

# Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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## Message from the Director



Well, free your calendars: this is going to be a busy and exciting spring (see p. 2 for details). Aside from our cosponsored events, we're hosting renowned scholars Lila Abu-Lughod (Columbia Univ.)—she'll discuss "Muslim Women and the Freedom to Choose" (Feb. 16)—and Su'ad Abdul Khabeer (Purdue Univ.)—she'll present research from her acclaimed book *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States* (pictured on the right) (Feb. 22). Speaking of "cool," you don't want to miss the ever-popular Amir Sulaiman's spoken word performance at the MSU Main Library (April 12). The Library will also be the site of four *Muslim Journeys* book club discussions covering *The Moor's Account* (Jan. 25), *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (Feb. 8), *Ms. Marvel* (Feb. 22), and *E-mails from Scheherazad* (March 15).

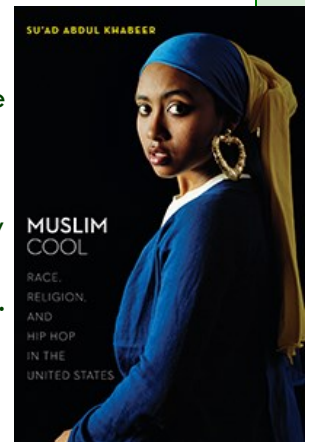
But there is more: I hope students, faculty,

staff, and community members will make it a point to attend our teach-in on "Race, Religion, and Immigration in America Today" (Jan. 27). This topic overlaps with the theme of our tenth annual conference: "Islam, Muslims, and Contemporary US Politics" (April 13-14). Invited speakers (such as Edward Curtis IV, pictured below) are among the leading scholars of American Islam.

Of course we already have talented scholars right here at MSU. Aside from a MSP faculty panel (Feb. 3)—featuring Linda Sayed (JMC), Monir Moniruzzaman (Anthro.), and Chantal Tetreault (Anthro.)—we are also organizing a lecture by Camelia Suleiman (Ling. & Lang.). She will discuss "The Politics of Arabic in Israel" (March 24).

Last but certainly not least, filmmaker Yusuf Zine will join us to present and discuss his timely documentary *I Am Rohingya* (March 27).

Mohammad Hassan Khalil



## Save the Dates

- ♦ **January 27, noon, 303 International Center:**  
**Teach-in: Race, Religion, and Immigration in America Today**
- ♦ **April 13-14: The Tenth Annual MSP Conference (Theme: "Islam, Muslims, and Contemporary US Politics")**
- ♦ **April 13-14, East Lansing Marriott at University Place: The Ninth Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference**

## Look Who's Coming to MSU



Lila Abu-Lughod



Amir Sulaiman



Edward Curtis IV



Su'ad Abdul Khabeer



## Spring Calendar of Events

**Jan. 12, Noon, 201 International Center:** Pedram Khosronejad (Oklahoma State Univ.), “Photography of African Slavery in Iran”

**Jan. 25, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room):** *Muslim Journeys Book Club—The Moor’s Account* by Laila Lalami, led by Leila Tarakji (English)

**Jan. 27, Noon, 303 International Center:** Teach-in: Race, Religion, & Immigration in America Today

**Feb. 3, Noon, 303 International Center:** MSP Faculty Panel featuring Monir Moniruzzaman (Anthropology), Linda Sayed (Madison College), and Chantal Tetreault (Anthropology)

**Feb. 8, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room):** *Muslim Journeys Book Club—The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley, led by Austin Jackson (Residential College in the Arts & Humanities)

**Feb. 16, Noon, 303 International Center:** Lila Abu-Lughod (Columbia Univ.), “Muslim Women and the Freedom to Choose”

**Feb. 22, Noon, 303 International Center:** Su’ad Abdul Khabeer (Purdue Univ.), “Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States”

**Feb. 22, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room):** *Muslim Journeys Book Club—Ms. Marvel* by G. Willow Wilson, led by Morgan Shipley (Religious Studies)

**Feb. 28, 3pm:** Rita Kothari (Indian Institute of Technology in Gandhingar), “India: A Multilingual Nation”

**March 15, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room):** *Muslim Journeys Book Club—E-mails from Scheherazad* by Mohja Kahf, led by Leila Tarakji (English)

**March 24, 3:30pm, 201 International Center:** Camelia Suleiman (MSU-Linguistics & Languages), “The Politics of Arabic in Israel: A Sociolinguistic Analysis”

**March 27, 7pm, B-117 Wells Hall:** *I Am Rohingya*, film showing and discussion with director Yusuf Zine

**March 30, 4pm, B-310 Wells Hall:** Maurizio Albahari (University of Notre Dame), “Sea(m)less Peninsulas? Italy, Europe, and the Refugee Question”

**April 5, 7pm, Kellogg Center (Auditorium):** J. Edward Wright (Univ. of Arizona), “Mysteries of the Afterlife: Transcending Death and Finding Heaven in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam”

**April 12, 7pm, MSU Main Library (Green Room):** A special performance by Amir Sulaiman (poet, recording artist, Harvard Fellow, actor, screenwriter, and producer)

**April 13-14, 303 International Center:** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MSP Conference (Theme: “Islam, Muslims, and Contemporary US Politics”) featuring Evelyn Alsultany (Univ. of Mich.), Donna Auston (Rutgers Univ.), Mucahit Bilici (John Jay College), Sylvia Chan-Malik (Rutgers Univ.), Edward Curtis IV (IUPUI), Kambiz GhaneaBassiri (Reed College), Juliane Hammer (Univ. of North Carolina), Salah Hassan (MSU-English), Sally Howell (Univ. of Michigan-Dearborn), Mohsen Mobasher (Univ. of Houston), Alisa Perkins (Western Mich. Univ.), and Junaid Rana (Univ. of Illinois)

**April 13-14, East Lansing Marriott at University Place:** 9th Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference (Theme: “Understanding Addiction among Muslim Populations”)



## Snapshots of the Fall



## MSP Welcomes Mary Firdawsi

This past fall the Muslim Studies Program was delighted to announce its new Administrative Lead: Mary Firdawsi. Hailing from Detroit, Mary graduated with degrees in Sociology & Computer Science from Wayne State University. She loves experiencing the world and its breadth of diversity, having visited countries such as India, Australia, Turkey, Vanuatu and Iceland. Mary has two daughters (both MSU grads!) and is a recent grandma. Please join us in welcoming Mary!



## Study Abroad in Dubai

MSP Core faculty members Russell Lucas (Global Studies; Madison College) and Camelia Suleiman (Linguistics & Languages) recently completed a very successful winter Study Abroad Program in Dubai. This was the first ever MSP-sponsored Study Abroad program.

## 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.