The Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA)

Vision

To be a premiere research institution for ideas, analysis, and policy recommendations on global affairs impacting the Muslim World, and to foster future relations with world powers based on shared principles, common interests, and mutual respect.

Mission Statement

CIGA is an independent, nonprofit, research and public policy institution based in Istanbul, Turkey, and affiliated with Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. Its mission is “To conduct high quality research and analysis, educate the public and policymakers, train experts, and propose novel ideas and policy recommendations regarding global policies and relations impacting the Islamic world, and the development and progress of Muslim societies.”
Second International Conference on
Islamophobia
Islamophobia: Analyzing its Discourse and Geopolitics

Conference Topics and Objectives

Over the last two centuries, different political actors around the world--from the United States to China, and from Russia to Israel--have used Islamophobia to expand or consolidate their political power. Indeed, the geopolitics of Islamophobia refers not only to its political-economic dimensions, but also to its functional use as part of various strategic imperatives and tools employed by regional and global powers to advance colonialist objectives, empire expansion, or narrow self-interests. It is therefore of vital importance to imbue into the public mind (particularly among the young generations) the notion that Islamophobia is not just about religious prejudices or social exclusion, but more importantly, is an essential feature of the global racial hierarchy that may be adapted in different contexts in order to assert control or achieve superior power, control, and wealth.

Last year, the First International Conference on Islamophobia, organized by the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University (IZU), featured some of the most notable scholars from Turkey and around the world. The conference explored the impact of Islamophobia on culture, society, politics, and international relations. This year, the conference will bring together some of the most renowned speakers with outstanding scholarship on Islamophobia in order to examine its role in different contexts, and analyze its discourse and geopolitics.

First, a panel on different epistemic notions of Islamophobia will critically examine various assumptions and arguments about the meaning and strategic objectives of the political utilization of Islamophobia, including how the clash of civilization thesis that emerged over a quarter a century ago was the precursor to the current Islamophobic discourse for geopolitical power and control. The impact of Islamophobia on Islamic reform shall also be explored
and discussed. In another panel, scholars will discuss the intersection and divergence between Islamophobia and Orientalism, looking at different formations of the “Other” over time, and thus raising the question of what is different with Islamophobia today compared to other forms of racial “othering” by global powers, including the important examination of the similarities and differences between Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. A subsequent panel will discuss the role Islamophobia plays in the service of empire-building and expansion for political hegemony and economic control.

Given the importance of human rights in the international political system today, the relation between Islamophobia and human rights will be discussed, including the role of liberalism and feminism in its justification, as well as how racism has been normalized in the age of Islamophobia. How the current developments and future directions of human rights around the world might evolve will also be explored. Given the often-tilted focus of Islamophobia’s adverse consequences in the West, the conference will also feature a panel that examines multiple manifestations of Islamophobia in different contexts around the world, including China and India. The detrimental role played by various think-tanks and right-wing groups in propagating Islamophobia and demonizing Islam and its adherents for geopolitical ends will also be discussed. Finally, a panel that features most of the conference’s speakers will address strategies and policies that need to be adopted and pursued to curtail or reduce the harmful and negative effects of Islamophobia.

A major objective of the conference is to bring together leading scholars in their respective fields in order to intellectually engage in thoughtful discussions on some of the major issues related to Islamophobia, and to ultimately explore the range of appropriate responses. The panels will not only analyze these topics and present prescient assessments, but will also attempt to present practical solutions to difficult challenges.
Conference Program

Friday, April 12, 2019

16:30-17:00  **Opening Session:**
Session Chair: Dr. Fatimah Bint Abdullah, *IZU*
Welcoming Remarks: Prof. Dr. Mehmet Bulut, *IZU Rector*
    Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, *Director General of IRCICA - Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture*
Program: Dr. Sami Al-Arian, *CIGA Director*

17:00-19:00  **Session I: Epistemic Roots of Islamophobia and its Future Trajectory**
Session Chair: Dr. Sami Al-Arian, *CIGA Director*

**The Clash of Civilizations Revisited: Work in the Ruins of Empire**
Dr. Anne Norton, *University of Pennsylvania, USA*

**The Geopolitics of Islamophobia**
Dr. Salman Sayyid, *University of Leeds, UK*

**Islamic Reform in the Age of Islamophobia: Asking the Hard Questions**
Dr. Selim Argun, *Istanbul University, Vice President of Department of Religious Affairs, Diyanet, Turkey*
Saturday, April 13, 2019

