

AMSS 39th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Cosmopolitan Islam: Globalization, Transnationalism and Muslim Diasporas”

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ABSTRACT

“Cosmopolitanism and Muslim Youth Movements in France”

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The following are among the questions addressed in this paper: How are the different memories and narratives of colonialism - particularly of the Algerian war - reflected in contemporary politics, in debates over school curricula and plans for the *banlieues*? What influence does American racial discourse have on French debates over affirmative action, urban unrest, ghettoization and ghetto art forms like hip-hop? This paper will examine these questions by looking at the intersection of race and religion, and the overlapping processes of identity formation and secularization in contemporary France. This presentation will analyze how American racial discourses are influencing the French debate on Islam and integration; and how African American art forms and black protest techniques are influencing the emerging identities and social movements of the French *banlieues*, where hip-hop blends with Islamism, and Afrocentrism with Maghrebian culture.