

The 37th AMSS Annual Conference

*“Crossing Boundaries: Mobilizing
Faith, Diversity and Dialogue”*

*Hosted By:
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, MA*

Friday, October 24, 2008

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Welcoming and Introductory Remarks
(Andover Hall: Sperry Lecture Room)

Shireen Hunter, Georgetown University, Washington, DC
(Program Co-Chair)

Ali A. Mazrui, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
(AMSS President)

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Panel 1 (Andover Hall: Sperry Lecture Room)

Religious Pluralism in Islam: Early and Current Discourses

Discussant: Ismail Acar, Harvard University, MA

*Chair: Ali A. Mazrui, Binghamton University: State University of New York,
Binghamton, NY*

Mun'im Sirry (University of Chicago, IL): “ ‘Compete with One Another in Good Works:’ Exegesis on Qur’anic Verse 5:48 and Contemporary Muslim Discourses on Religious Pluralism”

Mahbubur Rahman (York College of the City University of New York, NY): “Contemporary Islamist Interpretation of the Status of Non-Muslims in an Islamic State”

Muhamad Ali (University of California, Riverside, CA): “Islam and Religious Pluralism in Indonesia and India: The Thought of Abdurrahman Wahid and Asghar Ali Engineer”

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Keynote Address
(Andover Hall: Braun Room)

Ismail Raji al-Faruqi Memorial Lecture:

Keynote Speaker: Mohammed Ayoob

Distinguished Professor of International Relations, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

*Keynote Address: “Taming Political Islam:
Promoting Dissent, Democracy, and Dialogue”*

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Jum`ah Salat (Lowell Lecture Hall)

2:15 – 3:45 p.m. Panel 2 (Andover Hall: Sperry Lecture Room)

Religious Traditions of Dialogue

Discussant: Roy P. Mottahedeh, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

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

Marcia Hermansen (Loyola University Chicago, IL): “Cultural Worlds/Culture Wars: Islam, Christianity and Culture in the 21st Century”

Aisha Y. Musa (Florida International University, Miami, FL): “‘We Have Made you Peoples and Tribes’ ... A Qur’anicly-Based Vision of Multi-Culturalism”

Vincent F. Biondo III (California State University, Fresno, CA): “Successful Inter- and Intra-faith Dialogue in California”

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Break

The Media’s Role in Promoting or Hindering Interreligious Dialogue and Inter-Cultural Relations

Discussant: Elora Chowdhury, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

Chair: Saeed A. Khan, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Shahnaz Khan (Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada): “Muslims in the Media”

Alka Kurian (University of Sunderland, UK): “Gender and Conflict in Indian Documentary Filmmaking”

Aliaa Dakrouy (Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada): “Towards a Dawn of Knitting an Inter-Cultural Dialogue with Islam in the Canadian Media”

5:30 – 5:45 p.m. Break and Asr Salat

5:45 – 8:00 p.m. Reception & Annual Grand Meeting

Saturday, October 25, 2008

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Panel 4 (Andover Hall: Sperry Lecture Room)

Can Religion Contribute to Peacebuilding? Past and Current Examples

Discussant: Charles Randall Paul, Foundation for Interreligious Diplomacy, New York, NY

Chair: Shireen Hunter, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Robert W. Lawrence (Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT): “Francis of Assisi Before the Sultan: Islam in Early Franciscan Writings (1219-1267)”

Mohamed Nimer (American University, Washington, DC): “Islamic Movements and the Challenge of Peacebuilding in the Middle East”

D. Jason Berggren (University of Georgia, Athens, GA): “‘In Keeping with the Teaching of Scripture:’ Jimmy Carter, Religion, and the Pursuit of Middle

East Peace”

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Panel 5 (Andover Hall: Sperry Lecture Room)

Alternative Perspectives on Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding

Discussant: Hassan Abbas, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Chair: Ahmed E. Ahmed, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX

Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad (Minaret of Freedom Institute, Bethesda, MD):
“Reflections on Inter- and Intra-faith Dialogue and the Promotion of World
Peace in Light of Muslim Heritage”

Maliha Chishti (University of Toronto, Canada): “Peacebuilding in
Afghanistan: Exposing Masculine-Imperial Peace from an Anti-Imperialist,
Muslim-Feminist Perspective”

Robert D. Crane (Independent Researcher and Scholar, Washington, VA):
“Transforming Interfaith Dialogue to Interreligious Solidarity for Justice”

12:15 – 12: 30 p.m. Zuhr Salat

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon Buffet (Andover Hall: Braun Room)

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Panel 6 (Andover Hall: Sperry Lecture Room)

Women As Agents of Change and Peace Within Nations

Discussant: Deina Abdelkader, University of Massachusetts at Lowell, MA

Chair: Michelle D. Byng, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Fatma Tutuncu (Abant Izzet Baysal University, Bolu, Turkey): “Assessing the
Role of Women Preachers in the Democratization of Turkish Sociopolitical
Culture”

Amina Jamal (Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada): “Mutual Guidance?
The Geographies of a Historical Tradition”

Etin Anwar (Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York):
“Gender Space and Shared Security: Women’s Roles in Peace and Conflict
Resolution in Indonesia”

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 - 4:45 p.m. Panel 7 (Andover Hall: Sperry Lecture Room)

Crossing Boundaries: Muslim Integration in the West

Discussant: Jocelyne Cesari, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Chair: Marcia Hermansen, Loyola University Chicago, IL

Wendy Cadge (Brandeis University, Waltham, MA) and Lance D. Laird
(Boston University, MA): “Institutionalizing Islam in America: The Case of
Community-Based Health Clinics”

Shabana Mir (Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK): “Diversity, Self,
Faith and Friends: Muslim Undergraduates on Campus”

Christopher Cutting (University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada): “Dis-integration and Re-integration in the West: Muslim and Jewish Responses to Post Faith-Based Arbitration in Ontario”

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. *Concluding Remarks*

Ali A. Mazrui, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY
(AMSS President)

Katherine Bullock, University of Toronto, Canada
(Program Co-Chair)

5:00 – 5:15 p.m. *Break & Asr Salat*

7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Annual Banquet:

(Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel
Two Cambridge Center, 50 Broadway, Cambridge, MA)

- ***Moment of Remembrance/Tribute to Dr. Louis Cantori***
- ***Best Graduate Paper Awards Ceremony***
- ***Ismail Raji al-Faruqi Memorial Lecture:***
Keynote Speaker: Mahmoud Ayoub
Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Hartford Seminary, CT

Keynote Address: “Religious Pluralism in the Qur’an: A Challenge to Today’s Muslims and non-Muslims”