



## **Breaking Apart the Monolith: The Many Ways of Being Muslim**

*A Conference Exploring the Dynamics of Muslim Identity in Today's World*

*March 10-11, 2007*

*The Friend Center Convocation Room (Rm. 113), Princeton University*

### **Participant Bios (Preliminary Listing)**

**Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat** received degrees from Damascus University in Islamic Studies and Arabic Language in 1987 and in Islamic Law in 1988. In 1999, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Theology from Trinity College and University. From 1975 to 1989 under the late Grand Mufti of Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Kufaro, he studied Quranic interpretation, "Shari'ah" and the Islamic spiritual teachings. From 1989 to 1997, he accompanied the Grand Mufti during most of his international programs and conferences. He served as Imam in Damascus from 1981 to 1989 and as Imam of the Islamic Society of Baltimore, Maryland Inc. from 1989 to 1993. He founded An-Nur Institute for Islamic Studies and Arabic Language in Baltimore in 1993, and co-founded An-Nur Mosque in Carney, Maryland where he was the Imam from 1995 to 1997. He has served as Campus Imam at Johns Hopkins University, Adjunct Chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Muslim Chaplain for the Baltimore City Police Department.

Currently he is President of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland. He is the Founder and President of Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF) [www.civilizationsexchange.org](http://www.civilizationsexchange.org). Recently, Imam Arafat has conducted programs on "Islam in America" through the State Department in over eleven countries. He has taught Islamic studies at the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University, the University of Maryland in Baltimore County (UMBC), Johns Hopkins University, Goucher College and the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, and comparative religions at Potomac College in Washington, DC.

**Karen Bauer** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. Her dissertation is a diachronic study of the interpretations of four verses of the Qur'an which have to do with women. She plans to defend in June. Karen is also co-producing a documentary film on women who lead other women in prayers and lessons in mosques in the Middle East (da'iyat/sheikhas).

**Brother David Carroll** is a member of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, having joined that congregation in 1953. He holds a bachelor's degree from Catholic University of America, a master's from Brown and a doctorate from New York University. His work with issues relating to the Middle East began in 1981, when he became the Director of Research for the Pope John Paul II Center of Prayer and Study for Peace. In 1985, he came to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, where he is the Under Secretary General and was appointed Advisor to the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations. In 1987 he co-founded the Catholic Academy of Sciences (USA) and currently serves as president of the academy. In 1990 he joined the Ecumenical and Interreligious Commission of the Archdiocese of New York, and became co-chair of its Islamic/Roman Catholic Dialogue. In addition he is a member of the Muslim-Roman Catholic National Dialogue sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Brother David has published forty articles relating to religious and political issues. He is a Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. On October 23, 1995, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State for the Holy See, conferred the cross Pro Ecclesia Et Pro Pontifice on Brother David for his work with the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations and the Path to Peace Foundation. Brother David has served as an adjunct professor at St. John's

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University, Jamaica, NY, and at New York University, New York, NY. In 2006, he was elected the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, N.Y.

**Aicha El Hajjami** is professor of public law at the Faculty of Law in Fes and Marrakesh (University of Qadi Ayyad). She is the founding member of the Research and Study Centre of Woman and Family (CERFF) in Marrakesh. She is a member of the African Women's Association for research and development (AFARD) based in Senegal and a member of the Forum for Juridical Reform in Marrakesh. She has spent a great deal of time as a consultant working with national and international organizations on issues related to women's rights.

**Abdellah Hammoudi** is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Princeton University, where he teaches French social and philosophical thought and its impact on anthropology and related disciplines. He also teaches political anthropology, the anthropology of Islamic political and social movements and graduate seminars in the classics of anthropology. Besides Morocco, he has done extensive fieldwork in Libya and Saudi Arabia. His books include: 1) *The Victim and its Mask*, Paris 1988; University of Chicago Press, 1993. 2) *Master and Disciple*, University of Chicago Press, 1996. 3) *Maitres et Disciples : Sur L'autoritarisme dans les societes arabes*, Paris 1998 {translated into Arabic and Spanish}. 4) *A Season in Mecca, New York*, Farrar Straus, Giroux, 2006 {translated into French, Italian, Dutch and German and under contract for translations into Arabic, Polish, Russian and Spanish}. The book received The Lettre Ulysses Award, Berlin 2006. He has also edited volumes and published numerous articles in French, Arabic and English.

