Seventh annual Muslim Mental Health Conference

LET THE HEALING BEGIN

Faith and Healing: Moving from Trauma to Empowerment

March 26 to 29, 2015
Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, Michigan

Sponsors: MSU Department of Psychiatry, MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine, Office of the Provost, Clinton Eaton Ingham Community Mental Health Agency
Welcome

The seventh annual Muslim Mental Health Conference is a very special event. It’s the only conference of its kind and was established by Dr. Farha Abbasi to bring together academics and faith leaders to begin discussing the special stigma attached to mental health in the Muslim community. Since its beginnings the conference has grown and flourished, giving participants the chance to network and learn in a supportive and positive atmosphere. We’re immensely proud to welcome presenters from around the world and from nearby alike, who will discuss their work and exchange information with others.

This year we welcome members and leaders from all faiths, as we come together to look at ways we can support the members of our communities who are struggling with mental health issues. While we may worship in different ways, we all share a common love for the people we serve and support their health and welfare. By sharing our experiences and listening to one another, we can bring unlimited positive change to our congregations and our world.

We’ll also be joined at the conference by representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. We can learn what is available to support our work and can carry messages to them about what’s needed to improve the lives of people in need.

Thank you for joining us.

Thank you to our sponsors

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Community Mental Health Clinton • Eaton • Ingham

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Muslim Mental Health
THURSDAY, MARCH 26

7:30am - 9:00am  Registration and Check In

9:00am - 9:30am  Greetings and Welcome
Kimberly Konkel, MSW, Associate Director of Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Farha Abbasi, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
Michigan State University

Opening Remarks
Brian Mosallam, Michigan State University Board of Trustees
Jed Magen, DO, MS. Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry,
College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine,
Michigan State University

Videotaped Remarks
United States Surgeon General Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA

9:30am – 10:00am  Keynote Presentation
Kathleen Falk, Regional Director – Region V, U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services

10:00am - 10:15am  Awards Presentation

10:15am -10:30am  Break

10:30am - 12:00pm  Emerging Models in Congregations - AcES/Vicarious Trauma
Father Jeff Putthoff, SJ

12:15pm - 1:00pm  Lunch and Guest Speaker Presentation
Chaplain Asma Hanif, RN, ANP - Executive Director Muslimat Al Misaa, INC

Videotaped Remarks
Congressman André Carson

1:00pm - 1:30pm  Prayers

1:35pm - 3:35pm  From Overwhelming Childhood Adversity to Medical School and Beyond:
How Community Matters
Tina Hahn, MD

Introduction to Sanctuary Models
Father Jeff Putthoff, SJ

Small Group Exercises
Mrna Dibble, MSW, LCSW
3:35pm - 4:00pm  **Human Trafficking to Domestic Violence**  Nicole Wood, MPH, MA – U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships  Kimberly Konkel, MSW, Associate Director of Health  U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

4:00pm - 5:00pm  **Preventing the Tragedy of Suicide:**  **Faith Communities Taking Action**  Reverend Talitha Arnold, MDiv. and David A. Litts, OD, FAAO

5:00pm - 5:15pm  **Group Processing Review and Reflecting on the Day**

5:15pm - 5:30pm  **Recommitment - Invitation to Community of Practice**  Kimberly Konkel, MSW and Farha Abbasi, MD

5:30pm - 6:00pm  **Benediction led by volunteer**
FRIDAY, MARCH 27 (5.0 HOURS CE)

7:30am - 8:00 am  Registration

8:00am - 8:30am  Welcome Remarks

  Introduction to the Muslim Mental Health Conference
  Farha Abbasi, MD

  Introduction to the Institute of Muslim Mental Health
  Halim Naeem, PhD

  Introduction of Narrative of Pain
  Zain Shamoon, MA, LLMFT

8:30am - 9:30am  Islamic Models of Psychology

  Outlining a Psychotherapy Model for Enhancing Muslim Mental Health
  within an Islamic Context
  Hooman Keshavarzi, MA

  Spiritually-tailored Therapeutic Interventions with Muslim Clients
  Sameera Ahmed, PhD and Sadiq Patel, MSW

  Parent Management Training with Muslim Families
  Maryah Quershi, MS, LMFT

9:30am - 9:40am  Break

9:40am  - 10:40am  Marriage and Counseling

  A Study of Psychological Symptoms, Family Function, Marital and Life
  Satisfactions of Polygamous and Monogamous Women: The Palestinian Case
  Alean Krenawi, PhD

  I Offer You Myself in Marriage, in Accordance with the Traditions of Islam:
  A Literature Review of Muslim American Attitudes Toward Marital
  and Pre-Marital Counseling
  Nour Abdelghani, BS; Nidaa Kazi, MA; Mixalis Poulakis, PhD; Amira Zein, MA;
  Renita Sengupta, BA

