

Muslim Studies

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

Fall 2024

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Message from the Director



The Muslim Studies Program is preparing for another eventful fall semester (please see the newsletter insert for details). Among other things, we are hosting the 53rd annual meeting of the North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS) (Oct. 24; please see below). We are also coordinating with the African Studies Center to host Afis Oladosu (University of Ibadan), who will give a lecture on "Islam in Nigeria qua Africa: On Being and Becoming in the 21st Century" (Nov. 7). Working with MSU Libraries, we are preparing for two *Muslim Journeys* events this fall (Sept. 25 and Nov. 19; please see p. 2 and the insert for details). Incidentally, one of these events involves a tour of the new Samia Halaby exhibition at the Broad Art Museum. Following this event, Samia Halaby herself (an MSU alum) will return to campus to give an Artist Talk on October 16. Earlier that

same day, we are co-organizing another event: a screening and discussion of *The Neighborhood Storyteller*. This documentary film offers a glimpse into the life of Asmaa, a Syrian woman who served as a "neighborhood storyteller" in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. We are also working to co-organize a screening and discussion of *I'm Not the River Jhelum* (Oct. 2), which offers a reflection on life in Kashmir. Toward the end of the semester (Nov. 15), the Palestinian American poet Zaina Alsous will deliver a lecture/performance.

As in the past, we are co-organizing an MSU Conversations series on combatting antisemitism and Islamophobia (please see the newsletter insert for details).

Looking ahead, you don't want to miss our 18th annual conference, the theme of which is "Aesthetics of Solidarity by Arab American and Arab/SWANA Diaspora Artists in the US" (April 9-11). And on January 21, we will host Ilyasah Shabazz, an author, activist, and daughter of Malcolm X. She will be the featured speaker of our 4th Annual Malcolm X Muslim Studies Community Forum.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil, Director

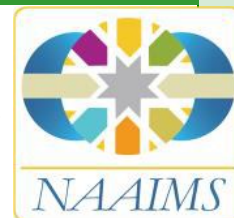
Save the Dates

- ♦ **Sept. 27, 11am, 304 International Center: MSP Core Faculty Meeting**
- ♦ **Jan. 21, 2025, 7pm, Erickson Kiva: 4th Annual Malcolm X Muslim Studies Community Forum with Ilyasah Shabazz**
- ♦ **April 9-11, 2025, Location TBA: 18th Annual Conference: "Aesthetics of Solidarity by Arab American and Arab/SWANA Diaspora Artists in the US, 1948–Present"**
- ♦ **Please stay tuned for details regarding the 4th Annual Malcolm and Ann Kerr Muslim Studies Community Lecture.**

MSU to Host the 53rd Annual NAAIMS Conference

The MSU Muslim Studies Program and Global Studies in the Arts & Humanities have been selected to host the 53rd annual meeting of the North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS). The conference will be held virtually on October 24, 2024. The theme of the conference is "Palestine, Israel, and Questions of Free Speech and Interreligious Relations." The keynote speaker will be Noura Erakat (Rutgers University).

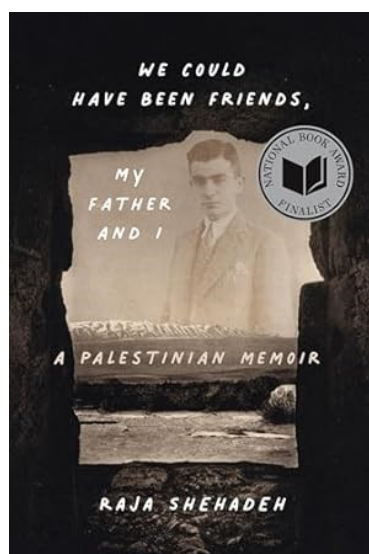
For details, please visit <https://naaims.org/53rd-annual-conference> and see the newsletter insert. Free registration: https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uF0JMmACS4mrIPII8Uw9MA#/registration



Muslim Journeys Book and Art Events, 2024-25

Deborah Margolis, Middle East and Religious Studies Librarian

This fall, *Muslim Journeys* is excited to offer a curator-led tour of the *Samia Halaby: Eye Witness* exhibition at the MSU Broad Art Museum with curator and Muslim Studies faculty member Rachel Winter on Wednesday, September 25th, between 6 and 8pm. Journey through noted abstract painter Samia Halaby's life as an art student at MSU, through her time in the Midwest and the East Coast, including visits back to Palestine and the Arab World. Registration is limited; [signup is via the library website \(lib.msu.edu\)](#), Events & Workshops calendar.