9:30-11:15  Session II: The Intellectual and Political Mainstreaming of Islamophobia: The Role of Elites, Think Tanks, and Right-Wing Groups
Session Chair: Dr. Nuray Ocaklı, IZU

Rationalizing Islamophobia: The Dangerous Role of Think Tanks
Dr. Farid Hafez, University of Salzburg, Austria

Islamophobia and US Foreign Policy: The Rise of the Alt-Right and the Mainstreaming of Anti-Muslim Sentiment
Dr. Dalia Fahmy, Long Island University, USA

Using Islamophobia as a Tool in Supporting Autocratic Rule
Dr. Usaama al-Azami, The Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK

11:15-11:45  Break

11:45-13:30  Session III: Islamophobia in the Service of Empire
Session Chair: Dr. Nasuh Uslu, IZU

Constructing the Terrorist Threat: Anti-Muslim Racism, Neoliberalism and Empire
Dr. Deepa Kumar, Rutgers University, USA

How the Political Discourse of Islamophobia Advances Geopolitical Ends
Dr. Hatem Bazian, University of California-Berkeley, USA

Impact of the Agents of Hate and anti-Muslim Racism in the U.S.
Mr. Ahmed Bedier, United Voices of America, USA
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13:30-15:00  Lunch

15:00-17:30  Session IV: The Multiple Faces of Islamophobia
Session Chair: Dr. Ravza Kavakçı Kan, MP, Istanbul

The Politics of Indian Islamophobia: An Overview
Dr. Varsha Basheer, University of Kerala, India

The Discourse of Islamophobia in China
Dr. Luwei Rose Luqiu, Hong Kong Baptist University, China

Islamophobia and the Geopolitics of France: The Impact of Historical
and Political Factors
Dr. Ömer Çaha, IZU

Muslim Identity Politics: Islam and Equality in Britain
Dr. Khadijah Elshayyal, University of Edinburgh, UK

Sunday, April 14, 2019

9:30-11:15  Session V: Islamophobia and Orientalism: Where they
Intersect and Diverge
Session Chair: Dr. Monzer Kahf, IZU

The Image of Muslims in Western Cultural History
Dr. Nagihan Haliloğlu, Ibn Haldun University, Turkey

Islamophobia, Media, Education and the Arts: Reclaiming the
Narrative through Muslim Counter-Publics
Dr. Jasmin Zine, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

Justifying Islamophobia and the War on Terror in the name of
Liberalism and Feminism
Dr. Shaireen Rasheed, Long Island University, USA
11:15-11:45  Break

11:45-13:45  Session VI: Islamophobia and Human Rights: The Impact of Demonization and Exclusion
Session Chair: Ms. Linda Hyökkö, IZU

Consequences of Islamophobia on Civil Liberties and Rights in the United States
Mr. Elsadig Elsheikh, University of California-Berkeley, USA

Normalizing Racism through Islamophobia: Causes, Consequences, and Lessons Learned
Dr. Ihsan Bagby, University of Kentucky, USA

The Securitization of Islam and Muslims after 9/11: Reasons and Consequences
Dr. Talip Küçükcan, Marmara University, Turkey

Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism: Similarities and Differences
Dr. Tamara Sonn, Georgetown University, USA

13:45-15:15  Lunch

15:15-17:30  Session VII: Conversation with Scholars on Challenging and Confronting Islamophobia
Moderators: Dr. Sami Al-Arian, CIGA Director
            Mr. Ahmed Bedier, United Voices of America

Panel I [15:15-16:20]: Dalia Fahmy, Farid Hafez, Talip Küçükcan, Deepa Kumar, Anne Norton, Salman Sayyid