  Using Intersectionality and Coping as a Framework for Examining Survivors’
  Responses to Domestic Violence: Bridging Psychological Concerns with the
  Structural Reality
  Olubunmi Oyewuwo-Gassikia, MS, LMSW

10:40am - 10:45am  Break
10:45am - 12:00pm

**Mental Health Issues in Specialized Settings**

**The Many Facets of Combat: Muslims Serving in the US Armed Forces**
Shareda Hosien, MA

**Muslim Chaplains as part of the Prison Mental Health Care Team**
Rami Nsour, MS

**Brain-Based Therapy and Trauma: A Culturally Congruent Approach for Refugees in Jordan**
Rania Awaad, MD

12:00pm - 12:15pm

**Break**

12:15am - 1:15pm

**Lunch & Guest Speaker Presentations**

Imam Mohamed Magid - Imam, All Dulles Area Muslim Society and Chairman, International Interfaith Peace Corps (IIPC); Stephen Behnke, JD, PhD, M.Div, USC Gould School of Law - Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy and Ethics

1:15pm - 1:30pm

**Break**

1:30pm - 2:30pm

**Khutbah**

Imam Mohamed Magid

2:30pm - 3:30pm

**Navigating Bicultural Identities in Mental Health**

**Perceived Discrimination and Negative Intergroup Relations: The Role of Bicultural Identity Integration**

Muniba Saleem, PhD

**Investigation of American Muslim Youth Identity**

Rania Mustafa, BS

**Muslim-American Adolescents: Exploring Muslim and American Identities in Adolescents and their Parents**

Fatin Alhadi, MA

3:30pm - 3:40pm

**Break**

3:40pm - 4:40pm

**Emerging Faces of Muslims in Mental Health Challenges**

**Islamaphobia**

Raisa Manejwala

**Americans’ Stereotypes of Muslims: Do Views of Muslims’ Warmth and Competence Vary by Subtype?**

Lina Saud, BA

**Young Muslim Converts: Influence of Race and Gender on Integration and Connection**

Hanan Hashem, BA; Saara Patel and Sameera Ahmed, PhD

4:40pm - 4:45pm

**Break**
4:45pm - 6:00pm
Identifying Barriers and Challenges to Accessing Better Mental Health Care

Muslim American Views on Mental Health Care
Aisha Ahmed, BS

The Role of Self-Stigma in Seeking Mental Health Service in the Muslim-American Community
Habib Abdullah, MA

Factors Influencing the Attitudes of Arab-Muslims Towards Formal Mental Health Services
Samar Harfi, MA

6:00pm - 8:00pm
Dinner on your own

8:00pm - 10:00pm
Narratives of Pain
Zain Shamoon, MA, LLMFT (Open Mic)

10:00pm - 10:05pm
Break

10:05pm - 10:40pm
Narratives of Pain Group Process
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am - 9:15am</td>
<td>Poster Presentations</td>
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<td>9:15am - 10:15am</td>
<td>TED-Style Talk/Panel Discussion on Bipolar Illness</td>
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<td>Melody Moezzi, JD, MPH - Award-winning author, activist an UN Global Expert</td>
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<td>You're Welcome to my Heart: The Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of Living with and Loving my Mother</td>
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<td>Aisha Abbasi, MD - Psychoanalyst and President, Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute</td>
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<td>10:15am - 10:30am</td>
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<td>10:30am - 11:00am</td>
<td>Sexual Violence</td>
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<td>Steve Olweean</td>
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<td>11:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Mental Health &amp; the Ummah: Discussing Collaborations between Imams, Religious Leaders and Health Professionals</td>
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<td>Kameelah Mu’Min Rashad, M.Ed, MRPYC</td>
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<td>12:00pm - 1:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch, Congressional Greetings and Presentation</td>
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<td>U.S. Rep Debbie Dingell, Representative for Michigan’s 12th District</td>
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<td>Understanding Human Trafficking and Complex Trauma of Adolescents</td>
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<td>Meredith Reese, LPC, Vice President of Treatment Programs - Vista Maria</td>
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<td>1:00pm - 1:30pm</td>
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<td>2:00pm - 4:00pm</td>
<td>Aspects of Trauma Panel Discussion</td>
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<td>Cheryl El-Amin, PhD, LMSW</td>
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<td>Historical Trauma</td>
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<td>Marva L. Lewis, PhD - Associate Professor, Tulane University, School of Social Work</td>
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<td>Impact and Prevention of Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>Aneesah Nadir, PhD, MSW</td>
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<td>Trauma in Muslim Community</td>
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<td>Malik Aqueel Raheem, Ed.D, NCC, LCPC, ACS - California State University-Fresno</td>
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<td>Breaking the Silence</td>
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<td>Sarah Rashid</td>
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<td>4:00pm - 4:30pm</td>
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<td>4:30pm - 6:30pm</td>
<td>State of Muslim Mental Health - Panel Discussion</td>
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<td>Halim Naeem, PhD, Tahirah Khalid, LMSW, Zain Shamoon, MA, LLMFT and Nadia M. Bazzy, MA, LLMFT</td>
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<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Conference Concludes</td>
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SUNDAY, MARCH 29

10:00am - 4:00pm  **Mosque Tour (optional)**

The Muslim Mental Health Conference is pleased to announce its third annual Mosque Tour!

