

# Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

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UNIVERSITY

Fall 2017

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## Save the Dates

- ◆ **Friday, September 8, 2017, 3pm: Our first public event (see Insert for the Fall schedule).**
- ◆ **Friday, September 29, 11am-1pm: MSP Core Faculty Meeting, 204 International Center**
- ◆ **April 12-13, 2018: 11th Annual MSP Conference (theme: "Locating Muslim Cinema(s)"), MSU**

## Message from the Director



Recent events and developments have kept the Muslim Studies Program quite busy. Wasting little time, our first major event, a panel on "President Trump and the Middle East," will take place relatively early in the fall semester: Sept. 8th (see Insert for details). The panel will feature Professors Mohammed Ayoob, Juan Cole, Russell Lucas, and Martha Olcott. Another interesting event will take place on Sept. 28th: we welcome Talat Hamdani, the mother of a 9/11 hero named M. Salman Hamdani, and Richard McKinney, a longtime US veteran who went from hating Muslims to becoming president of his local mosque in Muncie, Indiana. Both will share their stories.

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Safoi Babana-Hampton

Safoi Babana-Hampton is Associate Professor of French in the Department of Romance and Classical Studies at MSU. Her primary areas of teaching and research are 20th- and 21st-century French and Francophone literatures and film and comparative and postcolonial Francophone studies. Her book *Réflexions littéraires sur l'espace public marocain dans l'oeuvre d'Abdellatif Laâbi* (Summa Publications, 2008) critically examines of the role of culture in the construction of civic consciousness and the formation of a modern public space in Morocco. Her academic works encompass a wide range of topics relating to conceptions of citizenship, memory, interfaith relations, and artistic hybridity in North Africa, French Beur literature, Moroccan Sephardic literature, and other Francophone literary and filmic narratives from North Africa and Québec.



As in previous years, we are also organizing various talks by MSP faculty, including Professors Laura Fair (History) and Cara Cilano (English). We are also organizing our fourth *Muslim Journeys* Book Club series (see p. 2 for details).

I am happy to report that our first study abroad to Dubai (led by Professors Russell Lucas and Camelia Suleiman) last winter went very well. We intend to organize another study abroad to Dubai this coming winter (see Insert for details).

I am also delighted to report that our 2017 annual conference ("Islam, Muslims, and Contemporary US Politics") was a success. We are currently in the process of publishing a conference volume.

Looking ahead to the spring, you don't want to miss our 11th annual conference (April 12-13, 2018). The conference theme is "Locating Muslim Cinema(s)," and it will include various film showings.

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

## Muslim Journeys Book Club (2017-18)

Deborah Margolis, MSU Libraries

MSU's *Muslim Journeys* scholar-led campus-community book discussion series continues in 2017-2018 by engaging with some of the most pressing and recalcitrant issues of our time, including racism, war, and genocide. We will read a variety of genres including historical fiction, a graphic novel, memoir and more. Our format remains the same: a short lecture from a scholar, followed by small group discussion, and ending with questions and answers.

Just as important as the format and content is the interaction between people of different faiths, backgrounds, and ages. Last year's *Muslim Journeys* attracted participants from age 12 to over 100 years old! Thank you to our partners, the Islamic Society of Greater Lansing and the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing, for helping to make this programming a success.

This fall, MSU *Muslim Journeys* is participating in the Michigan Humanities Council's "Great Michigan Read." We will be reading and discussing *X: A Novel* written by Ilyasah Shabazz (Malcolm X's third daughter) and Kekla Magoon (an award-winning author of books for young adults). Dr. Austin Jackson, who last year led a riveting session on *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley, will return to lead this special fall event. Join us on October 25th at 7pm in the MSU Main Library Green Room.

This spring, we continue our longstanding partnership with the MSU Comics Forum by reading the graphic memoir *The Arab of the Future: A Childhood in the Middle East* by Riad Sattouf. Historian Emine Evered will lead this session on Thursday, February 22, 2018, in the MSU Main Library Green Room.

"Stay tuned" for the complete lineup of spring 2018 *Muslim Journeys* events. If you would like to be added to the email list for *Muslim Journeys*, please contact me at [deborahm@msu.edu](mailto:deborahm@msu.edu).



## Faculty Accomplishments (2016-17) (Select)

**Soma Chaudhuri** (Sociology) was promoted to Associate Professor.

**Emine Evered** (History) received a 2016-2017 NEH ARIT fellowship to conduct research in Turkey for her current book on the history of alcohol in Turkey.

