

Association of Muslim Social
Scientists of North America (AMSS)

“Diversity, Identity and Difference”

Cosponsored By
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Religious Studies Department
&
Center for Islamic Studies

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcoming and Introductory Remarks
(Roskens Hall – Room 10A)

Bridget Blomfield, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE
(Program Chair)

Paul Allen Williams, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE
(Chairman, Department of Religious Studies; Director, Center for Islamic Studies)

9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Keynote Address
(Roskens Hall: Room 10A)

Keynote Speaker:
Asma Afsaruddin (University of Notre Dame, IN)

“The Qur’an: Foundation of Islamic Unity
Through Diversity”

10:15 a.m. – 11: 45 a.m. Panel Session 1 (Roskens Hall: Room 10A)
Constructing Identity & Breaking Stereotypes
Discussant: Moshe Gershovich, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE

Michelle D. Byng (Temple University, Philadelphia, PA): “September 11, 2001 and
Religious Pluralism: Shifting the Religious Minority Identity of Muslim Americans”

Aneesah Nadir (Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ): “Deconstructing Muslim
Stereotypes”

Mahmoud Ayoub (Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA): “How Religious, Cultural
and Political Boundaries Define Muslim Identities”

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Zuhr Salat

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Panel Session 2 (Roskens Hall: Room 10A)

Identities and the Politics of Difference

Discussant: Elizabeth Dahl, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE

Louay Safi (Islamic Society of North America [ISNA], Plainfield, IN): “Islamic Praxis: The Key to Personal Agency and Religious Authority”

Mohamed Nimer (American University, Washington, DC): “Integration, Assimilation and Resistance: Indigenous vs Immigrant Muslims in North America”

Margaret J. Rausch (University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS): “Feminism: An Islamic Perspective”

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Panel Session 3 (Roskens Hall: Room 10A)

Interpretations of Islam: Unity in Diversity

Discussant: Rory J. Conces, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE

Yetkin Yildirim (University of Texas at Austin, TX): “Compassion and Understanding through Inter-faith and Intra-faith”

Simon Wood (University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE): “Islam and Modernity”

Guy Matalon (University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE): “Sufism: The Mystical Element of Islam”

4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Concluding Remarks

Paul Allen Williams, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE

(Chairman, Department of Religious Studies; Director, Center for Islamic Studies)

Bridget Blomfield, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE
(Program Chair)

5:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Break and Asr Salat

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