The Mosque Tour is part of our Community Contextual Exposure realm of the Muslim Mental Health Conference. Fifty conference participants will be transported to nearby mosques filled with history, culture, beauty and spirituality. Featured mosques include: The Islamic Center of America, The Islamic House of Wisdom and The Muslim Center Detroit. We look forward to having you join us on a wonderful conclusion of the Muslim Mental Health Conference weekend.

Lunch will be obtained along the way between 12:30pm and 2:00pm.
FARHA ABBASI
Dr. Abbasi is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Michigan State University (MSU) and lends her expertise and knowledge in several departments. She is affiliated with the Department of Psychiatry, is a core faculty member with the International Neurologic & Psychiatric Epidemiology Program, and is also connected with the South Asian Studies Center, the Muslim Studies Center and the Multicultural Psychology Consortium. Abbasi is also the Staff Psychiatrist at MSU’s student health facility, Olin Health Center. Her areas of interest are cultural psychiatry and teaching medical students how to provide culturally appropriate care to Muslim patients. In 2009, she was selected as a Minority Fellow of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Her work as a psychiatrist has led her to publicly address the barriers that stigmatize and silence mental health issues within the Islamic community. She is the founder of the Muslim Mental Health Conference.

Abbasi is also the managing editor of the Journal of Muslim Mental Health, an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed academic journal featuring articles exploring social, cultural, medical, theological, historical and psychological factors affecting the mental health of Muslims around the world. The journal is a much-needed resource for professionals seeking to identify and explore the mental health care needs of Muslims everywhere.

Abbasi works directly with the Muslim American community to encourage integration in mainstream society. She has presented Training Imams in Basic Mental Health Care: Capacity Building in Muslim Communities proposal at the Global Risk Forum – OneHealth summit at Davos in 2013. She was nominated as Mayors Town Hero by Lansing Mayor Virgil Bernero for her community service in the field of mental health and was awarded the 2012 Presidential Award for Excellence in Diversity.

NOUR ABDELGHANI
Nour Abdelghani, B.S., is a Psy.D. student at the University of Indianapolis. She holds a bachelor of science degree in psychology and creative writing from the University of Pittsburgh. Her clinical interests include working with children with chronic and acute health problems and families of Middle Eastern descent living in the United States. Her research interests include culture and diversity, including the impact of female genital mutilation on a woman’s mental health and the impact of religion on coping with childhood cancers.

HABIB ABDULLAH
Habib Abdullah is an international student from the United Arab Emirates. He is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in clinical psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles. His populations of interest are pediatrics, children and families. His research interests are stigmas against mental health and chronic pain.

ALEAN AL-KRENAWI
Alean Al-Krenawi, is President of Achva Academic College and Professor in the Spitzer Department of Social Work at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, both located in Israel. Dr. Al-Krenawi’s research interests include multicultural mental health and social work with indigenous populations, polygamy, and political violence. He conducts studies in North America, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and other Arab countries.
FATIN ALHADI

Fatin Alhadi is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology with concentration on children and families at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. She received her bachelor’s degree from San José State University and master’s degree from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. Her clinical and research interests include identity development, multiculturalism and social justice and complex trauma. She is a native of the Bay Area of California but currently lives in Boston.

TALITHA ARNOLD

Rev. Talitha Arnold has been the Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe since 1987, when the church was just seven-years-old. Since that time, the congregation has tripled in membership and is known in Santa Fe for its vital worship, diverse music, outreach and advocacy, and its engaging approach to the Christian faith for all ages. An Arizona native and a graduate of Pomona College and Yale Divinity School, Arnold was the Interim Associate University Chaplain for Yale and served congregations in Connecticut and Arizona before being called to United Church of Santa Fe.

She served on the Santa Fe’s first Children and Youth Commission, as President of Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity, and the hospital Ethics Committee. Currently she co-leads the Faith Communities Task Force for the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and just completed an eight-year term on the Alumni Board of Yale Divinity School. Her publications include the book, Worship for Vital Congregations, several essays in the Feasting on the Word lectionary series, and articles for The Christian Century, NPR’s All Things Considered, The New Mexican, Albuquerque Journal and the UCC’s Still Speaking devotionals. She is currently working on a new book, A Desert Faith for a Desert Time, funded by the Louisville Institute.

