

Religion & Islamophobia Webinar Teaching Resources

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Below you will find a document of resources for learning and teaching about religion, antisemitism, and the impact it has and continues to have on American culture. You will find resources provided by the panelists and host(s), recommended books, articles, etc., and assignment prompts to use in a class.

Overview

As the political and human casualties of the Israel-Palestine crisis continue to increase and shape the current state of the Arabic world, there has been a rise in instances of Islamophobia as well as a rise in protests, especially on university campuses, against this surging anti-Islamic sentiment. During this episode, panelists will discuss the history of the concept Islamophobia, its impact on American culture, and what other concepts might better explain the historical and contemporary moments that we face. The panelists will also explore the relationship between antisemitism and Islamophobia and why scholars and thinkers of religion are uniquely placed to think through the complex and often unclear relationship of these phenomena. Join us for a conversation at the intersection of religion, Islamophobia, and the current state of political unrest.

Host

Khadija Khaja: Associate Professor of Social Work at Indiana University Indianapolis. Her research interests include building inclusive teaching and learning climates, international social work practice, Islamophobia, Muslim social work needs, bullying of Muslims, civil discourse in higher education, the practice of female circumcision, addressing the growth of white nationalist movements, and effective teaching/learning in online communities.

Panelists

Zareena Grewal: Associate Professor of American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, & Migration, and Religious Studies at Yale University. She is a historical anthropologist and a documentary filmmaker whose research focuses on race, gender, religion, nationalism, and transnationalism across a wide spectrum of American Muslim communities. Her first book, *Islam is a Foreign Country: American Muslims and the Global Crisis of Authority* (NYU 2013), is an ethnography of transnational Muslim networks that link US mosques to Islamic movements in the post-colonial Middle East through debates about the reform of Islam.

Talha Kahf: A senior at the Indiana University School of Social Work, is a Muslim Syrian living in the Midwest. Born to a mother who came from a refugee background, Talha grew up learning to identify structural gaps in society. Along the journey, Talha and his family experienced Islamophobia within the education, healthcare, and legal systems. With each experience, Talha developed his personal values and began on a journey of ancestral connection and decolonization.

Kayla Wheeler: Assistant Professor of Critical Ethnic Studies and Theology and the Africana Studies Program Director at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Wheeler is an expert in Black Islam, Islamic bioethics, and material religion. Currently, she is writing a book entitled, *Fashioning Black Islam: Race, Gender, and Belonging in the American Ummah*, which provides a history of Black Muslim

fashion in the United States from the 1930s to the present. She is the author of the digital humanities project, Mapping Malcolm's Boston, which explores Malcolm X's life in Boston from the 1940s to 1950s. Dr. Wheeler is also the curator of the award-winning Black Islam Syllabus.

Resources from panelists

Show Notes

Sources mentioned in webinar

Islamophobia is Racism Syllabus

Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945

Ta-Nehisi Coates: American author, journalist, and activist. He gained a wide readership during his time as national correspondent at The Atlantic, where he wrote about cultural, social, and political issues, particularly regarding African Americans and white supremacy.

Questions From Audience (Not Answered in Episode)

1. What do you believe is the main contributor to the rise in contemporary Islamophobia? As you have said this is obviously this is not a new phenomenon but what drives it today?
2. Can we discuss the implications of Islamophobia and the upcoming election? For the first time we have two Muslim anti-imperialist candidates as VPs for third parties. What does this mean for the future of the Muslim voter and the utility of Islamophobia in garnering votes for democrats and republicans?
3. How can you academically explore the links between increased islamophobia and the financial network of Zionism that impacts many universities funding sources or in the case of Columbia's militarized police force prompted by Zionist CEO's and billionaires, (per the text chain to NY Mayor)?

Assignment Prompts

1. Think about the way we define certain terms like Islamophobia or religion. How do our definitions put limitations on the understanding? How might our definitions exclude or include people?
2. Post 9/11 there was an increase in Islamophobia. Do you think Islamophobia has increased, decreased or stayed at the same levels since 9/11? And explain why you feel that way?
3. Look at what has happened or is going on at your school or others, what could be behind these events? How is it impacting students, faculty, and others? What could some solutions be?

Related Resources

Religion & Refugees and Immigration Webinar Video from CSRAAC

Religion & The Public Intellectual Webinar Video from CSRAAC

Conversation with Omar Dajani & Mira Sucharov Video from NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change

- Aziza Hasan and Andrea Hodos spoke with them about their friendship and partnership, and how they see their path -- deeply understanding and connecting with one another -- as the only path forward out of the months and years of crisis and destruction we've been witnessing in Israel Palestine. Please take the time to watch this powerful conversation.

