

# Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

MICHIGAN STATE  
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## Save the Dates

- ♦ **Friday, Sept. 12,**  
**11am-1pm: MSP Core**  
**Faculty Meeting, 302**  
**International Center**
- ♦ **Friday, Oct. 17,**  
**12pm-1pm: MSP**  
**Faculty-Student Meet &**  
**Greet Luncheon, 303**  
**International Center**
- ♦ **Thursday, Nov. 13,**  
**1pm-3pm: MSP Faculty**  
**Panel, 303 International**  
**Center (presenters to be**  
**announced)**

## Message from the Director



Following a successful spring semester that featured our annual conference (the theme being *Journeys of Practice*), we at the Muslim Studies Program are looking forward to an exciting fall. Our calendar of events (see p. 2) features lectures and presentations by a wide variety of prominent figures, such as Rajmohan Gandhi, a biographer and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi; Diana Matar and Natan Dvir, both fascinating artists; Jack Shaheen, author of *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*; Sayed Kashua, a popular Israeli Arab writer; Juan Cole, founder of the weblog *Informed Comment*; Arzoo Osanloo, author of *The Politics of*

*Women's Rights in Iran*; Jonathan Brown, author of the popular book *Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction*; Sohail Hashmi, an important thinker in the field of international relations; and our very own Mohammed Ayoub.

In addition, and as part of our outreach mission, we have organized a fall lecture series at the East Lansing Public Library. This program, entitled *A Tour of the Muslim World*, will feature a showing of Salah Hassan and S. Eswaran Pillai's film *Migrations of Islam* and lectures by our faculty, including our distinguished colleague Jyotsna Singh.

Finally, I would like to invite all interested students, faculty, and staff members to attend both our annual Meet and Greet Luncheon on October 17 and our faculty panel on November 13 (see the *Save the Dates* section on this page for details).

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

## Thanking Julia Grimm; Welcoming Nick Adkins

This past spring, MSP bid farewell to our beloved staff member Julia Grimm. Julia joined MSP in 2010 and consistently went above and beyond the call of duty for the sake of the Program. Her contributions were invaluable. Thankfully, she has not gone far: she accepted a position in the Asian Studies Center.

MSP is delighted to

welcome Julia's successor, Nick Adkins. Nick is an alumnus of MSU and has been with International Studies and Programs since August 2013. Nick is now a full-time staff member and splits his role as administrative lead between the MSP and two other units.

We will truly miss Julia. And we are truly fortunate to have Nick on board.



## Fall Calendar of Events

September 9 (7pm), MSU Library, North Conf. Rm.  
Diana Matar, "Evidence: Photography and Political Disappearance"

September 11 (5:30pm), 145 CAS  
Jack Shaheen, "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People"

September 18 (7pm), MSU Library, North Conf. Rm.  
Jonathan Brown, "Misquoting Muhammad: Violence and Heavenly Reward in the Islamic Tradition"

September 19 (3:30pm), 303 International Center  
"The Conflict in Iraq" panel: Mohammed Ayooob, Juan Cole, Jihan Mohammed

September 29 (4pm), 208 IM West  
Sayed Kashua, "Being a Palestinian Israeli"

October 2 (4pm), 322 South Case Hall  
Sohail Hashmi, "Islam, Constitutionalism, and the Quest for Democracy"

October 7 (7pm), 303 International Center  
Rajmohan Gandhi, "Mahatma Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the Hindu-Muslim Question"

October 14 (7pm), EL Public Library  
Jyotsna Singh, "India's Muslim Culture and the Recent Elections"

October 21 (7pm), MSU Library, North Conf. Rm.  
A presentation by artist Natan Dvir

October 30 (7pm), EL Public Library  
Mohammad Khalil, "A Tour of the Muslim World through Music Videos"

November 5 (4pm), 303 International Center  
Arzoo Osanloo, "Forgiveness in Iranian Criminal Sanctioning"

November 10 (7pm), EL Public Library  
Salah Hassan and E. Pillai present their documentary film *Migrations of Islam*

Looking Ahead...

February 19-21, 303 International Center  
MSP Annual Conference: *Global Halal: An International Conference on Muslims and the Cultural Politics of the Permissible*  
Keynote speakers: Kecia Ali, John Esposito, Sherman Jackson, and Ingrid Mattson

## Faculty Accomplishments (2013-14) (Select)

**Kyle Evered** (Geography)  
published an article on water drainage and malaria in early republican Ankara in *Cultural Geographies*.

**Mara Leichtman** (Anthropology)  
was promoted to associate professor and published an article in *Contemporary Islam* on Shi'i Islamic cosmopolitanism and religious authority in Senegal.

**Ani Sarkissian** (Political Science)  
joined Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs as a Project Scholar for the Religious Freedom Project.

**Salah Hassan** (English) produced the documentary film *Migrations of Islam* (March 2014) and published a chapter on Muslim American literature in *Culture, Diaspora and Modernity in Muslim Writing* (Routledge).

**Sean Pue** (Linguistics and Languages) was promoted to associate professor and published a book entitled *I Too Have Some Dreams: N M Rashed and Modernism in Urdu Poetry* (University of California Press).

**Karin Zitzewitz** (Art History and Visual Culture) published three editions of her book *The Art of Secularism: The Cultural Politics of Modernist Art in Contemporary India* (Oxford University Press; Hurst & Co.). She also curated the exhibition *Mithu Sen: Border Unseen* at the Broad Art Museum.

## Snapshots of the 2014 MSP Annual Conference (*Journeys of Practice*)



### AWARDS (2013-14)

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

Danielle Klein (Women and Gender Studies; Anthropology)

Brady Ryan (Arabic; Economics)

#### Faculty Awards

#### Conference Travel

Brahim Chakrani (Linguistics & Languages)

Emine Evered (History)

Kyle Evered (Geography)

Salah Hassan (English)

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology)

Karin Zitzewitz (Art History & Visual Culture)

#### Research Travel

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology)

Camelia Suleiman (Linguistics & Languages)

#### Course Buyout

Salah Hassan (English)

Chantal Tetreault (Anthropology)

**MSP 2014-15 funding notification will be sent out mid-September, with a deadline of Oct. 25; Gliozzo, Dec. 15**



## 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](mailto:elrayes@msu.edu)) prior to enrollment in any course. For more information, please visit: [muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/academics/](http://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.