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**ABSTRACT ONLY – WORK IN PROGRESS**

“Horizons of Islamic Feminist Discourses within the Academy”

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My paper examines the horizons and trajectories of Islamic feminist discourses within the academy with a focus on developments over the previous decade. I explore the extent to which the academy offers a space for vested parties to advance gender-nuanced scriptural hermeneutics while also promoting women’s well-being and religious authority. I highlight key theoretical contributions of prominent and upcoming authors in the field, and I look at ways in which the so-called “gender jihad,” as led in part by Muslim feminist academics, has sought to affect the interpretation and practice of Islam at the community level. I also discuss ways Islamic feminism is conversant with other confessional and regionally situated feminist discourses; namely, how has Islamic feminism in the academy been impacted by popular press coverage of the potential dilemmas of Muslim womanhood? How have Muslim feminist in the academy responded to vituperative reproaches of “Islam’s treatment of women,” as forwarded by ex-Muslim informants and some secular feminists? As they vie for religious authority and epistemological transformation, what contributions and advances are Muslim feminist protagonists making in the area of Islamic jurisprudence? Is a feminist *fiqh* on the horizon? In closing, I briefly evaluate the effectiveness and current reach of Islamic feminism by assessing the extent to which Muslim community leaders, jurists, and politicians at large have sought to incorporate gender-nuanced conceptions of Islam within their rhetoric, religious opinions, and political ideology.