To continue learning about Palestinian history and experiences, on Tuesday, November 19th, at 7pm at the MSU Main Library, we will have a scholar-led book discussion event with Muslim Studies faculty member Saleem Alhabash of the MSU College of Communication Arts & Sciences. We will read and discuss human rights lawyer and writer Raja Shehadeh's *We Could Have Been Friends, My Father and I: A Palestinian Memoir*.

In the early spring, Muslim Journeys is pleased to be a part of the Muslim Studies Program's Malcolm X Community Forum featuring Ilyasah Shabazz on Tuesday, January 21st, at 7pm at the Erikson Kiva. The week before her visit, we'll read and discuss her latest young adult novel about her father, *The Awakening of Malcolm X* (written with Tiffany D. Jackson). University Distinguished Professor Pero Dagbovie, a public historian, will lead our discussion at the East Lansing Public Library on Thursday, January 16th.

All are welcome to read, listen, and share! Please contact me at deborahm@msu.edu if you have any questions.

Faculty Accomplishments (2023-24) (Select)

Farha Abbasi (Psychiatry) was recognized as a Detroit Crain Health Hero, received a Profile in Courage Assembly Award by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the APA Foundation.

Mohammed Ayooob (James Madison College) published a book entitled *From Regional Security to Global IR: An Intellectual Journey* (Lynne Rienner, 2024).

Elizabeth Drexler (Anthropology) published a book entitled *Infrastructure of Impunity* (Cornell University Press, 2024).

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology) received a fellowship from the Aarhus University Research Foundation and will be spending Fall 2024 as a visiting researcher in

Denmark. She will be writing her next book on "Humanitarian Islam: Transnational Religion and Kuwaiti Development Projects in Africa" while collaborating on a project entitled "Studying Transregional Shi'a Relations between the Arab World and Africa."

Rajiv Ranjan (Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures) was promoted to associate professor.

Noreen Naseem Rodriguez (College of Education) was awarded a \$3.5 million grant from the Spencer Foundation to focus on the implementation of Asian American Studies programs in K-12 classrooms.

Linda Sayed (James Madison College) received the all-MSU Teacher-Scholar Award.

Riyad Shahjahan (College of Education) was promoted to full professor. He also published articles in *Higher Education*, *Comparative Education Review*, *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*, *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*, and *Educational Philosophy and Theory*.

Rachel Winter (Broad Art Museum) published a co-edited volume in March 2024 entitled *Samia Halaby: Centers of Energy*, which was supported by an MSU HARP Production Grant. She also published an article on Halil Altindere's *Space Refugee* in *International Journal of Islamic Architecture* and gave a keynote lecture on Samia Halaby at the Global New Voices Conference hosted by the Association for Art History.

Snapshots of Spring 2024

17th annual conference ("Researching Muslim America")



6th Annual MSP Student Research Showcase



Samira Fathi discusses the "Poetics of Place in Isfahan"



Rudi Matthee presents "A History of Alcohol in the Muslim Middle East"



Muslim Journeys with Christina Myers and Nura Sediqe at the East Lansing Public Library



Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf visits the Broad after delivering the 3rd annual Malcolm X keynote to nearly 200 attendees in the Erickson Kiva



Check out our YouTube channel: MSU Muslim Studies Program, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYOZ94QYGrp7JIxbQ27h5A>.

AWARDS (2023-24)

Undergraduate Student Award—Charles A. and Marjorie A. Gliozzo Scholarship

Brendan Amin

Undergraduate Student Paper Prize (awarded at the MSP Student Research Showcase in April 2024)

Eleanor Pugh

Graduate Student Paper Prize (awarded at the MSP Student Research Showcase in April 2024)

Farzaneh Ebrahimzadeh Holasu

Faculty Conference Travel Award

Waseem El-Rayes (James Madison College), Emine Evered (History), Kyle Evered (Geography), Najib Hourani (Anthropology), Sadam Issa (LiLaC), Mara Leichtman (Anthropology), Leila Tarakji (Religious Studies), and Rachel Winter (Broad Art Museum)

Faculty Research Travel Award

Elizabeth Drexler (Anthropology)

Faculty Course Buyout Award

Russell Lucas (James Madison College)

MSP 2024-25 faculty award announcements will be circulated in late September, with a deadline of Jan. 6.

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 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:

<https://muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/students/msp-student-resources>.

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.