



Muslim Studies Program
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The 53rd Annual Conference of the
North American Association of Islamic and
Muslim Studies (NAAIMS)**

**“Palestine, Israel, and Questions of Free Speech and
Inter-religious Relations”
Thursday, October 24, 2024**

Cosponsored by:
Muslim Studies Program and
Global Studies in the Arts & Humanities Program
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

**A Virtual Conference on Zoom
All Sessions held in Eastern Standard Time (UTC-05:00)**

Deadlines:
Abstracts: May 3, 2024
Final Papers: September 20, 2024

This conference will focus on the crisis in Palestine and its impact in North America and around the world. The situation faced by Palestinians, especially in Gaza, raises vital questions for scholars in the field of Islamic and Muslim Studies whose research focuses on a broad range of topics across the humanities and the social sciences.

Background

Following the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks along Israel’s southern border near the Gaza Strip, the Israeli government launched a devastating bombardment on Gaza that has caused thousands of deaths and injuries and destroyed homes, schools, universities, places of worship, hospitals and vital infrastructures. The continuous Israeli ground offensive, airstrikes, and blockade of Gaza have impacted the innocent and caused starvation. One outcome of all this on the global stage has been heated protests and debates about the limits of free speech and the line between justifiable criticisms and bigotry. In addition, Hamas’s attack on Israel and the Israeli assault have forced religious communities to examine their inter-religious relationships as they seek to build bridges across differences.

We invite papers from faculty and advanced Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences whose work engages the general conference topic, “Palestine, Israel, and Questions of Free Speech and Inter-religious Relations.” More specifically, we welcome papers that address the suggested topics listed below:

- Free Speech on Campus related to Palestine and Israel
- History of Inter-religious relations in Palestine and Israel
- Use and Abuse of Scripture in War (in relation to Palestine and Israel)
- Religious Responses and the Question of Genocide
- American Muslim reactions to the Crisis in Gaza
- Faith-based Humanitarianism in Gaza
- Gaza and the Limits of Inter-religious Relations
- Palestine Solidarity and Islamophobia
- Jews, Judaism, and the Question of Antisemitism in Islamic/Muslim Thought
- Palestine, Israel, Islamophobia, and Antisemitism
- Secular Responses to Political Islam and Religious Ideology

Abstracts (250 words) Due May 3, 2024. Abstracts from Professors & Advanced Ph.D. Candidates ONLY.

- Abstracts will be evaluated according to following criteria: clear data & methodology used, and relevance and contribution to conference theme. Abstracts must include a title; author’s full name; contact information; and university position (Professor or Ph.D. Candidate)
- Online Pre-Registration required by Panelists [Zoom link will be available on website]
- Final papers must be submitted by **September 20, 2024**
- **Send abstracts & final papers to Layla Sein, NAAIMS Executive Director at conferences@naaims.org**

**Program Chair: Professor Mohammad H. Khalil, Muslim Studies Program,
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI**

Abstract Submission Instructions:

- Abstracts must include “**Title of Presentation,**” **Author’s Full Name and Contact Information, University Position (Professor or Ph.D. Candidate), and Name and Address of University.**
- Abstracts from professors and advanced Ph.D. candidates ONLY.
- If a submission is co-authored, only one author can make the presentation, but co-authors will be listed on the abstract and in the program booklet.
- Abstracts are reviewed and evaluated by the Conference Program Committee.
- Abstracts must be submitted in **MS Word (between 250-300 words) by May 3, 2024**, to Layla Sein at conferences@naaims.org
- Although NAAIMS is a membership-based organization, NAAIMS membership is not a requirement to submit an abstract proposal.

- Online Pre-Registration is required by panelists. **[ZOOM link will be sent to all participants to facilitate pre-registration process]**

Judging Criteria for Abstracts:

All abstracts are evaluated by Conference Program Committee according to the following criteria:

- Methodology: clear outline of theories, models or approaches
- Relevance of abstract to conference theme
- Main Argument of Paper: Its Contribution to Subject Matter
- Recommendations: Broad Implications Based on Research & Overall Findings

Conference Category: Panel Sessions

This conference includes four panel sessions centered around annual theme: “Palestine, Israel, and Questions of Free Speech and Inter-religious Relations”