**Laura Fair** (History) completed a book manuscript entitled *Reel Pleasures: Cinema Audiences and Entrepreneurs in Twentieth-Century Urban Tanzania* (Ohio University Press, forthcoming in Dec. 2017).

**M. Jamil Hanifi** (Anthropology) presented a paper at an international conference on

Mountstuart Elphinstone in Mumbai, India. The title of his paper was "The Absence and Presence of Mountstuart Elphinstone in Kabul Elite Writings about Afghanistan."

**Deborah Margolis** (MSU Libraries) presented her evaluation of three years of *Muslim Journeys* programming at MSU at the July 2017 University of Jordan Library Conference.

**Monir Moniruzzaman** (Anthropology) presented his research on human trafficking at the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Science as part of the April 2017 Summit on Organ Trafficking and

Transplant Tourism.

**Riyad Shahjahan** (Education) was promoted to Associate Professor. He also published an article on "re-conceptualizing college access" in *Educational Studies* (53) and an article that offers a "decolonial reading of global university rankings" in *Comparative Education Review* (61).

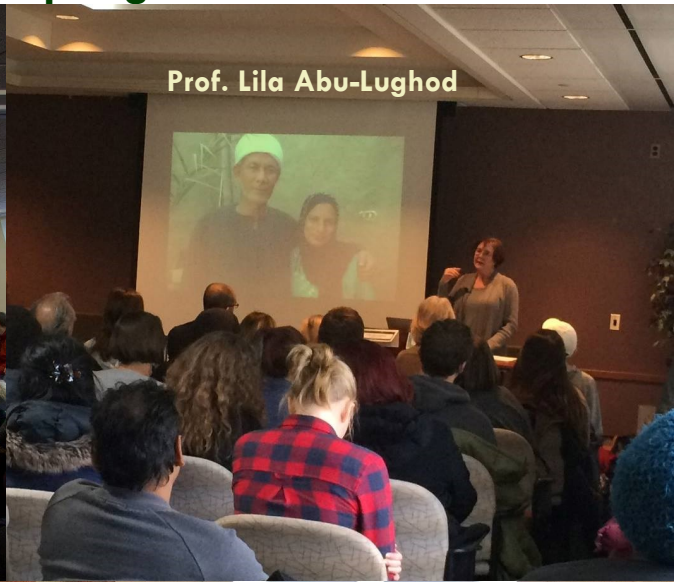
**Camelia Suleiman** (Linguistics & Languages) published a book entitled *The Politics of Arabic in Israel: A Sociolinguistic Analysis* (Edinburgh University Press).



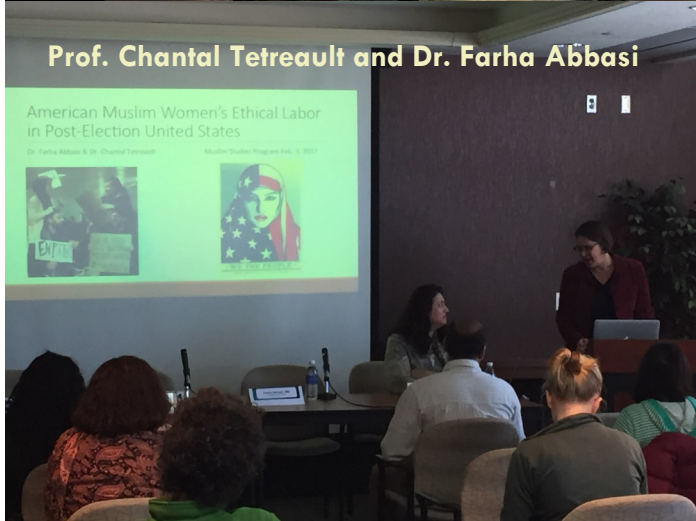
## Snapshots of the Spring



MSP-organized teach-in  
(post-election)



Prof. Lila Abu-Lughod



Prof. Chantal Tetreault and Dr. Farha Abbasi



Poetry  
with Amir  
Sulaiman



2017 MSP Conference

## AWARDS (2016-17)

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

Margaret Born and Stephanie Saba

**Graduate Student Paper/Essay Prize**

Abubakar Idris

**Faculty Awards**

**Conference Travel**

Brahim Chakrani, Emine Evered, Kyle Evered, Salah Hassan, Mara Leichtman, and Camelia Suleiman