Panel II [16:25-17:30]: Ihsan Bagby, Varsha Basheer, Khadijah Elshayyal, Elsadig Elsheikh, Luwei Rose Luqui, Shaireen Rasheed
Fatimah Bint Abdullah received her first degree in Usuluddin and Philosophy from National University in Malaysia (UKM) in 1981. She obtained her Master of Philosophy from St. Andrew University, Scotland in 1991, and her Ph.D. in Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) from Malaysia in 1998. In 2007, she received a Diploma in Social Sciences from International Islamic University in Malaysia. She had taught at the International Islamic university for more than twenty years. She had also taught at Ahfad University for Women in Sudan in 2011-2012. Currently, she is with the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) and an associate professor at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University at Istanbul, Turkey. She has published several articles and books on various aspects of Islamic thought, including a text-book on Islamic Aqidah for online education program (2001), Issues in Usuluddin (2009) and Islamic Ethics and Character Building (2014).
Sami A. Al-Arian is the Director of the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) and Public Affairs Professor at Istanbul Zaim University. He received his PhD in Computer Engineering in 1986, and was a tenured academic in the US for two decades receiving best teaching awards at the University of South Florida (1993 and 1994) and several grants, as well as having over forty publications to his credit. During his four decades in the US (1975-2015), Dr. Al-Arian founded numerous institutions and publications in the fields of education, research, religion and interfaith, as well as civil and human rights. He was a prolific speaker across many US campuses, especially on Palestine, Islam and the West, and Civil Rights. In 2001, he was named by Newsweek the “premier civil rights activist” in the US for his efforts to repeal the use of Secret Evidence in immigration courts. In 2012, he was profiled by historians in the Encyclopedia of American Dissidents as one of only three Muslims in the US out of 152 dissidents and prisoners of conscience that were included in the series in the past century (along with Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali). His US story was featured in 2007 in the award-winning documentary “US vs. Al-Arian,” and in 2016 in the book “Being Palestinian.” Dr. Al-Arian has written several studies and numerous articles focusing on US foreign policy, Palestine, and the Arab Spring phenomena. His book of poetry on Spirituality, Palestine, and Human Rights Conspiring Against Joseph was published in 2004.
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Session II - Saturday, April 13, 2019
9:30-11:15

USAAMA AL-AZAMI is a Lecturer in Islamic studies at the Markfield Institute of Higher Education, based in the UK. He read his BA in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Oxford University, and his MA and PhD in Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. His dissertation explores Islamic political thought in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Alongside his university studies, he has also pursued Islamic studies in seminarial contexts across three continents. In addition to academic writing, he is a frequent commentator on public affairs pertaining to Muslims in outlets such as Middle East Eye, HuffPost, Muslim Matters, and TRT World. He is currently working on a book that explores the political engagements and discourses of ulama who have opposed democracy and supported autocracy after the Arab revolutions.
Selim Argun has been an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Divinity at Istanbul University since 2013. He completed his BA in al-Madinah al-Munawwarah, MA in Johannesburg, South Africa (Magna Cum Laude), and PhD at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Argun is a specialist on Islamic Religious Endowments (Waqf) and has published widely on the subject. He has also conducted research in the fields of Ottoman Africa and Elite Conflict Theories. He published his first book in 2014 titled Elite Configurations and Clusters of Power: Ulema, Waqf and the Ottoman State (1789-1839). In 2017, he was appointed as the vice president of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Ankara. Dr. Argun is fluent in English, Arabic, French and Circassian languages.
Varsha Basheer is an academic and political commentator from Kerala, India. She obtained her PhD in English Language and Literature, from the University of Kerala, working on a cultural analysis of Postmodern Spirituality and aiding Literary Works. She shifted her focus to Media Analysis, critically observing Indian media and Bollywood representation of Muslims, exploring in detail the relationship between religion, “secular” politics and Islamophobia, with specific focus on India. The intersectionality of the global War on terror and the criminalisation of Muslims is a major focus of her work. She has been Affiliated Faculty with the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project, Centre for Race and Gender at the University of California Berkeley, since 2014. Her publications include numerous journal articles on Popular Culture, Islam and feminism and Islamophobia in India. She has been a community spokesperson in Media and works with grassroots organisations trying to foster Inter-faith coalitions; helping to challenge the escalation of Islamophobia and also atrocities against other marginalised identities like Dalits and Adivasis.
Hatem Bazian is Provost, co-founder and Professor of Islamic Law and Theology at Zaytuna College, the 1st Accredited Muslim Liberal Arts College in the United States. In addition, Prof. Bazian is a teaching professor in the Departments of Near Eastern and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Between 2002-2007, Dr. Bazian served as an adjunct professor of law at Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to Berkeley, Prof. Bazian served as a visiting Professor in Religious Studies at Saint Mary's College of California 2001-2007 and adviser to the Religion, Politics and Globalization Center at UC Berkeley. In Spring 2009, Prof. Bazian founded at Berkeley the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project at the Center for Race and Gender and in Spring 2012 launched the Islamophobia Studies Journal, which is published bi-annually through Pluto Press in a collaborative effort. Dr. Bazian has authored 4 books, countless chapters in edited volumes and hundreds of articles. In addition to academic work, Dr. Bazian is a weekly columnist for the Turkish Daily Sabah Newspaper and Turkey Agenda online magazine. Dr. Bazian is founder and national Chair of American Muslims for Palestine, board member of the Islamic Scholarship Fund, Muslim Legal Fund of America, President of Dollar for Deen Charity, and Chair of Northern California Islamic Council.
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Session III - Saturday, April 13, 2019
11:45-13:30