[NewGround Website](#)

[Islam in America](#) syllabi from Tazeen Ali

[Islamophobia Studies Journal](#)

- The Islamophobia Studies Journal (ISJ) is a bi-annual publication that focuses on the critical analysis of Islamophobia and its multiple manifestations in our contemporary moment. ISJ is an interdisciplinary and multi-lingual academic journal that encourages submissions that theorizes the historical, political, economic, and cultural phenomenon of Islamophobia in relation to the construction, representation, and articulation of "Otherness." The ISJ is an open scholarly exchange, exploring new approaches, methodologies, and contemporary issues.

Books & Recommended Readings

[Black Power and Palestine: Transnational Countries of Color](#) by Michael R. Fischbach

- In chronicling this story, Fischbach reveals much about how American peoples of color create political strategies, a sense of self, and a place within U.S. and global communities. The shadow cast by events of the 1960s and 1970s continues to affect the United States in deep, structural ways. This is the first book to explore how conflict in the Middle East shaped the American civil rights movement.

[The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017](#) by Rashid Khalidi

- A landmark history of one hundred years of war waged against the Palestinians from the foremost US historian of the Middle East, told through pivotal events and family history.

[On Palestine](#) by Noam Chomsky and Ilan Pappé

[Gendered Islamophobia My Journey with a Scar\(f\)](#) by Monia Mazigh

[The Impact of Islamophobia on Muslim Students: A Systematic Review of the Literature](#)

- Despite the rise in anti-Islamic sentiment, Muslim youth's experiences of religious discrimination are under researched. The goal of this paper is to better understand the complexities associated with religious discrimination for youth and adolescents and how to mitigate the harm caused by these discriminatory experiences. This mixed methods systematic review consists of 44 qualitative and quantitative studies from 34 journals, discussing experiences of religious discrimination for participants ages 4–25 both in the United States and internationally. This review discussed student experiences, the context of school as a conduit for discrimination, how students responded to these instances, including protective factors and recommendations for future research and policy.

[Palestine ... it is something colonial](#) by Hatem Bazian

[Make America Hate Again? Before and After Trump, There Were Differences in How Muslims and Islam were Portrayed in American Media.](#) By Muhammad Asad Latif

[Borders and Belonging: A Memoir](#) by Mira Sucharov

- In this gripping and honest memoir, Mira Sucharov shows what a search for a political and emotional home looks like. Sucharov suffered from childhood phobias triggered by her parents' divorce, and she sought emotional refuge in Jewish summer camp. But three years spent living in Israel in her twenties shook her to her core. Ultimately, encounters with colleagues, students, friends and lovers force her to confront what it

means to be able to write, advocate and teach about Israel/Palestine in a way that balances affirmation with authenticity.

Israel's Black Panthers: The Radicals Who Punctured a Nation's Founding Myth

- Israel's Black Panthers tells the story of the young and impoverished Moroccan Israeli Jews who challenged their country's political status quo and rebelled against the ethnic hierarchy of Israeli life in the 1970s. Inspired by the American group of the same name, the Black Panthers mounted protests and a yearslong political campaign for the rights of Mizrahim, or Jews of Middle Eastern ancestry. They managed to rattle the country's establishment and change the course of Israel's history through the mass mobilization of a Jewish underclass.

American Islamophobia: Understanding the Roots and Rise of Fear by Khaled A. Beydoun

Innocent Until Proven Muslim: Islamophobia, the War on Terror, and the Muslim Experience Since 9/11 by Maha Hilal

Islamophobia in America: The Anatomy of Intolerance by Carl W. Ernst

- Islamophobia in America offers new perspectives on prejudice against Muslims, which has become increasingly widespread in the USA in the past decade. The contributors document the history of anti-Islamic sentiment in American culture, the scope of organized anti-Muslim propaganda, and the institutionalization of this kind of intolerance.

The lived experiences of Muslim Americans regarding prejudice and discrimination by non-Muslims. [Doctoral dissertation]. Walden University. Abderrazzaq, M. (2021).

Raising teachers' cultural knowledge of Middle Eastern students in the classroom. Alnawar, H. J. (2015).

The Fear of Islam by Todd H. Green

- *The Fear of Islam* investigates the context of Western views of Islam and offers an introduction to the historical roots and contemporary anxiety regarding Islam within the Western world. Tracing the medieval legacy of religious polemics and violence, Green orients readers to the complex history and issues of Western relations to Islam, from early and late modern colonial enterprises and theories of "Orientalism," to the production of religious discourses of otherness and the clash of civilizations that proliferated in the era of 9/11 and the war on terror.

Muslim American adolescents' explanations of changing religious practices: Cultural tools in cultural contexts. British Journal of Developmental Psychology, 35(1), 21–36. Cain, K. M., Schiro, I. N., Gregory, W. E., Westberg, L. M., Lee, S. R., & Boyle, C. D. (2017).

Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire: Twenty years after 9/11 By Deepa Kumar

Islamophobia: Causes and Countermeasures

- A cliché arises when Islam is claimed to be the source of a succession of terrorist attacks. As a result, several states have been concerned about and distrustful of Muslims—Islamophobia. Islamophobia is linked to unfavorable stereotypes about Muslims and Islam, which leads to the formation of anti-Islam sentiment. Prejudice stems from the belief that Islam is a lesser faith that poses a challenge to society's prevailing ideals. Because of its dichotomous function, the media has become the focus of attention in the instance of Islamophobia. It has become the source of the symptoms of Islamophobia. As a human civilization that relies on revenue to survive, Muslim communities have witnessed Islamophobia wreaking havoc on their businesses, overall economy, and resources. Islamophobia is a global issue associated with unfavorable attitudes and biases toward Muslims and Islam; it requires proper knowledge, good reporting, and appropriate representation at the international level.

Islamophobia book by Chris Allen

- Despite numerous sources suggesting that Islamophobia is becoming both increasingly prevalent and societally acceptable in the contemporary world, there remains a lack of textual sources that consider either the phenomenon itself, or its manifestations and consequences. There is no authoritative text that attempts to understand or contextualise what might be seen to be one of the most dangerous prejudices in the contemporary climate. Chris Allen begins by looking at ways of defining and understanding Islamophobia. He traces its historical evolution to the present day, considering the impact of recent events and their aftermath especially in the wake of the events of September 11, before trying to understand and comprehend a wider conception of the phenomenon. A series of investigations thematically consider the role of the media, the contemporary positioning of Muslims throughout the world, and whether Islamophobia can be seen to be a continuum of historical anti-Muslimism or anti-Islamism, or whether Islamophobia is an entirely modern concept. The issue of Islamophobia is considered from the perspective of the local, regional, and global. The incidence of Islamophobia, and the magnitude of the phenomenon and its consequences, is one that warrants a greater investigation in the world today.

[The Racial Muslim: When Racism Quashes Religious Freedom](#) by Sahar F. Aziz

[Is Free Speech Racist?](#) By Gavam Titley

- The question of free speech is never far from the headlines and frequently declared to be in crisis. Starting from the observation that such debates so often focus on what can and cannot be said in relation to race, Gavam Titley asks why racism has become so central to intense disputes about the status and remit of freedom of speech. [Is Free Speech Racist?](#) moves away from recurring debates about the limits of speech to instead examine how the principle of free speech is marshalled in today's multicultural and intensively mediated societies. This involves tracing the ways in which free speech has been mobilized in far-right politics, in the recycling of 'race realism' and other discredited forms of knowledge, and in the politics of immigration and integration. Where there is intense political contestation and public confusion as to what constitutes racism and who gets to define it, 'free speech' has been adopted as a primary mechanism for amplifying and re-animating racist ideas and racializing claims. As such, contemporary free speech discourse reveals much about the ongoing life of race and racism in contemporary society.

[Fear in our Hearts: What Islamophobia Tells Us about America](#) by Caleb Iyer Elfenbein

[Gender, race, and American Islamophobia](#) by Megan Goodwin

- This chapter addresses anti-Muslim actions and attitudes – often called Islamophobia – as a gendered and racialized phenomenon, especially in the contemporary United States. I consider the ways gender and race have shaped the language, history, adjudication, and material effects of American anti-Muslim hostility. I survey statistics on recent increases in anti-Muslim violence and sentiment, provide definitions for key terms, review the timeline of anti-Muslim rhetoric and actions throughout US history, and consider several key incidents in recent anti-Muslim hostility as it pertains to gender and race. The last decade has seen a sharp increase in violence and hostility toward Muslims, underscoring the pressing need for a nuanced understanding of so-called Islamophobia and its operations. A comprehensive analysis of anti-Muslim hostility in the United States as a gendered and racialized phenomenon does not simply highlight American Muslim women's vulnerability to religio-racist harassment and violence, nor to the collapsing of American Muslim masculinity into terrorism and domestic abuse.

['Islamophobia never stands still': race, religion, and culture](#) by Raymond Taras in the book [Racialization and Religion](#)

["A Virus Has No Religion": Analyzing Islamophobia on Twitter During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

- The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted people's lives driving them to act in fear, anxiety, and anger, leading to worldwide racist events in the physical world and online social networks. Though there are works focusing on Sinophobia during the COVID-19 pandemic, less attention has been given to the recent surge in Islamophobia. A large number of positive cases arising out of the religious Tablighi Jamaat gathering has driven people towards forming anti-Muslim communities around hashtags like #coronajihad, #tablighijamaatvirus on Twitter. In addition to the online spaces, the rise in Islamophobia has also resulted in increased hate crimes in the real world. Hence, an investigation is

required to create interventions. To the best of our knowledge, we present the first large-scale quantitative study linking Islamophobia with COVID-19.