She has received the United Church of Christ Antoinette Brown Award for outstanding women clergy, Santa Fe’s Human Rights Award, Yale Divinity School’s Outstanding Recent Alumnus award, a Lilly Endowment clergy grant and Santa Fe’s Ten Who Made a Difference Award.

RANIA AWAAD

Rania Awaad, M.D., is a Stanford-based Psychiatrist on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford University School of Medicine. She pursued her psychiatric residency training at Stanford where she also completed a postdoctoral clinical research fellowship with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Her research and clinical work are focused on the mental health needs of Muslims. She is the recipient of several awards and grants for her work.

Prior to studying medicine, Awaad pursued classical Islamic studies in Damascus, Syria and holds certification (ijaza) in Qur'an, Islamic Law and other branches of the Islamic Sciences. She is also a Professor of Islamic Law at Zaytuna College, an American Muslim Liberal Arts College in Berkeley, California. In addition, she serves as the Director of The Rahmah Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating Muslim women and girls.

NADIA BAZZY

Nadia Bazzy completed her undergraduate work in Political Science and English on a full scholarship to the University of Michigan-Dearborn. she worked as an educator at the Arab American Museum, then pursued a master of arts degree in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding with a concentration in Psycho-Social Recovery from Eastern Mennonite University. She interned for the Peacebuilding Initiative, which is housed at the Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research at Harvard and operates in partnership with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office. She supported the development of an online encyclopedia of peacebuilding in the psycho-social recovery subsection at Georgetown University.
Bazzy went on to complete a post-graduate degree from Oakland University in Couple and Family Counseling, and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She previously worked as a therapist in a domestic violence clinic. She devotes her time and passion to her private practice: Family and Couple Therapy Center in Novi, and is a program manager in the Office of Student Conflict Resolution at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Bazzy has lectured across the country at NGOs, government agencies, community organizations, places of worship and universities on subjects ranging from relationships to forgiveness, conflict, the Arab American experience, Islam and peacebuilding. She sits on the board of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion and serves on the advisory committee for MMCC.

MRNA DIBBLE

Mrna Dibble, MSW, LCSW, is a highly skilled therapist with Safe Alliance, a non-profit crisis counseling center, and works in private practice in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. A native of the area, she holds a bachelor of arts degree in Anthropology and Sociology from St. Andrews Presbyterian College and a Master of Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, studying with social work greats like Virginia Satir.

During her three-plus decades of work, Dibble has assisted survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, violent crime, medical crises, trafficking, generational trauma and natural disaster in individual, family, and group settings. She gained a clear and compelling sense of the impact of trauma, and she responds from a combination of common sense, clinical practice and current research.

Dibble is a faculty instructor in Risking Connection®, an evidence-informed model for providing trauma-informed care, and an implementation consultant in helping agencies adopt and use it. She delivers workshops on ADHD, stress management, blended families and creative discipline to diverse audiences including parents, clinicians, caregivers, educators and faith communities.

Dibble has held clinical positions at the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, Presbyterian Hospital's Behavioral Health and Integrative Medicine departments, and Safe Alliance’s Child Abuse Prevention Program in Union County, NC.

TINA MARIE HAHN

Tina Marie Hahn is a pediatrician in Alpena, Michigan and a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Michigan State University Department of Pediatrics and Human Development. She completed her M.D. at the University of Michigan Medical School and her residency in pediatrics at Indiana University’s James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children.

She has given multiple presentations to hospital staffs and community members on adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress. She recently arranged for Dr. Vincent Felitti (co-principal investigator of the CDC’s Adverse Childhood Experiences Study) to speak at an ACEs CME conference in Alpena on forming a resilient and trauma-informed community. Dr. Hahn is a rural northeastern Michigan native and her passion from the time she was a child has been to bring awareness to the community about the negative health and societal effects of overwhelming childhood adversity.

HANAN HASHEM

Hanan Hashem is a graduate student at Wayne State University who is pursuing her master’s degree in Counseling Psychology. She’s worked at the Family and Youth Institute for three years, assisting with research and community education projects. Hashem hopes to continue learning about identity issues within the American Muslim youth population. She plans to pursue a doctorate in psychology after completing her master’s program.
SHAREDA HOSEIN

Shareda Hosein serves as a Community Muslim Chaplain in the Greater Boston area and volunteers as the Spiritual Counselor at Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. She is a founding member and treasurer of the Association of Muslim Chaplains and holds a graduate certificate in Islamic Chaplaincy and a master’s degree in Islamic Studies Christian-Muslim Relations from Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. She retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Army Reserves with 35 years of military service. Her passion is having a world that works as it honors the diversity of who we are as human beings and fellow travelers.

