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”


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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