

# Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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UNIVERSITY

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## Message from the Director



We must carry on in these challenging times. To this end, the Muslim Studies Program is preparing various virtual events this fall. Our “Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation” conference has been rescheduled for October 15 - 16 (8am-12noon both days). But before then, Zahra Ayubi (Dartmouth) will present her new book, *Gendered Morality: Classical Islamic Ethics of Self, Family, and Society* (September 22, 6:30pm). Kyle Evered will discuss “Peasants, Poppies, and Popular Expressions of Turkish Nationalism amid the First Salvo in America’s ‘War on Drugs’” (Oct. 2, 3pm). And we will have our first *Muslim Journeys* book

club discussion on October 13 (see p. 2 for details). Later, Nazita Lajevardi will present her new book, *Outsiders at Home: The Politics of American Islamophobia* (October 29, 7pm). This will be followed by a lecture by Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) on “Armenians of Palestine/Israel: The Rise and the Decline of a Community” (Nov. 10, 12pm). One week later, Brahim Chakrani will discuss “Language Accommodation: Analyzing the Role of Attitudes in Interdialectal Arabic Encounters” (Nov. 17, 12pm). Looking ahead, you don’t want to miss our 14th annual conference, the theme of which is “Global Islamophobia and the News Media, Entertainment Media, and Social Media” (April 8-9, 2021). **To register for these and other events (all public and free of charge), please visit <https://muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/about/reg-links>.**

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

## Save the Dates

- ◆ **Sept. 22, 6:30pm: Zahra Ayubi, Gendered Morality & Islamic Ethics**
- ◆ **Oct. 2, 3pm: Kyle Evered, Poppies & Turkish Nationalism**
- ◆ **Oct. 13, 7pm: Muslim Journeys**
- ◆ **Oct.15-16: 13th Annual Conference: Islam, Environmental Science, & Conservation**
- ◆ **Oct. 29, 7pm: Nazita Lajevardi, Outsiders at Home: The Politics of American Islamophobia**
- ◆ **Nov. 10, 12pm: Bedross Der Matossian, Armenians of Palestine/Israel**
- ◆ **Nov. 17, 12pm: Brahim Chakrani, Language Accommodation**
- ◆ **April 8-9, 2021: 14th Annual Conference: Global Islamophobia & the Media**

## Muslims of the Midwest

We are delighted to announce the launch of *Muslims of the Midwest* ([muslimsofthemidwest.org](https://muslimsofthemidwest.org)). This digital archive features numerous interviews and resources that will surely be of interest to scholars and students alike. The archive is housed at Michigan State University and was largely funded by a University of Illinois Humanities Without Walls grant (which itself was funded by Mellon). Our team of Big Ten Academic Alliance researchers included Su’ad Abdul Khabeer (UM), Emine Evered (MSU), Stephen Gasteyer (MSU), Salah Hassan (MSU), Mara Leichtman (MSU), Nadine Naber (UI-Chicago), Junaid Rana (UI-Urbana-Champaign), Leila Tarakji (MSU), and Chantal Tetreault (MSU).



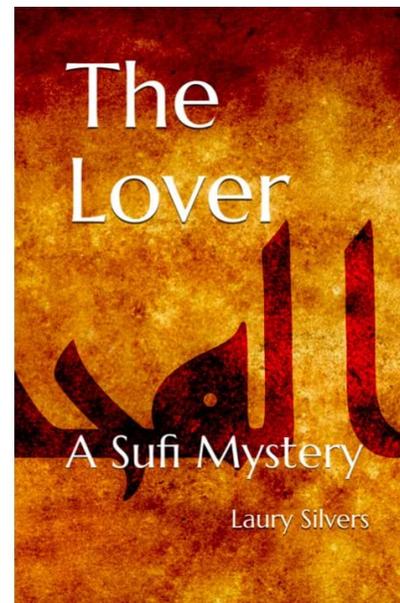
## Muslim Journeys Book and Film Discussion Series (2020-21)

Zoë McLaughlin, MSU Libraries and Muslim Studies Program

This fall, we're beginning our *Muslim Journeys* discussion group with the Great Michigan Read, *What the Eyes Don't See* by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha on the Flint water crisis—a topic relevant to the mid-October conference on “Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation.” This event was postponed in the spring and will now be going forward in an online format (October 13, 7pm-9pm). Professor Stephen Gasteyer of the Department of Sociology will give us context for the book, before we break into smaller groups for more discussion. Join us for an evening examining how public health and public health crises impact marginalized communities and communities of color. Registration information coming soon. Graduate students continue to play an active role in shaping the series, including leading discussions and suggesting books and films to be covered.

In the spring semester, we will continue to feature books written by women, including *The Lover* by Laury Silvers and a comic in conjunction with the MSU Comics Forum. The complete schedule is forthcoming and we hope to see you at our future events! All are welcome to participate in this free campus-community humanities programming.

Zoë McLaughlin can be reached at [mclau197@msu.edu](mailto:mclau197@msu.edu).



## Faculty Accomplishments (2019-20) (Select)

**Brahim Chakrani** (Linguistics & Languages) was elected to serve a two-year term as President of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (AATA), an eminent international association that was established in 1966.

**Emine Evered** (History) and **Kyle Evered** (Geography) published an article in *Journal of Historical Geography* on “tubercular geographies and gender in late Ottoman Turkey.” They also co-authored a chapter on “the shifting symbolism and spaces of beer in modern Turkey,” in W. Ernst (ed.), *Alcohol Flows across Cultures: Drinking Cultures in Transnational and Comparative Perspective* (Routledge).

**Salah Hassan** (English) was appointed Director of Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities at MSU.

**Nazita Lajevardi** (Political Science) published a book entitled *Outsiders at Home: The Politics of American Islamophobia* (Cambridge University Press).

**Mara Leichtman** (Anthropology) was awarded an ACLS/Luce fellowship and will be a 2020-21 Fellow of the Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism, and International Affairs for her book project entitled “Humanitarian Islam: Transnational Religion and Kuwaiti Development Projects in Africa.” She was also invited to write an epilogue entitled “Shi’a Cosmopolitanisms and Conversions,” in O. Scharbrodt and Y. Shanneik’s (eds.) recently published volume, *Shi’a Minorities in the Contemporary World: Migration, Transnationalism and Multilocality* (Edinburgh University Press).

**Deborah Margolis** (Libraries) received a US Fulbright Scholar award for “Creative Spaces for Diverse Students in Jordan, Palestine, and the United States: A Youth Participatory Action Research and Exchange Project.”

**Stephanie Nawyn** (Sociology) received a grant from Elrha, a UK-based foundation, to study how well practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are being implemented in refugee humanitarian interventions. The title of the project is “Using Humanitarian Engineering to Solve Social Distancing Barriers in Refugee Humanitarian Interventions: A Cross-Country Comparison of Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan.” Nawyn is the PI, **Stephen Gasteyer** (Sociology) is the Co-PI. Gasteyer was also a presenter for an Institute for Palestine Studies panel entitled “Denying Life: The Annexation of Palestinian Water.”

## Snapshots of Spring 2020



### **AWARDS (2019-20)**

#### **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 2020-21 awards announcements will be circulated in late September, with a deadline of Dec. 28.**

## 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](mailto:elrayes@msu.edu)) prior to enrollment in any course. For more information, please visit:

[muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/students/undergrad-specialization](http://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.