**Amaney Jamal** is an assistant professor of politics at Princeton University. Her current research focuses on democratization and the politics of civic engagement in the Middle East. She extends her research to the study of Muslim and Arab Americans, examining the pathways that structure their patterns of civic engagement in the US.

Jamal has written two books (both forthcoming in 2007). The first book, *Barriers to Democracy*, Jamal explores the role of civic associations in promoting democratic effects in the Middle East. Her second book, an edited volume with Nadine Naber (University of Michigan) looks at the patterns and influences of Arab American racialization processes. She is writing a third book on citizenship in the Arab world. Jamal is a principal investigator of the "Arab Barometer Project," co-PI of the "Detroit Arab American Study," a sister survey to the Detroit Area Study; and Senior Advisor on the Pew Research Center Project on Islam in America, 2006. In 2005, Jamal was named a Carnegie Scholar.

**Jamillah Karim** is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Spelman College. She specializes in Islam in America, women and Islam, race and Islam, and Muslim immigration. Karim is currently completing a book project on relations between African American and South Asian immigrant Muslims in the United States. She is the author of several published articles including "To Be Black, Female, and Muslim: A Candid Conversation about Race in the American Ummah" and "Islam for the People: Muslim Men's Voices on Race and Ethnicity in the American Ummah." Karim has presented her research to several scholarly communities including Vanderbilt, Harvard, and Brandeis. She lectures frequently within Muslim communities. In her spare time, she contributes to *Azizah*, an American Muslim women's magazine. Karim obtained her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies at Duke University where she also did her undergraduate work in electrical engineering. Jamillah is originally from Atlanta, GA where she was raised in an active African American Muslim community.

**Shahnaz Khan** is Associate Professor in Women's Studies Program at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her areas of interest include: Muslim women in the Diaspora, Zina Ordinance in Pakistan and Transnational feminism. She has published two books *Aversion and Desire: Muslim female identity in the Diaspora* and *Zina, Transnational feminism and the moral regulation of Pakistani women*. She has also published articles in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture, Society Feminist Studies, Feminist Review, Canadian Woman Studies*, and the *Canadian Journal of Women and the Law*.

**Karen Leonard** is an historian and anthropologist at the University of California, Irvine. Her 1969 Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin) was in the history of India. She has published on the social history and anthropology of India and on Punjabi Mexican Americans, South Asian Americans, and Muslim Americans. Her new book is a multisite ethnography on the construction of identity in the diaspora by emigrants from Hyderabad, India, settling in Pakistan, Britain, Canada, the US, Australia, and the Gulf states of the Middle East. The book before that, *Muslims in the United States*, was an extended bibliographic essay relating Muslim Americans to the changing religious, social and political landscape in America.

Leonard's books are: *Social History of an Indian Caste: the Kayasths of Hyderabad* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978); *Making Ethnic Choices: California's Punjabi Mexican Americans* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press); *South Asian Americans* (Westport Conn.: Greenwood Press, The New Americans series, 1997); *Muslims in the United States: the State of Research* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003); and *Locating Home: India's Hyderabadis Abroad* (Palo Alto: Stanford

University Press, 2007).

**Shaun Marmon** joined the Princeton Department of Religion in 1992. Her field is the history of Islam. Her published works include *Eunuchs and Sacred Boundaries in Islamic Society* and *Slavery in the Islamic Middle East*. She has a particular interest in the Mamluk period. Her current research projects include a study of Islam, race and slavery in the Mamluk period.