**Research Travel**

Chantal Tetreault

**Course Buyout**

Najib Hourani and Mara Leichtman

**MSP 2017-18 awards announcements will be circulated in late September, with a deadline of Dec. 22**

## 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:

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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 <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 2017 Calendar

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

**Fri. Sept. 8**, 3:00pm-4:45pm, 115 International Center: “President Trump and the Middle East” panel featuring Mohammed Ayoub (MSU), Juan Cole (Michigan), Russell Lucas (MSU), and Martha Olcott (MSU)

Cosponsored event: **Thu. Sept. 14**, 12:00pm-1:00pm, Patenge room (C-102 East Fee): Zarinah El-Amin Naeem, “The Fashion, Tradition and Psychology of Head Wrapping”

Cosponsored conference: **Sept. 14-15**: India Partition Conference

**Thu. Sept. 28**, 7:00-8:30pm, 115 International Center: “American. Muslim.: The Remarkable Stories of Talat Hamdani and Richard McKinney”

**Fri. Sept. 29, 11:00am-1:00pm, 204 International Center: Muslim Studies Program Core Faculty Meeting**

**Wed. Oct. 18**, 12:00pm-1:15pm, 303 International Center: Cara Cilano, “Spatializing Islam: Non-Muslim Minorities in Pakistan”

**Wed. Oct. 25**, 7:00-8:30pm, MSU Library (Green Room): *Muslim Journeys* Book Club Discussion of Ilyasah Shabazz’s *X: A Novel*, led by Austin Jackson

Cosponsored conference: **Nov. 1-3**: “Blurring Boundaries: Arabic Identities across the Mediterranean and Beyond”

**Wed. Nov. 8**, 12:00pm-1:15pm, 303 International Center: Laura Fair, “Muslims at the Movies in Colonial Tanzania: or how history reminds us that there is more to Islam than what makes the headlines”

**Wed. Nov. 29**, 12:00pm-1:15pm, 303 International Center: Mohammad Khalil, “ISIS, Jihad, and Islamic Law”





**United Arab Emirates**

**Dubai in the UAE: The Globalization of Consumerism and Community**

Semester(s) Available:  
Winter Break 2017:  
2 weeks

Minimum Credits:  
Four (4) for Winter Break 2017

Program Application Deadline(s):  
October 15, 2017 for Winter Break 2017

For important scholarship deadlines, visit  
<http://studyabroad.msu.edu/financing/scholarships/>

Courses:  
ARB491  
GSAH391  
IAH211D  
MC325

Requirements:  
Minimum GPA 2.00

Cost:  
Program Fee: \$2,400.00  
Estimated Additional Cost: \$2,687.00  
(Winter Break 2016)\*\*

Tuition is not included for most programs. See program's webpage for details.

\*\* IMPORTANT: This is last year's program fee and should be used as an estimate only when calculating costs for this program. The current program fee will be posted as soon as it is finalized.

Program Contact(s):  
Russell Lucas  
Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities  
Phone: 517-353-8848  
E-mail: [relucas@msu.edu](mailto:relucas@msu.edu)



**Discover Dubai and Experience the United Arab Emirates**

This program explores the cultural, social, and political effects of contemporary globalization on a city that seems to represent the divergent outcomes of today's capitalism. Dubai has rapidly modernized in recent decades along with the rest of the country of the United Arab Emirates. But, the Emirati community has had to struggle to reconcile the rapid economic development with norms, traditions, and attitudes. The city has also attracted incredible wealth, but also significant population of migrants that has made Emiratis a minority in their own country. These contradictory economic, and social conditions offer the opportunity to discuss the importance of changing contexts to cultural communities. This tension is highlighted by the observation of the remembrance of traditions of the past in the midst of great plans for building a social and physical landscape for the future.

Students will explore these themes in Dubai as well as in visits to other cities in the United Arab Emirates. The program includes experiencing Dubai's world famous New Year's Eve fireworks and celebrations.

Students will be able to choose 4 credits from Arabic, Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities, IAH, and James Madison courses.

Registered participants may be eligible for scholarships from the sponsoring units.



More details about this program can be found at...  
<http://osa.isp.msu.edu/Programs/uaeconsumerismwb.html>

This flyer is intended to provide an overview of this Education Abroad program. Interested students should visit the program's Web page (URL indicated above) for further details such as specific course and cost information. Program fees, dates, and arrangements are subject to change, due to unforeseen considerations.

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