

MUSLIM SOCIETIES- GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES NEWSLETTER- FALL 2018



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



DR. ADNAN HUSAIN.

As the Muslim Societies -Global Perspectives project enters a new academic year we can reflect upon a busy

and successful year in 2017-18 and look forward to ambitious plans for the coming one. Last Fall 2017 we welcomed Dr. Ayca Tomac as an interim director and instructor of a new course that MSGP helped sponsor in Global Development Studies thanks to support from the Faculty of Arts and Science. She oversaw a full program of interesting and diverse events, including an original feature film screening and discussion with a contemporary Canadian Muslim artist Bonaa Muhammad and an important lecture on contemporary gender and Islamophobia by Dr. Eve Haque. Dr. Tomac has continued to be an invaluable contributor to the project last Winter and for this year.

Last Spring, MSGP organized for the first time a full day graduate student research workshop in the multi-religious world of the Medieval Mediterranean. We hope to repeat and expand this opportunity to share the exciting graduate research at Queen's for Winter 2019. MSGP will continue to forge partnerships and expand collaborations in an exciting roster of events this coming Fall 2018.

In addition to periodic Middle East/Islamic World Updates on contemporary political currents, MSGP in collaboration with the Islamic Society of Kingston has organized a full array of Islamic History Month events in October ranging from Dr. Timothy Gianotti's public lectures and an update on Bosnia as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society in Europe. Fall term will also include the first of two Jewish-Muslim Dialogue events for this year with a panel in late October on Medieval Iberia by Drs. Dana Wessell Lightfoot (UNBC) and Alexandra Guerson (UT) supported with generous assistance from Jewish Studies. See our calendar of events for further information.

In addition to expanding the range and type of educational events, cultural programs and research lectures and presentations, the MSGP project seeks: 1) to create a network of scholarly research for graduate students and faculty -see our new section in this newsletter on recent degrees and research by undergraduate and graduate students 2) to encourage expansion of faculty in the crucial and underrepresented fields across the humanities and social sciences related to the study of Muslim societies globally and to sponsor curriculum diversification at the university in support of the PICRDI goals (<https://www.queensu.ca/implementationrdi/home>)

An important initial step has been taken by the Global Development Studies department in advertising a position in Gender and Social Movements in the Islamic World, so we expect to welcome a new colleague next year. The MSGP project hopes that other departments and programs will likewise consider addressing more fully the languages, literatures, cultures, art, economies, politics, religious traditions, and societies of the Islamic world in which a billion and a half Muslims globally have participated over nearly a millennium and a half.

In the meantime, MSGP continues to provide public education, research presentations, and cultural programming to the Queen's and Kingston communities as it works toward developing new courses and curriculum, degree programs, research sponsorship, and a major endowed annual Islamic History Month lecture.

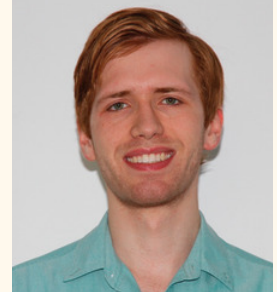
If you would like to support its vital current activities and its ambitious future plans, please connect with MSGP via Facebook, sign up for our email list, visit our website to learn more about our vision and the students and faculty involved, and, if you can, please make a tax deductible contribution through our website.

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 <https://www.queensu.ca/msgp/home>
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Students' Milestones

Devon Levesque will be spending the third year of his doctoral program in history centered in Rabat, Morocco for research purposes. This includes language practice in the dialect relevant to the context of his studies on the region. He intends to return in his fourth year with the research necessary to complete his dissertation on the medieval Western Mediterranean.



Congratulations to Poyraz Kolluoglu, who completed his PhD in Cultural Studies under the supervision of Dr. Ariel Salzmann. His research is titled "A 21st Century Protest "Repertoire": Istanbul's Gezi Commune and the Affective Dynamics of Urban Social Mobilization." This dissertation represents a social and cultural analysis of the Istanbul protests of 2013 and it brings sociological theories of collective action into dialogue with the newly emerging literature on the role of affect, memory studies and critical urban geography.

Hasan Doagoo graduated from the School of Religion under the supervision of Dr. Mehmet Karabela. The title of his MA thesis was Post-Reformation Protestant perception of Islam and Muslim sects: A study of Oratio Persica De Differentia Religions Turcicae & Persicae in context. Islam and modernity, Islamic reformation, comparative religion, and interfaith dialogues are my fields of research interest and academic endeavour.



Adil Ahmed earned his MA in Cultural Studies by defending the Thesis "American Islam X" under the supervision of Dr. Adnan Husain. American Islam X theorizes on the survival and continuity of Islam in America -- from its emergence via European colonialism and the Transatlantic slave trade to the beginnings of the post-modern era -- as a distinctly American Islam, a religiosity tempered by centuries of Blackamericans' living resistance in American national contexts. Through a historically and discursively grounded study of Blackamerican history and religion, American Islam X challenges Islamophobic and immigrant-centered conceptions of Islam, ultimately positing the centrality of Black experience to American Islamic tradition. Using American Islam as both historical context and interpretive framework, the thesis also puts forth a new biography of the religious life of Malcolm X, pioneering a unified approach to the study of his faith and his politics.