NIDAA F. KAZI

Nidaa F. Kazi is a third-year Clinical Psychology doctoral student at the University of Indianapolis. She received a master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Indianapolis in 2014 and a bachelor’s degree in Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science from the University of Michigan in 2011. Her professional interests include minority mental health, specifically South Asian American mental health, acculturation, depression, mindfulness and anxiety disorders.

HOOMAN KESHAVARZI

Hooman Keshavarzi is a licensed clinical professional counselor and holds a master of clinical psychology degree and a bachelor of science degree specializing in psychology track/minor in Islamic Studies. He is currently an adjunct professor of Psychology at Argosy University Chicago, American Islamic College, Hartford Seminary, instructor of psychology at Islamic Online University and founder/director of Khalil Center, a community spiritual and mental wellness center. He is also a fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding at the Global Health Center, conducting research on topics related to Muslims and mental health. Keshavarzi is a public speaker and trainer currently serving as a clinical supervisor of graduate students of clinical psychology at the Village of Hoffman Estates (DHS). He also delivers seminars on specialized topics around multiculturalism and psychology.

MARVA L. LEWIS

Marva L. Lewis is an Associate Professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana with a Ph.D. in Sociocultural Psychology. Founder and director of the Early Connections Project she conducts training and research centering on the hair combing task and issues related to Colorism and Childhood Experiences of Racial Acceptance and Rejection. She provides consultation, coaching and training on issues of organizational diversity. She has published and presented her research at national and international meetings on topics of diversity and Healing from the Historical Trauma of Slavery.

IMAM MOHAMED MAGID

Imam Mohamed Magid is the Imam of All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center in Sterling, Virginia. He is the chairman of International Interfaith Peace Corps. Magid served as the President of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). Under his direction, the ADAMS Center has grown to be one of the largest Muslim community organizations in the Washington Metropolitan Area. He also occupies the chairmanship of the Fairfax County Faith Communities in Action, and is a chaplain of George Mason University Campus Ministry. He is also the Vice Chairman of Muflehuin, a think tank focusing on confronting violent extremist thought through research-driven preventative programs within a religious paradigm.
Magid has a long history of commitment to public service through organizations, such as The Peaceful Families Project. He has co-authored three books, Before You Tie the Knot: A Guide for Couples, Reflections on the Qur'an and Change from within. He has held training and workshops for Imams and religious leaders, domestically and internationally, on the issue of violence against women. Magid is leading an initiative to protect religious minorities in Muslim majority countries, through a series of conferences. He has written for the Washington Post and Huffington Post, and been profiled in Time and The Wall Street Journal. He is the recipient of the Washingtonian of the Year 2009 and the Human Rights Award 2005 from Fairfax County.

RAISA MANEJWALA

Raisa Manejwala is a fourth-year doctoral student in the clinical psychology program at La Salle University in Philadelphia. She has experience working with adolescents who have committed sexual offenses, child survivors of sexual assault and college students in a university counseling center. Her areas of interest include forensic psychology, trauma and integrating spirituality into mental health treatment.

Her dissertation topic is on the religious discrimination towards Muslim students in the university setting. She is also an active member of Psychology Graduate Students for Diversity at La Salle, a group that promotes cultural sensitivity and awareness among psychology graduate students on-campus. Manejwala published an article titled, “Integrating Religion and Spirituality into Psychotherapy” in The Pennsylvania Psychologist in 2014.

MELODY MOEZZI


She is a blogger for The Huffington Post, Ms. and bpHope, and a featured bp [bipolar] Magazine columnist. Moezzi is also a United Nations Global Expert and a member of the British Council’s Our Shared Future Opinion Leaders Network. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, NPR, PRI, HLN and Air America, providing commentary on issues ranging from mental health to Iran, feminism and Islam in America.

She has worked as a corporate and non-profit consultant and attorney and with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, reporting to the U.S. Congressional Commission on International Religious Freedom and as an intern covering health and human rights for The Carter Center.

Moezzi regularly lectures on a wide range of issues, including mental health, disability rights, Islam, Iran and feminism. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University and the Emory University School of Law, as well as the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. She lives in Raleigh, North Carolina with her husband Matthew, and their cats, Keshmesh and Nazanin.
RANIA MUSTAFA

Born and raised in New Jersey, Rania Mustafa clearly remembers the events and aftermath of 9/11. As an American Muslim, she found herself living in two worlds and trying to integrate them together. She was always involved with social activism and invested in her faith, which played a huge part in her upbringing and who she is today. She served as the president of the Muslim Student Association at NYU and taught Sunday School at the Islamic Center of Passaic County. Mustafa served as the chair for Shuruq, NYU’s Islamic Cultural Awareness Month. She loves working with and mentoring youths and she became a co-founder and active member of her mosque’s Girls Youth Committee. She’s also part of the Inspiring American Muslim Youth Convention (IAMY) planning committee and she helped found and launch the think tank for the IAMY, a subcommittee to the convention, in which the daily issues of American Muslims are explored, researched, and studied in hopes of providing services to aid the community.