Session VII - Sunday, April 14, 2019
15:15-17:30

Ahmed Bedier has worked for the past decade as a community organizer, radio show host, human rights advocate, television commentator and interfaith leader. Bedier is the founder of United Voices for America, a non-profit civic engagement organization that offers programs and training to enable and facilitate minority participation in all aspects of government and the political process. He is also the president of the Human Rights Council of Tampa Bay and serves on the state board of the American Civil Liberties (ACLU) of Florida. For the past six years Bedier has co-hosted TrueTalk a global affairs live radio show on Tampa NPR affiliate and community radio station WMNF 88.5fm. Prior to starting United Voices for America, Bedier served as the executive director of the Tampa chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a national Muslim civil liberties group.
Mehmet Bulut is the Rector of Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University as well as a Professor of Economics and Economic History. He received his PhD from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands in 2000, and MA from Posthumus Institute (1998) in the field of Economic History. He received his BS and MA degrees from Dokuz Eylül University in Economics. Dr. Bulut taught at Başkent University and served as the chair of its Economics Department. He became Dean of the College of Political Sciences and Vice-President at Yıldırım Beyazıt University in 2011, and served as a member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TUBA) in 2012. He has also served as a member of the board of directors in several public and private companies. Dr. Bulut is currently working on long-term economic changes and development, economic performance comparisons and differences between countries, international political economy, the Ottoman-European-Atlantic economic relations, economic history, history of economic thought, and of economic and financial institutions. As a visiting scholar, he has been to Dalarna (Sweden), Cambridge (England), as well as Harvard and Princeton Universities. Dr. Bulut has many publications in refereed international academic journals including the American Journal of Economics and Sociology, Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient, Journal of European Economic History, Middle Eastern Studies, and Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies. He currently serves as the general editor of the Journal of Islamic Economics and Finance, and ADAM Academy Journal of Social Sciences.
Ömer Çaha is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. His areas of research include women’s movements, political theory, and theory of democracy. Dr. Çaha has many books and publications in English and Turkish including, Women and Civil Society in Turkey: Women’s Movements in a Muslim Society (2012); Türkiye’de Cam Tavan Sendromu [Glass Ceiling Syndrome in Turkey, 2016] (with Havva Çaha and Sare Aydın); Dünyada ve Türkiye’de Siyasi İdeolojiler [Political Ideologies in Turkey and the World, 2014] (with Bican Şahin); Değişen Türkiye’de Kadın [Women in Changing Turkey, 2014] (with Havva Çaha and Sare Aydın), Sivil Toplum ve Devlet [Civil Society and the State, 6th ed., 2014]; Kadın Örgütleri ve Yerel Demokrasi [Women’s Organizations and Local Democracy, 2012] (with Havva Çaha); Women and Politics: Class Differences in Feminism, 2008. He also co-edited several volumes including Türkiye’de ve Dünyada Aile [Family in the World and in Turkey, 2006], and Process of EU Enlargement in the 21st Century: New Challenges, (with Peter Terem), published in 2005 by the University of Matej Bel.
Khadijah Elshayyal was awarded her PhD in History from Royal Holloway, University of London, in 2014. She studied History at King’s College London, followed by an MA in Legal and Political Theory from UCL. Khadijah has experience working in the Muslim media sector, and has also conducted research on various aspects of ethnic minority political engagement. Her PhD thesis looked at the development of identity politics among UK Muslims between the years 1960-2010, with a specific focus on issues relating to freedom of expression. She has particular interests in the ongoing development of identity and political expression among British Muslim groups and networks that are less often in the public spotlight, such as those working with women and young people. Additionally, she is interested in how the discourse around, and practice of representation is developing within and between Muslim communities, as well as externally.