Current Students



MA:
 Julia Balakrishnan, History
 John Conklin, History
 Katherine Parent, History
 Connor Burton, History

PhD:
 Ryan Carter, History
 Devon Levesque, History
 Eric Bateman, History
 Amanie Antar, History
 Yusuf Duran, History
 Morad Roohi, History
 Johan MacKechnie, History
 Milad Dokhanchi, Cultural Studies
 Mohamed Abdou, Cultural Studies

Courses for the 2018-2019 Academic Year

HIST 267 W
Modern Middle East

HIST 337 F
Contested Legacies
of the Ottoman
Empire

GNDS 401
Debates on
Feminism and Islam

HIST 296 F
The Making of the
Muslim Middle East
(550-1350 C.E.)

ENGL 487 W
Contemporary
Muslim Writing

RELS 226
Islam

HIST 305 FW
Muslim Societies

DEVS 392-002:
Dilemmas of
Development in the
Middle East (1960-
present)

RELS 396
Islam in the Modern
World

Remembrance, Multiculturalism and 'honour killings': A Lecture by Eve Haque

BY AYCA TOMAC

On November 21st, Muslim Societies Global Perspectives, in collaboration with OPIRG Kingston and Levana Gender Advocacy Centre, organized a talk with Dr. Eve Haque from York University's Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics and Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought. She is a renowned scholar working on multiculturalism, white settler nationalism and language policy, with a focus on the regulation and representation of racialized im/migrants in white settler societies.

While focusing on the memorialization in Pelham – a small town in rural Southern Ontario – of the 'honour killing' of Aqsa Parvez which took place in Mississauga, Ontario in 2007, the talk examined the connection between gendered Orientalism and white settler nationalism, specifically in Canada.



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Haque showed how discourses of multicultural tolerance operated as a central strategy in the articulation of forms of exclusion – such as Islamophobia and concrete assertions of white settler national identity and solidarity – while examining the specific events and rationales that led to the town's decision to create and dedicate a memorial to Aqsa Parvez, even though there had never been any personal connection between Aqsa, her family and the town of Pelham, Ontario. The event was well-attended with approximately 75 attendees including graduate and undergraduate students and faculty. The discussion following the talk further unpacked the discourses of multiculturalism and western exceptionalism and their impacts on rising Islamophobia in Canada and elsewhere. Kingston's own history of remembrance and 'honour killings' was discussed during the Q&A; particularly, how violence against Muslim women most frequently is invoked as a rationale for Islamophobia.



Who was George Masoud? Kingston's Forgotten History of Syrian Migration



One of the largest events of Muslim Societies Global Perspectives was a public history forum on George Masoud, a Syrian immigrant of Druze who arrived in Kingston in 1901. Masoud travelled between Kingston and Bath on foot as a peddler to sell fruits and other items and later turned into an ice cream seller. In time, his business grew to be a well-known ice cream parlor with a shop on Princess Street. By the 1940s, he sold his ice cream business and became one of the city's biggest landlords. Masoud was also a philanthropist: he donated money to all the hospitals in Kingston, assisted Jewish, Christian, and Muslim congregations while also leaving most of his estates after his death to the city's "George Masoud Benevolent Fund" to help those in poverty.



The forum was design to share the historical research of Dr. Gordon Dueck and the students of his HIST 344 course, "Plural Visions". Dr. Ariel Salzmänn unpacked the late Ottoman world of Syria and the Eastern Mediterranean, where Mr. Masoud originated and contextualized the migration trends in and out of Syria as well as in Canada. The event offered alternative histories and experiences of Kingston and Canada's multicultural, multi-ethnic past in a global perspective. The very lively discussion following the presentations focused on how we can commemorate George Masoud's emblematic history and important contributions to our multicultural community in Kingston.

Attendees both from campus and larger Kingston communities brought forward ideas and possible projects that would pay respect to Masoud's legacy as an immigrant, businessman and philanthropist.

MSGP EVENTS



2017-2018 Academic Year

Fri, Oct 20, 2017

Film Screening And Discussion: Tug Of War

October 23rd

Lecture: Holy Fire Miracle In Medieval Jerusalem

November 7th

Reading Session With Omar El Akkad, The Author Of "American War"

November 21st

Eve Haque From York University Presented Her Thoughts On Remembrance, Multiculturalism And Honour Killing

Thu, Jan 25

Who Was George Masoud? Kingston's Forgotten History of Syrian Migration

January 29th

Remembering the Québec Mosque Massacre

March 1st

Mediterranean Dialectics: Diversifying the Teaching of Medieval Philosophy and Intellectual History"

March 10th

Medieval Jerusalem and the Miracle of Inter-Faith Relations

April 28th

The Medieval Mediterranean: Interconnected Histories

Upcoming events - Fall 2018

September 27th

Dr. Dr. Amila Buturovic (York University)

Bosnia: History & Commemoration in a multi religious society

October 11th

Dr. Timothy Gianotti (U. of Waterloo)

Imagining a World in which There are No Religious Others: Al-Farabi on Prophecy, Religion, and the Relativity of Religious Language & Symbol

Love, Law, and the Journey to Bliss: A Teleological (Re)Introduction to Islam

October 29th

Dr.Dana Wessell Lightfoot (UNBC) Dr.Alexandra Guerson (UofT)

Debating Agency: Women and Conversion in the Multi-Religious Society of Late Medieval Spain.

November 15th

Award-wining Sports Activist Shireen Ahmed. "

Intersectional Justice and the Right To Cheer: Iranian women, soccer, and stadium politics."

"Unveiling Discrimination: Gendered Islamophobia in Sports." We should figure out how to field some "audience"

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