**Carolyn Rouse** (Ph.D., University of Southern California) is Associate Professor of Anthropology and teaches in the Center for African-American Studies at Princeton University. She has done extensive fieldwork with African American converts to Sunni Islam, medical anthropology research around sickle cell disease and healthcare disparities, and is currently focused on a longitudinal film project in four corners of African and the African Diaspora. In addition, she has produced, directed, and/or edited a number of documentaries including *Chicks in White Satin* (1994), a film about a lesbian wedding; and *Purification to Prozac: Treating Mental Illness in Bali* (1998). She is the author of *Engaged Surrender: African American Women and Islam* (2004), and is completing *Uncertain Suffering: Racial Healthcare Disparities and the Politics of Sickle Cell Disease* and *Televised Redemption: Race, Religion and Media* with Marla Frederick and John Jackson.

**Father Patrick Ryan**, a Jesuit and native of New York City, became the Vice President for University Mission and Ministry at Fordham University in New York in 2005. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1957 and did his bachelor's and master's degrees at Fordham in English Language and Literature. In 1964 he began a long career as a teacher and academic administrator in West Africa, where he has spent 26 of the past 42 years. After ordination in 1968 he completed a doctorate at Harvard University in the comparative history of religion, specializing in Arabic and Islamic studies. For 15 years he taught in this area in Ghanaian universities. He also taught for briefer periods at Fordham and at the Gregorian University in Rome. From 1999-2005 he was the first President of Loyola Jesuit College, a coeducational high school in Nigeria's federal capital, Abuja. Father Ryan has published three books and numerous articles, scholarly and popular.

**Laury Silvers** is an assistant professor of Religion at Skidmore College. Her areas of scholarship include early Sufi Qur'an commentary, early Sufi Metaphysics and Ethics, early Sufi women, Gender in Sufism and Islam, Progressive Islam, and Theory of Religion. Silvers is also an activist in the Progressive Islam and Best Practices movements focusing mainly on gender issues. She is the co-founder and content manager of the website [www.progressiveislam.org](http://www.progressiveislam.org) and its women's health resources pages.

**Harvey Stark** is a graduate student in the Religion Department at Princeton University with a focus in Islam. He received his BA from Cornell University in Near Eastern Studies and Government in 1992 and his MA from the University of Bath in International Economic Development in 2000, where he focused on Israeli-Palestinian Economic Interdependence. He is a Member of the Board and Director of Academic and Religious Affairs for the American Moroccan Institute (AMI). Prior to entering Princeton he worked on the US Department of State funded YES program, to bring high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to the US for a year of study. Harvey's research interests include the Muslim Community in the US, the role of religion in secular society and encounters between religious conservatism and religious rejection.

**Liyakat Takim** is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Denver. A native of Zanzibar, Tanzania, he has authored over thirty five articles on diverse issues like Islam in America, the indigenization of the Muslim community in America, dialogue in post-9/11 America, war and peace in the Islamic tradition, the treatment of women in Islamic juridical literature, Islamic law, Islamic biographical literature, reformation in the Islamic world, *jihad* in Shi'i law, the charisma of the holy man and shrine culture, Islamic mystical traditions, and various aspects of Shi'i history and figures. He teaches a wide range of courses on Islam and offers a course on comparative religions.

Professor Takim's book titled, *The Heirs of the Prophet: Charisma and Religious Authority in Shi'ite Islam* was recently published by SUNY press. He is currently working on his second book, *The Shi'i Experience in America*. He is also translating volume four of 'Allama Tabatabai's voluminous exegesis of the Qur'an. Professor Takim has taught at American and Canadian universities and is actively engaged in dialogue with different faith communities. He has also lectured at many institutions in different parts of the world.

**Julie Taylor** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from UCLA, thus making her the lone social scientist in her department. Julie is currently completing a book entitled, *Prophet Sharing: Cooperation and Conflict between Muslim Clerics and Middle Eastern Regimes* for which she conducted research in both Egypt and Iran. The book presents a theory explaining not only when cooperation or conflict between clerics and regimes is likely, but also when clerical establishments are prone to split, and when clerics make their greatest gains vis-à-vis regimes. For a second project she is investigating the process of state-led Islamicization and its impact on government-stability. Last year Julie was a fellow at Harvard's John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies. Her courses include:

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Political Islam, Political and Economic Development of the Middle East (both cross-listed with the Politics Department), Comparative Politics of the Middle East, and a new interdisciplinary course, Oil, Energy and the Middle East, co-taught with Physics professor, Shivaji Sondhi.