Elsadig Elsheikh is the director of the Global Justice Program at the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of California-Berkeley, where he oversees the program’s projects on the corporate power & the food system, global migration, human rights, Inclusiveness Index, and Islamophobia. Prior to Haas Institute, Elsadig led the international program at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University, where he also served as an associate editor of the Institute’s journal Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary in Global Contexts. Earlier, Elsadig was a researcher with the European Economic Community, Amnesty International, Witness for Peace, and various international grassroots and advocacy organizations. Elsadig holds degrees and trainings from Panteion University/Athens, Greece, the Ohio State University/Ohio, SIT Graduate Institute/Vermont, and Columbia University/NY. His research focuses on the socio-political dynamics of neoliberal globalization as related to citizenship, food systems, global migration, state & human rights, and structural racialization. Elsadig published widely on corporate power, food system, forced migration, inclusion, international trade, Islamophobia, structural racism, state and citizenship, among other topics.
Dalia Fahmy is Associate Professor of Political Science at Long Island University where she teaches courses on US Foreign Policy, World Politics, International Relations, Causes of War, Politics of the Middle East, and Islam and Democracy. She is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Policy in Washington DC, and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights and UNESCO chair at Rutgers University. Dr. Fahmy’s three books: “The Rise and Fall of The Muslim Brotherhood and the Future of Political Islam” (forthcoming), “Illiberal Intelligentsia and the Future of Egyptian Democracy”, and “International Relations in a Changing World”, cover her research areas. Dr. Fahmy has published several articles in academic journals focusing on democratization and most recently on the effects of Islamophobia on US foreign policy. She has given several DC briefings on the future of democracy in the Middle East. She has given several DC briefings on the future of democracy in the Middle East. She has been interviewed by and written editorials in various media outlets including ABC, CBS, CBC, CNBC, CNN, MSNBC, PBS, the Huffington Post, the Immanent Frame, the Washington Post, and appears often on Aljazeera. Dr. Fahmy has won several academic awards and fellowships for her research. In 2014, Dr. Fahmy was one of the recipients of the prestigious Kleigman Prize in Political Science, was the 2016 recipient of the Newton Prize for Excellence in Teaching, and in 2017 was named NPR’s ‘Source of the Week.’
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Farid Hafez received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Vienna in 2009 and is currently Senior Researcher at University of Salzburg and Senior Research Fellow at Georgetown University’s The Bridge Initiative. In 2017, he was Fulbright visiting professor at University of California, Berkeley and in 2014, he was visiting scholar at Columbia University, New York. Since 2010, Hafez has been editor of the Islamophobia Studies Yearbook, and since 2015 co-editor of the annual European Islamophobia Report. He has received the Bruno Kreisky Award for the political book of the year, for his anthology Islamophobia in Austria (co-ed. with John Bunzl) and published more than 80 books and articles, including in high-ranking academic journals. Moreover, Hafez regularly publishes op-ed’s and is frequently interviewed by media outlets.
Nagihan Haliloğlu is a lecturer in Comparative Literature at Ibn Haldun University in Istanbul. She holds an MSt in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford and a PhD in English from the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Her book on Jean Rhys, *Narrating from the Margins: Self-Representation of Female and Colonial Subjectivities in Jean Rhys’s Novels* came out from Rodopi in 2011. She has published articles on multiculturalism, modernism, travel writing and contemporary Turkish literature. She is currently working on a project on narratives of melancholy. Her articles have appeared in The Millions, Full Stop, and the Royal Society for Asian Affairs blog. She also writes regularly for Daily Sabah.
Linda Hyökkö graduated in 2011 from the M.A. program “Language, Culture, and Translation” at the University of Mainz/Germersheim, Germany. Currently she is a Research Associate at the Center for Islam and Global Affairs, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, where her focus of research is on Islamophobia and Muslim minorities. She is also pursuing her Ph.D. at the Ibn Haldun University (Istanbul, Turkey) with a thesis on Finnish Muslim converts’ experiences on Islamophobia. As a fellow at the Center for Postnormal Policy and Future Studies (CPPFS) she teaches in workshops on Futures Studies for the Muslim youth. Linda’s research interests include Islamophobia Studies, Conversion to Islam, Identity formation, Critical Theory, Qualitative Research, and alternative epistemologies.
