

Muslim Studies

Newsletter of the MSU Muslim Studies Program

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Spring 2024

Volume 11, Issue 2

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Save the Dates

- ♦ **Jan. 17: *Muslim Journeys* Film screening at the East Lansing Public Library (see p. 2)**
- ♦ **Jan. 23: Malcolm X Forum with Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf**
- ♦ **Feb. 8-9: MSP's 17th Annual Conference ("Researching Muslim America")**
- ♦ **April 17: MSP's 6th Annual Student Research Showcase**
- ♦ **See page 2 for a partial list of our spring events.**

Message from the Director



This spring, the Muslim Studies Program is preparing for various events that were planned long ago, while also keeping in mind that international crises may compel us to amend our events calendar (see p. 2). Please stay tuned for updates.

Our first event is a *Muslim Journeys* screening and discussion of the film, *By the Dawn's Early Light*, led by Christina Myers (Journalism) and Nura Sediqe (Political Science) (Jan. 17; see p. 2 for details). This is a documentary film about activist and basketball player, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf (formerly Chris Jackson). Abdul-Rauf is scheduled to come to campus on Jan. 23 to deliver the 3rd annual Malcolm X Muslim Studies Community Lecture. Then, on Jan. 29, we will host a webinar con-

versation with Professor Juan Cole (Univ. of Michigan) on "The Middle East Today." We are also preparing for our exciting 17th annual conference, the title of which is "Researching Muslim America" (Feb. 8-9). This online conference—proposed by Nazita Lajevardi (Political Science)—will feature numerous up-and-coming scholars.

Other future events include a new iteration of our Conversations on Antisemitism and Islamophobia series (starts Jan. 30), a faculty panel (Feb. 14), a webinar by Youshaa Patel (Lafayette College) on his book *The Muslim Difference* (Feb. 21), a lecture by Rudi Matthee (Univ. of Delaware) on "The History of Alcohol in the Muslim Middle East" (March 8), and a lecture by Samira Fathi (Art, Art History, & Design) entitled "Empire, Ideology, and Poetics of Place in Isfahan" (March 15).

Finally, we plan to hold our 6th annual Student Research Showcase for graduate and undergraduate MSU students toward the end of this semester (April 17; submission deadline: March 15).

Mohammad Hassan Khalil

Featured Spring Presenters





Spring Calendar of Events *

Register for virtual/hybrid events at <https://muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/about/reg-links>

Jan. 17, 7pm-9pm, East Lansing Public Library: Muslim Journeys Screening and Discussion of Zareena Grewal's *By the Dawn's Early Light: Chris Jackson's Journey to Islam* (a documentary film about Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf), led by Christina Myers (Journalism) & Nura Sedige (Political Science)

Jan. 23, 7pm-8:30pm, Erickson Kiva (in person and livestreamed): 3rd Annual Malcolm X Muslim Studies Community Forum featuring Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf

Jan. 29, 5pm-6pm (webinar): Juan Cole (University of Michigan), "The Middle East Today: A Conversation with Professor Juan Cole"

Jan. 30, Feb. 15, Feb. 20, March 5 (4 sessions), 5:15pm-7:15pm: Conversations on Antisemitism and Islamophobia. Register for these in-person sessions at <https://forms.gle/7yJK1J9WrTRQWM9o9>.

Feb. 8-9 (webinar): 17th Annual MSP Conference (Theme: "Researching Muslim America: Intersecting Identities, Methodological Advances, and Lingering Challenges")

Feb. 14 (tentative): Muslim Studies Program Faculty Panel with Jon Keune, Deborah Margolis, Riyad Shahjahan, Nura Sedige, and Sitara Thobani

Feb. 21, 4:30pm-5:30pm (webinar): Youshaa Patel (Lafayette College), "The Muslim Difference: Defining the Line between Believers and Unbelievers from Early Islam to the Present"

Cosponsored Event: March 1-2, Stanford University: 16th Annual Muslim Mental Health Conference (organized by MSU's Mental Health Consortium)

March 8, 3pm, 303 International Center (in person and livestreamed): Rudi Mathee (University of Delaware), "The History of Alcohol in the Muslim Middle East"

March 15, 3pm-4:15pm (location TBA): Samira Fathi (Art, Art History, and Design), "Empire, Ideology, and Poetics of Place in Isfahan"

April 17, 7pm, 201 International Center: 6th Annual Muslim Studies Program Student Research Showcase (submission deadline: March 15)

* This is a partial list of our spring events. Sign up for the biweekly e-newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/ci08p1>.

Snapshots of the Fall



Muslim Journeys with Rachel Winter (Broad Museum)

Teach-in on the Crisis in Gaza



Zakia Salime (Maryland; 2nd from left) with MSP faculty



3rd Annual Malcolm & Ann Kerr Community Lecture featuring Najah Bazzy (left)



Jyotsna Singh's Retirement Symposium



Najib Hourani introduces Jamil Hanifi



Imam Darnell Karim describes his educational journey



MSP faculty and students meet with journalist Sam Freedman (Columbia)

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

Director: **Mohammad Khalil**
 (khalilmo@msu.edu)
Administrative Lead: **Laura Large**
 (largelau@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 <https://givingto.msu.edu/gift/index.cfm>, 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.