

Michelle D. Byng [mbyng@temple.edu] is associate professor of sociology at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. She received her Ph.D from the University of Virginia, and completed her BA and MA at Virginia Commonwealth University, VA. Her substantive area of study is race and ethnic relations. Her primary *foci* are racism, stratification, and identity construction. Prof. Byng's current research project is titled, "Muslim Americans and the Social Construction of Identity: Negotiating Nationality, Ethnicity, and Race." Using qualitative methods (interviewing, ethnography, and critical discourse analysis of newspaper articles), this study seeks to reveal how first and second generation Muslim American men and women construct and negotiate identity options. It examines their understanding of their lives in the United States, their perceptions of *home* (their country of origin), as well as how they place themselves in the larger context of US race relations and stratification. She is currently writing a book length manuscript based on this data. Prof. Byng has written a series of manuscripts that investigate the representation of Muslim Americans in newspaper stories before and after September 11, 2001. Her recent publications include: "Complex Inequalities: The Case of Muslim Americans After 9/11" in *American Behavioral Scientist*, and "Disrupted Assimilation: Muslim Americans and the War on Terror News Frame" in the *Journal of Social and Ecological Boundaries*. A third media analysis manuscript, "Symbolically Muslim: Media, *Hijab*, and the West" will be published in *Critical Sociology* in January 2010.