Monzer Kahf is currently professor of Islamic Finance and Islamic Economics, Faculty of Management and Economics at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Istanbul, Turkey. He taught at the graduate program of Islamic Finance at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha Qatar, 2008-2018 and the graduate program of Islamic economics and banking, School of Shari’ah, Yarmouk University, Jordan, 2004-2005. He served as a senior research economist at the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) of the IDB Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 1995–1999 and was a visiting professor at the graduate program of Islamic finance, the International Center for Education of Islamic Finance, INCEIF, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, summer 2010. He has 35 books, more than 80 published articles and scores of conference and encyclopedia entries on Islamic finance and banking, Awqaf, Zakah and other areas of Islamic economics. He provides consultations and advises to Islamic Banks and Fatawa on line in the area of Islamic finance and economics. He was awarded the IDB Prize for Islamic Economics, 2001 and the President of Syria Award for best University Graduating Student, July 1962.
Ravza Kavakçı Kan holds a PhD in Political Science from Howard University in Washington, DC (2013). She holds an MA (2008) degree in European Studies from Boğaziçi University and a BS (1993) degree in Software Engineering from University of Texas at Dallas. After completing her undergraduate degree, she worked in Belbim A.Ş. and at the Project Department of İstanbul Ulaşım A.Ş. and lectured at Hasan Kalyoncu University. She was a member of advisory board of Center for Postcolonial Studies. Dr. Kavakçı Kan was elected as a Member of Parliament from Istanbul for AK Party for the 25th term of Grand National Assembly of Turkey. She was re-elected for the 26th term on November 1st 2015 and for the 27th term on June 24th 2018. She served as the Vice-Chair of AK Party in charge of Human Rights and was a member of the Central Decision and Executive Board of AK Party for three terms between 2015 and 2018. She was the Head of Turkey-China Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group and Term President of the Steering Committee of United Nations Convention to Combating Desertification Parliamentary Forum. She served as a member of Foreign Relations and EU Harmonization Commissions in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. She has been elected as the President of the Turkish Inter-Parliamentary Union Group for the 27th term of Grand National Assembly of Turkey.
Talip Küçükcan is Senior Fellow at the TRT World Research Centre and a Professor of Sociology at the Marmara University in Istanbul. He was a Member of the Turkish Parliament and the Head of Turkish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe between 2015 and 2018. He received an MA from the School of Oriental and African Studies and completed his PhD in Ethnic Relations at the University of Warwick. He was the Director of Foreign Policy Research at the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research. Küçükcan was the Director of Middle East Research Institute at the Marmara University between 2011-2014. He was the Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims for 2014 and 2015. Dr. Küçükcan is specialized in foreign relations with a focus on Middle Eastern affairs, Turkey-EU relations and migration.
Deepa Kumar is a professor of Media Studies at Rutgers University in the United States. She is an award-winning scholar and activist. She is the recipient of the Dallas Smythe award for her engaged scholarship and the Georgina Smith award for her work on gender and race equity. She is the author of more than 80 journal articles, book chapters, and articles in independent and mainstream media. Her work is driven by an active engagement with the key forces that define our era—neoliberalism and imperialism. In her most recent book Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire, she studies the ways in which the “Muslim enemy” has historically been mobilized to suit the goals of empire. This book has been translated into several languages and a second edition is expected in 2020. She has shared her expertise in numerous media outlets such as the BBC, The New York Times, NPR, USA Today, the Danish Broadcast Corporation, TeleSur and other national and international news media outlets.
Luwei Rose Luqiu is an assistant professor at the School of Communication at Hong Kong Baptist University. She researches censorship, propaganda and social movements in authoritarian regimes. Dr. Luqiu had been a television journalist for 20 years. She has covered many major international events ranging from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Libya and Gaza to the tsunami in Indonesia, the earthquake in Japan and China. She also reported on Chinese political news and interviewed several Chinese leaders. Before moving to academia, she worked as a presenter, a commentator, and an executive news editor for the Phoenix Satellite Television in Hong Kong. Dr. Luqiu’s book writing and online activities have also made her recognizable in China, especially among the Internet users. In 2006, she became a Nieman fellow at Harvard University. She received her PhD in mass communication from Pennsylvania State University and obtained her master’s degree in mass communication from Hong Kong Baptist University. She was born and raised in Shanghai and earned her bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Fudan University.