In 2014, Mustafa completed an honors thesis analyzing whether religious participation and discrimination play a role in the formation of an integrated American Muslim identity in youth and how that in turn can affect their motivation to engage in social action. She is also part of New York University professor and community psychologist Dr. Shabnam Javdani’s research team, assisting with the launch of a new study exploring the mental disorders associated with troubled youth, specifically those with prior involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Mustafa graduated from New York University with a bachelor’s degree in Applied Psychology. She presented her honor’s thesis at the New York University Research Conference in May 2014 and at the Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference. She received NYU’s Social Justice Award of the Applied Psychology Department and won the Western Scholarship. She aspires to be a community psychologist and to serve as a social activist to help tackle social problems and work from within the community to implement intervention programs and find sustainable solutions. She is the executive director at the Palestinian American Community Center in Clifton, New Jersey.

ANEESAH NADIR

Aneesah Nadir is the founder and CEO of Dr. Aneesah Nadir & Associates. She is a social worker, author, speaker, consultant, diversity trainer and marriage and family life educator. She provides marriage education seminars for single, engaged and married Muslims throughout the country. She is committed to social and economic justice and as part of her mission provides affordable legal coverage for moderate income individuals, families and small business owners through her work with LegalShield.

Nadir is a graduate of Arizona State University where she obtained her master’s and doctoral degrees in Social Work. She obtained a bachelor’s degree in Social Welfare from Adelphi University in New York. She is a retired Social Work Professor with almost 20 years of teaching experience from Ottawa and Arizona State Universities, as well as Gateway and Mesa Community Colleges in Arizona. Her practice area is children, youth and families. Her research focus has been related to social work, family issues and American Muslims.

Nadir is a founder and advisor for Al-Mu’minah, the Young Muslim Women’s Association, established in 1995 to provide social support, recreational and leadership opportunities for youth and young adult Muslim women. She is also the President and a founder of the Islamic Social Services Association-USA. In addition to her many responsibilities with ISSA-USA she manages the Sakinah Healthy Marriage Initiative, a national campaign to promote healthy marriage among Muslims. In this capacity she works with local and national organizations to establish healthy marriage efforts within their communities.
HALIM NAEEM

Halim Naeem obtained his doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology at Western Michigan University. He is a practicing psychotherapist and president of his own private practice, Naeem and Associates in Livonia, Michigan. He specializes in ADD/ADHD, psychological assessment, and behavioral issues among adolescents and young adults. He works with individuals, couples and families.

He is currently the president of Muslim Mental Health (www.MuslimMentalHealth.com), the leading nationwide experts regarding mental health issues in the Muslim community. He has written for magazines, books, articles and speaks on spiritual and psychological issues. His new book is titled Like Glue: The Little Book of Marriage Advice We Should Have Stuck to from the Beginning. Naeem has done the first research study on African American Muslims in the field of psychology on the correlations between personality and religious behavior published in his dissertation, titled Personality and Religiosity: The influence of normative personality of Black Sunni Muslims’ attitudes and practices. Most importantly, he is a proud husband and father of three beautiful children.

RAMI NSOUR

Rami Nsour spent a number of years in Mauritania where he studied at one of the foremost Islamic Colleges (mahdara). He completed work in various Islamic studies and received a traditional teaching license (ijaza). In addition to his extensive study of Islamic law (fiqh), he was afforded an in-residence experience to train in answering questions of Islamic faith, law and practice.

Nsour has translated traditional Islamic texts, done extensive spiritual counseling and public speaking, and teaches regularly both in-person and online. He co-founded the Tayba Foundation, the only organization offering a distance-learning program in Islamic education to incarcerated men and women in the United States. He has extensive experience in curriculum development, specifically with character (akhlaq). He holds a bachelor’s degree in Human Development with a focus on early childhood development and is pursuing a master’s degree in Educational Psychology. He resides in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and two children.

OLUBUNMI OYEWUWO-GASSIKISA

Olubunmi Oyewuwo-Gassikisa is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Illinois at Chicago Jane Addams College of Social Work. Her research interest is domestic violence in the American Muslim community. Her dissertation study examines how identity influences women’s responses to domestic violence, and she focuses on an ethnically diverse sample of racially black Muslim women. Before returning to school, Oyewuwo-Gassikisa worked with domestic violence survivors. She worked in a shelter as a legal advocate and as a group facilitator in a battering intervention and prevention program. After completing her studies, she hopes to obtain a faculty position and to expand her work to explore the experiences of other ethnic and racial groups in the American Muslim community.

