

**Besheer Mohamed** [btm1@uchicago.edu] is a Ph.D candidate in the Sociology Department at the University of Chicago, IL. His dissertation titled: “Paying Full Price in the Age of Costless Communities: The implications of Self-identification for American Muslims,” explores the interaction among various aspects of Muslim identity in America. The dissertation uses confirmatory factor analysis to create a model of religious belief and ritual practice which is appropriate for American Muslims. It then relates these aspects of Muslim religiosity to group cohesion and public opinion using regression analysis and indepth interviews. The dissertation finds relationships both in predictable places (views on homosexuality), and somewhat unexpected ones ( views on recycling). The dissertation also augments the 2007 PEW survey by using cognitive interview techniques to uncover discrepancies between how respondents understand certain questions and what the questions were intended to measure. In addition to his independent research, Mr. Mohamed has been actively involved in multiple projects which used indepth interviews, focus groups, as well as statistical methods, including “Chicago Muslims in Their Own Voices: Lived Identity in the First Person.” He founded the University of Chicago’s Islam and Modernity graduate workshop and served as a manuscript reviewer for the *American Journal of Sociology* and book reviewer for the University of Chicago’s Center for Middle East Studies. He received an MA in both Middle Eastern studies, and sociology from the University of Chicago, IL.