Anne Norton is the author of On the Muslim Question, 95 Theses on Politics, Culture and Method, Leo Strauss and the Politics of American Empire, Bloodrites of the Poststructuralists, Republic of Signs, Reflections on Political Identity, and Alternative Americas: A Reading of Antebellum Political Culture. She is part of the Bridge Initiative against Islamophobia and founding co-editor of Theory & Event. She was educated at the University of Chicago and is Stacey and Henry Jackson President’s Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. She has also taught at the University of Chicago, the University of Notre Dame, Princeton University and the University of Texas, and has held fellowships at the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women and the University Center for Human Values at Princeton. She has working projects on radical democracy, the problem of property, racial inequality, and the remains of empire.
Nuray Ocakli is director of the History and Civilizations Graduate Program at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. Dr. Ocakli completed her PhD in economic history of the Ottoman Empire at Bilkent University and continued her research at University of Toronto and worked as research associate. Dr. Ocakli published articles on nomadic Turkoman migration to the Balkans, rural economy in Ottoman Bulgaria and ethnic personal names in the Ottoman military registers. Currently Dr. Ocakli is doing research on 18th century demographic surveys of Istanbul.
Shaireen Rasheed is a professor of Philosophical Foundations and Diversity/Social Justice at Long Island University in New York. She is currently a Fulbright visiting professor at the University of Salzburg. For the 2017-2018 year she was a visiting scholar in the Department of Philosophy at Columbia University. She was also visiting fellow at the Harvard Divinity School, New York University and the Columbia Law School. Her manuscript on Sexuality, Islam and the War on Terror is slated for publication. She has published and lectured extensively on issues related to Gender/Sexuality, Islamophobia, Liberalism and issues of Race. Most recently she co-authored a special issue in the Studies in Philosophy and Education Journal, “Deconstructing Privilege in the Classroom: Teaching as a Racialized Activity.” And is working on an edited book on the role of national populism and pedagogy titled: “Teaching Controversial Issues” in the Classroom. Her co-edited book, “Humanism and the Schools of Tomorrow: A Global Perspectives” is due for publication in 2019. She also works with educators, activists and researchers to create inclusive pedagogies and best practices for diverse students. She received her M. Phil and PhD at Columbia University in Philosophy.
Salman Sayyid is based at the University of Leeds, where he holds a Chair in Social Theory and Decolonial Thought and is the Head of the School of Sociology and Social Policy. Previously, Sayyid was Professor and the inaugural director of the International Centre for Muslim and Non-Muslim Understanding, in Australia. He has held academic positions in London, Manchester and Adelaide. Professor Sayyid is a political theorist, whose work engages with critical theory and the politics and culture of the Global South. Sayyid’s major publications include: A Fundamental Fear, A Postcolonial People (co-edited), Thinking Through Islamophobia (co-edited with Abdoolkairm Vakil) and Recalling The Caliphate (a Turkish and an Arabic translation of this book have recently been published). Sayyid is the founding editor of an inter-disciplinary peer-reviewed academic journal ReOrient. He is also a frequent contributor to national and international media.
Tamara Sonn is the Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor in the History of Islam at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Her most recent books include Islam and Democracy After the Arab Spring (with John L. Esposito and John O. Voll; Oxford 2016), Islam: History, Religion, and Politics (Wiley Blackwell 2016), and Is Islam an Enemy of the West? (Polity 2016). She has also published over 100 chapters and articles, and her works have been translated into Arabic, Bengali, German, Portuguese, Korean, and Russian. She has lectured in North America, Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. Her research has been supported by the American Council of Learned Societies, Fulbright, and the U.S. Department of State, among others. She is founding editor-in-chief of Oxford Bibliographies Online--Islamic Studies, and senior editor of Oxford Islamic Studies Online and Oxford’s Encyclopedia of the Islamic World, as well as Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion.
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