

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Fall 2019

Volume 7, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Muslim Journeys	2
Book and Film Series	
Faculty Accomplishments	2
Snapshots of the 2019 MSP Conference	3
Awards	3
History and Mission	4
Undergraduate Minor	4

Save the Dates

- ◆ **Thursday, September 16, 2019, 7pm:** “Building Community, Resisting Hate” panel, Case Hall (Club Spartan) (see the insert for the Fall schedule).
- ◆ **Friday, September 27, 2019, 11am:** MSP Core Faculty Meeting, 302 International Center
- ◆ **April 16-17, 2020:** 13th Annual MSP Conference (theme: “Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation”), MSU

Message from the Director



I am delighted to announce that we have a busy line-up of events this fall. These events include a major teach-in on “Building Community” and “Resisting Hate” (Sept. 16); a lecture by Prof. Mohammed Ayoob on the “Changing Idea of India” (Sept. 24); a lecture by Mustafa Aksu on the current situation of Uyghurs in China (Oct. 5); a presentation by social activist Sheema Kermani on “Identity, Performance, and Gender in Pakistan” (Oct. 8 or 9—details TBA); a lecture by Dr. Souad Eddouada on “Women’s Land Rights in Morocco” (Oct. 21); a lecture by Prof. Nathalie Peutz on the Yemeni refugees in Djibouti (Nov. 6); our first *Muslim Journeys* event of 2019-20—a showing of the film *Meherjaan* and

an accompanying presentation by Prof. Martha Olcott (Nov. 12; see p. 2 for details); a lecture by Prof. Sarah Hillewaert on “Youth, Language, and Islam in Coastal Kenya” (Nov. 14); and a showing of the films *American Muslim* and *Sinkhole*, accompanied by a panel discussion (Nov. 20) (see the insert for the Fall 2019 schedule).

I am also happy to report that our 2019 annual conference (the theme was “Education under Siege”) facilitated critical discussions (see images on p. 3), and the organizers Stephen Gasteyer and Waseem El-Rayes intend to publish the proceedings. Incidentally, papers from the 2017 conference were recently published under the title *Muslims and US Politics Today: A Defining Moment* (ILEX and Harvard Univ. Press). Looking ahead, you don’t want to miss our 13th annual conference (April 16-17, 2020). The theme is “Islam, Environmental Science, and Conservation.”

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Faculty Spotlight: Linda Sayed

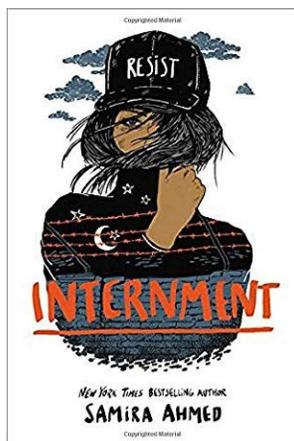
Linda Sayed is an assistant professor with a joint appointment in James Madison College and the College of Human Medicine at MSU. She is an interdisciplinary scholar of the Middle East specializing in the politics of identity formation, citizenship, and nationality as it relates to health rights among marginalized and minority communities in the Middle East and Arab diaspora. Her first project analyzes the legal integration of Shi’i Muslims into the newly created Lebanese nation-state under the French Mandate. Her current research project focuses on refugee’s rights to health services and the political infrastructures that determine accessibility to those services in the context of Lebanon. Her work brings awareness to limitations in global public health policies that are exacerbated by exclusionary citizenship regimes, politicalized interests, and infrastructural powers of the state.



Muslim Journeys Book and Film Discussion Series (2019-20)

Deborah Margolis, MSU Libraries and Muslim Studies Program

On Tuesday November 12th we are screening our first full length feature film in a Muslim Journeys session. The film is *Meherjaan*, an anti-war, feminist Bangladeshi film directed by Rubaiyat Hossain. Professor Martha Olcott from James Madison College will give us context for the film, we'll watch the film together, and then discuss in small groups. (This session will start at 6pm and we'll have pizza!) The small group discussions are facilitated by stellar graduate students from disciplines including History, Education, and English. Graduate students have played an active role in suggesting books and films for this year's series and we are grateful for their active participation in many aspects of this series.



In the spring semester we will read and discuss several books, including the comics collection *Yes, I'm Hot in This: The Hilarious Truth about Life in a Hijab* by Huda Fahmy (in conjunction with the MSU Comics Forum), and *Internment*, a young adult novel set in a dystopian America, written by Samira Ahmed. The complete schedule is yet to come...we hope you will join us! All are welcome to participate in this free campus-community humanities programming.

Deborah Margolis can be reached at deborahm@msu.edu.



Faculty Accomplishments (2018-19) (Select)

Emine Evered (History) and **Kyle Evered** (Geography) co-authored a book chapter on “agriculture, identity, and contestation at Ankara’s forest farm,” published in *The City as Power: Urban Space, Place, and National Identity* (Rowman & Littlefield); and another chapter on “medicine and modern morality in Turkey,” published in *Handbook of Global Urban Health* (Routledge). **Kyle Evered** also published an article entitled “Erasing the Place of Dissent: Inscriptions and Eliminations of Gezi Park Graffiti,” in *Area*.

