

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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Save the Dates

- ◆ **Friday, February 2nd, Noon to 1pm, 303 International Center: Muslim Studies Program Meet & Greet Luncheon (all interested students, faculty, and staff are welcome)**
- ◆ **April 9-11 (details t.b.a.): Muslim Studies Program (Pre-Conference) Film Festival**
- ◆ **April 12-13 (details t.b.a.): The Eleventh Annual Muslim Studies Program Conference (Theme: "Locating Muslim Cinema(s)")**

Message from the Director



Do you like movies? If so, mark your calendars for the second week of April. On April 9-11, the Muslim Studies Program will screen various films and offer commentary by leading scholars. Then on April 12-13, we will host our 11th annual conference, the theme of which is "Locating Muslim Cinema(s)." The conference theme was proposed by our own Marc Bernstein (Linguistics & Languages), Camelia Suleiman (Linguistics & Languages), and S. Eswaran Pillai (English). The keynote speaker will be Walter Armbrust (Oxford University); the various presenters were selected following an international Call for Proposals.

Faculty Spotlight: Tamar Boyadjian

Tamar Boyadjian is an assistant professor in the MSU Department of English. Her research and teaching interests focus on medieval literature and culture—most prominently on the literary intersections between Europe and the Middle East in the medieval period. Her work examines the way in which medieval European literature imagined the medieval Middle East and vice versa, interrogating questions of literary and spatial representations of different ethno-religious cultures across the medieval Mediterranean world. Her forthcoming book (2018) entitled *The City Lament: Lamenting Jerusalem in the Medieval Mediterranean*, examines the re-presentation of the city of Jerusalem in narratives produced during the crusades in the English, French, Latin, Arabic, and Armenian traditions.



Do you like books? If so, you don't want to miss this year's *Muslim Journeys* Book Club events at the MSU Library, organized by our own Deborah Margolis.

Do you like lectures that are both scholarly and fascinating? If so, be sure to check out Tamar Boyadjian's (English) February 8th lecture "Lamenting Jerusalem in the Medieval Mediterranean" (see her faculty profile below); Charles Butterworth's (Univ. of Maryland) March 20th lecture on "Philosophy and Religion" in the teachings of the medieval philosophers Alfarabi and Averroes; and a March 29th lecture by Rudolph "Butch" Ware (Univ. of Michigan), author of *The Walking Qur'an*.

Do you like meeting new people (and eating free food)? If so, I hope to see you at our Meet & Greet Luncheon on February 2nd!

Please see p. 2 for our (current) spring calendar of events.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil



Spring Calendar of Events

Cosponsored event: Jan. 17, 7pm, 303 International Ctr.: Jonathan Brockopp (Penn State), “Religion, Ethics, and Climate Change”

Jan. 23, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—A Golden Age* by Tahmima Anam, led by Cara Cilano (English)

Feb. 2, Noon to 1pm, 303 International Ctr.: Muslim Studies Program Meet & Greet Luncheon

Feb. 6, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—The Bosnia List* by Kenan Trebincevic with Susan Shapiro, led by Amy Simon (History; Madison College)

Feb. 8, Noon, 303 International Ctr.: Tamar Boyadjian (English), “Lamenting Jerusalem in the Medieval Mediterranean”

Feb. 22, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—The Arab of the Future: A Childhood in the Middle East (1978-1984)* by Riad Sattouf, led by Emine Evered (History)

March 13, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club—This Muslim American Life* by Moustafa Bayoumi, led by Leila Tarakji (English)

Cosponsored event: March 14, 7pm, Case Hall (room t.b.a.): Antisemitism and Islamophobia panel

Cosponsored conference: March 15-17, United States Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C.: 10th Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference (Theme: “Out of the Shackles: Pursuit of Civil Justice in the Face of Psychological Trauma”)

March 20, Noon, 303 International Center: Charles Butterworth (Maryland), “Philosophy and Religion: Milk-Sisters or Mortal Enemies?” (an exploration of the teachings of Abu Nasr Alfarabi and Abu al-Walid Ibn Rushd, or Averroes)

Cosponsored Event: March 26 (details t.b.a.): Film Screening of *Thrust into Heaven*, followed by discussion with director Jürgen Schaflechner (Princeton)

March 27, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys Book Club Lecture—Mohammad Khalil (Religious Studies), “Jihad in Islamic Scripture and Thought”*

March 29 (details t.b.a.): A Lecture by Rudolph “Butch” Ware (University of Michigan), author of *The Walking Qur’an*

April 9-11 (details t.b.a.): Muslim Studies Program (Pre-Conference) Film Festival

April 12-13 (details t.b.a.): 11th Annual MSP Conference (Theme: “Locating Muslim Cinema(s)”) featuring keynote speaker Walter Armbrust (Oxford) and the following presenters: Sharofat Arabova (Tajikistan), Kaveh Askari (MSU), Imed Ben Labidi (Doha Institute), Fakhri Haghani (Rutgers), Amir Hussain (Loyola Marymount), Kristian Petersen (Nebraska), and Sitara Thobani (MSU)

Snapshots of the Fall



Muslim Journeys at the MSU Library!



Sitara Thobani poses a question to Laura Fair on cinema in Colonial Tanzania



“American. Muslim.” panel



Cara Cilano on minority groups in Pakistan

A student poses a question to Mohammad Khalil on the topic of jihad



“The Middle East Today” panel

Photo credit: Mary Firdaws



2nd Study Abroad in Dubai

MSP Core faculty members Russell Lucas (Global Studies; Madison College) and Camelia Suleiman (Linguistics & Languages) recently completed a very successful winter Study Abroad Program in Dubai. This was the second ever MSP-sponsored Study Abroad program. (Photo credit: Russell Lucas.)

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.