http://muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/>

Phone: 517-884-6636

Fax: 517-432-8249

Email: muslimst@msu.edu

Director: Mohammad H. Khalil
khalilmo@msu.edu

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.

The Muslim Studies Program Fall 2015 Calendar

Wed. Sept. 9, 5pm, 303 International Center: "The Middle East Today" panel featuring Mohammed Ayoob, Juan Cole, Abdalmajid Katranji, and May Seikaly

Fri. Sept. 11, noon, 303 International Center: Muslim Studies Program Meet and Greet Luncheon with featured guest Professor Rajmohan Gandhi

Thu. Sept. 17, 4pm, 303 International Center: Azfar Moin, "Sacred Kingship and Ritual Violence: A Comparison across Islam and Hinduism"

Mon. Sept. 21, 2pm, 303 International Center: M. Jamil Hanifi, "Western Colonialism and Afghanistan: Colonial Inheritance of Mountstuart Elphinstone's 1809 Visit to the "Kingdom of Caubul"

Mon. Sept. 28, 7pm, Case Hall (Club Spartan): "Iran Nuclear Deal" panel featuring Russell Lucas, Yael Aronoff, and Sherman Garnett

Tue. Sept. 29, 6pm, Broad Art Museum (Education Wing): "Past Forward: Contemporary Art from the Emirates"

Wed. Sept. 30, 6:30pm, 303 International Center: Zeki Saritoprak, "Islam's Jesus"

Thu. Oct. 8, 4pm, A-108 Wells: Anand Taneja (Vanderbilt), "The Small Voices of History: Rekhti Poetry, a Dargah amongst Ruins, and Letters Written to Jinns"

Tue. Oct. 20, 4pm, 303 International Center: Syed Nomanul Haq, "Image of the Divine in Sindhi Folk Tales and Sufi Poetry"

Wed. Oct. 21, 7pm, East Lansing Public Library: Muslim Journeys book discussion with Mohammad Khalil

Thu. Oct. 29, 4pm, A-108 Wells: SherAli Tareen, "Contesting Tradition in Modern South Asian Islam"

Mon. Nov. 2, 7pm, 303 International Center: Aomar Boum, "Partners against Anti-Semitism: North African Jews and Muslims Respond to the Vichy-Nazi Alliance"

Thu. Nov. 5, 4pm, A-108 Wells: William Elison, "Purdah, Poets, Parody: The Image of the Muslim in Amar Akbar Anthony"

Tue. Nov. 10, 3pm, 303 International Center: Mara Leichtman, "Shi'i Cosmopolitanisms in Africa: Lebanese Migration and Religious Conversion in Senegal"

Thu. Nov. 12, 4pm, A-108 Wells: Manan Ahmed Asif, "Founding Nation, Founding History: Pakistan and the Origins of Islam in South Asia"

Wed. Nov. 18, 7pm, MSU Library: Muslim Journeys book discussion with Jyotsna Singh

Asian Studies Colloquium on **Muslim Communities in India and South Asia** *Fall 2015*

This colloquium series will bring to Michigan State University outstanding scholars working in fields related to South Asian religious life, culture, anthropology, and history. Their presentations contribute to a course on Muslim Communities in India and South Asia (REL 345), which explores the diverse communities of Muslim thought and practice in a multi-religious context. Islam's plurality and its relationships to political power, cultural diversity, and changing modes of expression are central concerns. **All presentation times are 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

*Sacred Kingship and Ritual
Violence: A comparison across
Islam and Hinduism*

Azfar Moin

September 17, 2015

303 International Center

*The Small Voices of History:
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Anand Taneja

October 8, 2015

Wells Hall A108

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November 12, 2015

Wells Hall A108

*Purdah, Poets, Parody: The
Image of The Muslim in Amar*

Akbar Anthony

William Elison

December 3, 2015

Wells Hall A108

For more information contact the Asian Studies Center

Asian Studies Center

Global Studies in the Arts & Humanities

Muslim Studies Program

Department of Religious Studies

Department of History

Department of English and Film Studies

Sponsored by

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