Laura Fair (History) was promoted to full professor.

Eric Freedman (Journalism) was awarded a Fulbright for a project entitled “Environmental Journalism in the Republic of Georgia.” He conducted research at Caucasus Univ.

Salah Hassan (English) is now Interim Director of Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities.

Najib Hourani (Anthropology) organized the 2019 *Arab Cities* conference. Recently, he was awarded a Fulbright for a project entitled “Urban Reconstruction in Syria: Toward a Positive Peace.” He will conduct research at Amman’s German Jordanian Univ.

Nazita Lajevardi (Political Science) co-edited *Understanding Muslim Political Life in America: (Contested) Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century* (Temple Univ. Press). She also co-authored articles on/involving Muslim Americans in *Political Behavior*, *American Political Science Review*, and *The Journal of Politics*.

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology) co-edited a special issue of *Die*

Welt des Islams entitled *The Shi’a of Lebanon: New Approaches to Modern History, Contemporary Politics, and Religion*.

Stephanie Nawyn (Sociology) co-edited *The Routledge International Handbook of Migration Studies*, 2nd ed. (Routledge). She also published a book chapter on refugees in the US in *The Handbook of Migration Crises* (Oxford Univ. Press); and a co-authored article entitled “Socioeconomic Status and the Physical and Mental Health of Arab and Chaldean Americans in Michigan,” in *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.

Sitara Thobani (RCAH) was awarded a Fulbright for a project entitled “Representing the Indian Nautch Dancer: Formations of Gender, Sexuality and Religion.” She conducted research in Delhi, Banaras, and Lucknow.

Snapshots of the 2019 MSP Annual Conference (“Education under Siege”)



AWARDS (2018-19)

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

Sarise Hammad and Sumaya Malas

Student Paper Prizes (awarded at the MSP Student Research Showcase in April 2019)

Abdoulie Jabang (Graduate, History) and Emily Quinlan (Undergraduate)

Faculty Awards

Conference Travel

Emine Evered (History), Kyle Evered (Geography), Sadam Issa (Linguistics & Languages), Mara Leichtman (Anthropology), Deborah Margolis (Libraries), and Riyadh Shahjahan (Education)

Research Travel

Mara Leichtman (Anthropology)

Course Buyout

Kaveh Askari (English) and Nazita Lajevardi (Political Science)

MSP 2019-20 awards announcements will be circulated in late September, with a deadline of Dec. 20.

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.



Contact information:

Muslim Studies Program
Michigan State University
International Center
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 304
East Lansing, MI 48824
<http://muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu>

Email: muslimst@msu.edu
Phone: 517-884-6636
Fax: 517-432-8249

Director: Mohammad Khalil (khalilmo@msu.edu)
Administrative Lead: Mary Firdawsi
(firdaws2@msu.edu)

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

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 <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.

The Muslim Studies Program Fall 2019 Calendar

Please note: this is a partial list of our events. All events will be announced on our listserv.*

Mon. Sept. 16, 7pm, Case Hall (Club Spartan): “Building Community, Resisting Hate” panel (a teach-in on white nationalism and white supremacy)

Tue. Sept. 24, 4pm, 303 International Center: Mohammed Ayoob (MSU and Center for Global Policy), “From Gandhi to Savarkar: The 2019 Elections and the Changing Idea of India”

Fri. Sept. 27, 11am, 302 International Center: Muslim Studies Program Core Faculty Meeting

Sat. Oct. 5, 4pm, Kellogg Center (details TBA): Mustafa Aksu (Indiana University), “The Situation of Uyghurs in Xinjiang (China)” (tentative title)

Tue. Oct. 8 or Wed. Oct. 9 (details TBA): Sheema Kermani (Pakistan), “Identity, Performance and Gender in Pakistan”

Mon. Oct. 21, 3pm, 303 International Center: Souad Eddouada (Ibn Tofail University), “Women’s Land Rights in Morocco: Islam, Gender, and Multiple Paradigms for Social Change”

Wed. Nov. 6, 4pm, 303 International Center: Nathalie Peutz (NYU Abu Dhabi), “A Tale of Two Camps: Divisions in a Refugee ‘Village’ Displaced and Constituted by War” (a lecture on the Yemeni refugees in Djibouti)

Tue. Nov. 12, 6pm, MSU Library (Green Room): *Meherjaan* film showing (*Muslim Journeys* Series) and discussion led by Martha Olcott (MSU)

Thu. Nov. 14, 2pm, 303 International Center: Sarah Hillewaert (University of Toronto-Mississauga), “Morality at the Margins: Youth, Language, and Islam in Coastal Kenya”

Wed. Nov. 20, 6pm (details TBA): *American Muslim* and *Sinkhole* film showings and panel discussion

***Sign up for the biweekly e-newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/ci08p1>**

The Muslim Studies Program & Asian Studies Center present

From Gandhi to Savarkar

The 2019 Elections and the Changing Idea of India



Mohammed Ayooob

University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International
Relations, Michigan State University
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Center for Global Policy

Tuesday, September 24th, 4pm
303 International Center

**Organized by the Muslim Studies Program and Asian Studies Center and
cosponsored by James Madison College**