SAARA PATEL

Saara Patel is a research assistant at The Family & Youth Institute and a student at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor completing her Masters of Social Work. She is part of the Detroit Clinical Scholars Program, focusing her work with ethnic minority youth in urban areas of Wayne County using integrated health methods. Patel has previous experience working with ethnic minority youth in various settings such as domestic violence shelters, restorative programs in schools and in sexual assault cases. She lives with her husband and three children, and enjoys traveling, participating in local interfaith outreach programs and playing hockey.
SADIQ PATEL

Sadiq Patel is the Program Manager of The Family & Youth Institute. He is also a clinical psychology researcher at DePaul University, where he is developing and testing the efficacy of a culturally and contextually grounded violence prevention program for low-income African American and Latino youth in Chicago Public Schools.

Patel received his Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, where he focused on psychotherapy and identity formation and taught undergraduate social psychology courses. As a therapist, he specializes in addictions counseling and trauma-informed therapy.

He has extensive experience working with young people. He taught middle school science through Teach for America in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and served as a youth mentor at a juvenile detention center in Washington D.C. This fall Patel will begin his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, where he intends to specialize in developing prevention programs that support the psychosocial trajectories of adolescent youth in low-income communities.

MIXALIS POULAKIS

Mixalis Poulakis is an Assistant Professor at the University of Indianapolis, School of Psychological Sciences. He immigrated to the United States from Piraeus, Greece in 1992 to attend the University of Indianapolis. Poulakis graduated from the University of Indianapolis with both his master’s and doctoral degrees. His research interests lie in the areas of multiculturalism, South Asian psychology and LGBT issues.

FATHER JEFF PUTTHOFF

Father Jeff Putthoff, SJ has worked in Camden, NJ for the last 18 years. He is the founder and Executive Director of Hopeworks 'N Camden, a youth technology portal using the technologies of web site design/development, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a constituent relationship management system (CRM) to work with youths between 14 and 23-years old in Camden.

Hopeworks is a direct response to the current youth crisis. In Camden, over half of the population is under 18, only one quarter of adults have a high school diploma and the per capita income is $5,700. There is an estimated 70 percent high school dropout rate and more than half of all youth live below the poverty line. These factors combine to make life challenging for young people.

During the past 16 years, Hopeworks has worked with close to 2000 youth, providing 400 jobs, 2,300 college credits and helped close to 200 young people begin college. Father Jeff has earned numerous honors for his work, including the Camden Mayor’s Youth Council Award For Community Service and Service To Youth, the Camden Diocese Msgr. Michael Doyle and Msgr. Robert McDermott Award for Parish and Community Ministry, the Campbell Soup Hometown Hero Award and the inclusion in the New Jersey Technology Hall Of Fame.

Father Jeff earned his bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from Saint Louis University, a master’s degree in English from Loyola Chicago, and master’s degrees in Divinity and Theology from Weston School of Theology. He is currently studying for a degree in organizational dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania. Father Jeff is also a certified AKRI Consultant. He has been a Jesuit priest for 17 years and has been a Jesuit for 29 years.
MALIK AQUEEL RAHEEM

Malik Aqueel Raheem, NCC, LCPC, ACS, is currently an assistant professor in the Counselor Education and Rehabilitation Department at California State University-Fresno. As a counselor-educator, he attempts to ensure his students are multicultural competent counselors and social justice advocates. Raheem is a National Certified Counselor, Approved Clinical Supervisor and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. A Chicago native, he returns to the city each summer to do private clinical work, consulting, and clinical supervision. He attended Chicago State University where he earned his bachelor of arts degree in Psychology and a master of arts in Community Counseling. He completed his requirements for his Ed.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision.

Raheem has 12 years of clinical experience and has worked in hospital and community agency settings. He worked for six years at Riveredge Hospital, the largest psychiatric hospital in Illinois, and spent three years at One Hope United. His clinical focus includes at-risk youth, adults, families in crisis, groups and couples. He has clinical foci on intimate partner violence, psychosocial mental health development issues, personality disorders, interpersonal relationships, group dynamics and intergenerational trauma issues of African Americans.

Raheem is completing his third year as a full-time tenure track professor/counselor educator. He is a sought-after speaker and has facilitated workshops on the psychosocial impact of intimate partner violence in African American community, contemporary issues of mental health issues of African Americans, mental health issues of Muslims, racial microaggressions and Islamophobia. He teaches courses in Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling, Assessment in Counseling, Counseling Theories, and Student Development Theories. A writer and researcher, his research interests include ethnic and racial identity development, racial Microaggressions, and racial battle fatigue, multiculturalism in counselor education, counseling Muslims, interpersonal relationships, personality disorders and mental health issues with people of African descent.

