

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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UNIVERSITY

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Save the Dates

- ♦ See p. 2 for our spring calendar events
- ♦ Feb. 19-21, MSP Annual Conference ("Global Halal: Muslims and the Cultural Politics of the Permissible"), 303 International Center and Kellogg Center (Red Cedar AB, Auditorium)
- ♦ March 26-29, Muslim Mental Health Conference, Dearborn Inn (20301 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, Michigan)

Message from the Director



Following a remarkable fall semester that featured well-attended presentations by scholars such as Rajmohan Gandhi, Juan Cole, Arzoo Osanloo, Jonathan Brown, and our very own Mohammed Ayoob, we at the Muslim Studies Program are looking forward to an equally exciting spring semester. Our calendar (see p. 2) features, among other events, lectures by Olga Bush, Sally Howell, Alisa Perkins, Omid Safi, and Mark Tessler; a panel on the history of the African-American Muslim community in the Greater Lansing area; the 2015 Muslim Mental Health Conference; and various presentations by MSP faculty. Our signature event, however, is the annual MSP conference. The theme

of this year's conference—as proposed by our own Salah Hassan (English)—is *Global Halal: Muslims and the Cultural Politics of the Permissible* (see p. 2 for details). In addition to six panels, the conference features keynote speeches by four world-renowned scholars of Islamic studies: Kecia Ali, John Esposito, Sherman Jackson, and Ingrid Mattson.

Finally, I am happy to report that a team of Muslim Studies Program faculty has been awarded a grant by the Humanities Without Walls consortium (which is itself funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation). This grant will be used to fund a MSP research endeavor with the self-explanatory title *Muslims in the Midwest: An Oral History Project*. MSU is the lead institution in this venture, and we will be collaborating with researchers at the University of Illinois, Indiana University, and Purdue University.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Student Profile: Leila Tarakji

Leila Tarakji is a doctoral candidate in the Department of English at Michigan State University and is a recipient of the University Distinguished Fellowship. Her research is committed towards the development of Muslim American literature studies and its role within a broader field of ethnic literary studies. Her most recent project considers how the tradition's contemporary poetry records the transnational circuits that define Muslim American cultural memories and affective histories. She will be a presenter at the annual Muslim Studies Conference, *Global Halal: Muslims and the Cultural Politics of the Permissible* (see p. 2 for details).



Spring Calendar of Events

January 22 (7pm), East Lansing Public Library
Houria Hassouna, "Egyptian History, the Pharaohs, and the Forgotten Beyond"

January 29 (noon), 303 International Center
"Syria and ISIS" panel: Russell Lucas and Amr Al-Azm

February 19-21, 303 International Center and Kellogg Center (Red Cedar AB, Auditorium)
MSP Annual Conference: "Global Halal: Muslims and the Cultural Politics of the Permissible"

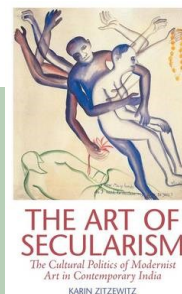
February 25 (4pm), 303 International Center
Sean Pue, "A 'Punjabi' Critique of Sufi Idioms: N. M. Rashed and Urdu Literary Tradition"

March 2 (7pm), 303 International Center
Panel of Lansing area residents, "A History of the African-American Muslim Community in Greater Lansing"

March 18 (4pm), 303 International Center
Alisa Perkins, "Islam in the Urban Sensorium: Sounds, Space, and Citizenship in Muslim America"

Announcement

MSP is delighted to announce that Professor Karin Zitzewitz's monograph *The Art of Secularism: The Cultural Politics of Modernist Art in Contemporary India* (Oxford University Press) was selected by *New Republic* as one of 2014's "Best Books for Understanding Our Complicated World." In the words of Kapil Komireddi, "Zitzewitz brilliantly traces the tragedy of India's political and cultural degeneration through the evolving work of its most influential painters."



Schedule for the 2015 MSP Annual Conference ("Global Halal")

All events are free and open to the public.

Thursday, February 19, 2015

3:30 - 4:00 – International Center (room 303):
Welcoming/opening remarks
4:00 - 5:30 – Panel 1: Re-imagining Muslimness in Diaspora

6:00 - 7:30 – Opening
Keynote: John Esposito, "Islam and Shariah in American Popular Culture: Halal or Haram?"

Friday, February 20, 2015

9:00 – 9:15 – International Center (room 303): Welcome
9:15 – 10:45 – Panel 2: Global Halal Markets

11:00 -12:00 – Keynote 2:
Kecia Ali, "Redeeming Slavery: ISIS and the Quest for Islamic Morality"

1:30 – 3:00 – Panel 3: Ethics and Traditions

3:15 – 4:45 Panel 4:
Negotiating Halal in the Arts

7:00 – 9:00 – Kellogg Center (Auditorium): Keynotes 3 and

4: Ingrid Mattson, "Let's Get Real: The Body as the Locus of Ethical Action"; and Sherman A. Jackson, "Beyond Halal: Shariah and the Challenge of the Islamic Secular"

Saturday, February 21, 2015

9:30 – 10:45 – Kellogg Center (Red Cedar AB): Panel 5: Law, Power, and Belonging
11:00-12:30 – Panel 6: Halal Meat Industry in International Contexts

Snapshots of the Fall

Rajmohan Gandhi, "Gandhi, Modi, and the Hindu-Muslim Question"



Sohail Hashmi, "Islam, Constitutionalism, and the Quest for Democracy"



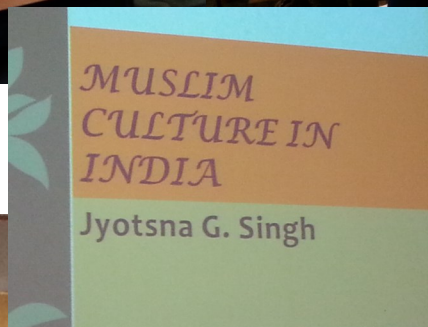
MSP Faculty Panel



Arzoo Osanloo, "Forgiveness in Iranian Criminal Sanctioning"



"Tour the Muslim World" series



at the East Lansing Public Library

Jonathan Brown, "Misquoting Muhammad"



MSP Meet and Greet



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.