KAMEELAH MU’MIN RASHAD

Kameelah Mu’Min Rashad is the founder of Muslim Wellness Foundation (MWF). MWF is dedicated to reducing the stigma associated with mental illness, addiction and trauma and raising awareness regarding the behavioral health care needs of American Muslims through community dialogue, education and training. Rashad also serves as the Interfaith Fellow & Muslim Chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania. As Chaplain, Kameelah acts as a counselor and advisor to the Muslim students on campus and facilitates discussions on religious identity development and challenges faced by American Muslim youth.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s in Psychology and a master’s in Psychological Services, she completed a second master’s in Restorative Practices & Youth Counseling and a post-master’s certificate in Family Therapy from the Philadelphia Child & Family Therapy Training Center. She is a certified instructor in adult and youth mental health first aid and a trained PREPARE/ENRICH facilitator. Rashad is pursuing her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia.

SARAH RASHID

Sarah Rashid graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Comparative Literature. She designs and facilitates leadership development workshops for first-generation, low-income high school youth at SAYA! (South Asian Youth Action), where she also serves as a counselor. In 2014 Rashid published an article in the Islamic Monthly about her experience healing from childhood sexual abuse. Since then she has been invited to speak at organizations and events about overcoming trauma within the context of Muslim American communities.
MUNIBA SALEEM

Muniba Saleem, Ph.D., conducts research exploring the social psychological antecedents and consequences of bicultural identity conflict in immigrant youth. Recent studies have tested the effects of discrimination, media stereotypes, parent, and peer socialization on Muslim-American bicultural identity conflicts. This work reveals that bicultural identity integration may serve as a protective factor for Muslim American youth to reduce the negative effects of discrimination on psychological and social outcomes. However, Muslim American youth who experience a conflict between their Muslim and American identities are more likely to avoid interactions with non-Muslim Americans. See http://sites.lsa.umich.edu/munibasaleem/ for more details.

ZAIN SHAMOON

Zain Shamoon is a marriage and family therapist with a master’s degree from Michigan State University. His therapeutic convictions include emotionally focused therapy, experiential therapy, attachment, solution-focus and a list of client-centered approaches. His clinical interests include struggles faced by disadvantage minority communities in health services, including disparities and epidemics, as well as attachment injuries and couple and family cohesion issues. Shamoon has served as a minority fellow through the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and is currently the creative director for the Institute of Muslim Mental Health.

Shamoon will soon finish his doctorate in couples and family therapy from Michigan State University. His research interests include struggles faced by disadvantage minority communities in health services, including disparities and epidemics. His dissertation addresses domestic violence among South Asian families in the U.S., including cultural considerations for effective treatment, intervention, and prevention.

RENTA SENGUPTA

Renita Sengupta is a third-year student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Indianapolis’ School of Psychological Sciences and will graduate with her Psy.D. in 2017. She received her master’s degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Indianapolis and her bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research and clinical interests include young adult mental health, racial/ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ concerns. She is also an active member of the Diversity Affairs Committee at the University of Indianapolis.

NICOLE C. WOOD

Nicole Wood serves as an advisor and lead subject-matter expert and operational lead on human trafficking and vulnerable populations. She provides expertise for non-governmental organizations and faith-based communities within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the DHS Blue Campaign, (a Secretary-led initiative to combat human trafficking) and the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. She serves as a steering committee member on the Women and Trauma Federal Partners Committee and seeks to increase trauma-informed and trauma-responsive congregations and communities.

Prior to her current position, Wood was the coordinating director of the Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking located at World Relief, where she managed all communications and served as a liaison to U.S. and international programs focused on the eradication of human trafficking and the restoration of survivors. Throughout her career WOod has demonstrated leadership among at-risk and traumatized populations while serving multi-ethnic and disadvantaged women, children and their families. She has worked for more than 16 years for members of congress, the federal government (including as a Presidential Management Fellow), NGOs and faith-based communities.
Wood completed post-graduate work in inter-religious educational training with Religions for Peace and World Council of Churches’ Bossey Ecumenical Institute. She earned a master’s degree in Urban Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary, a master’s of Public Health in International Community Health and Health Promotion from Emory University and a bachelor’s degree in Anthropology and Environmental Studies from Adelphi University. Her experiences have expanded to Guatemala, Switzerland, Senegal, Brazil, Spain and Jamaica. She lives in the Washington, DC metropolitan area with her husband and twin children.

AMIRA M. ZEIN

Amira M. Zein received her master’s degree from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology. Her completed thesis is titled Conceptualizing Juvenile Sex Offender Legislation Requirements in the United States: The Unintended Legal, Ethical, and Psychological Consequences. Zein is a Psy.D. candidate at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Schaumburg. She concentrates in applied forensic psychology and psychological assessments and is currently focusing her dissertation on the psychological pre-employment screening process for law enforcement officials.