

MSA's Spring 2008 Lectures Report



Organized by

**The Muslim Students Association
at Carnegie Mellon University**

Table of contents

Introduction.....	2
Lectures Summary	3
“Who Speaks for Islam?” Task List.....	5
“Who Speaks for Islam?” Publicity Task List	6
Email Announcement:	7
Event’s Poster	8
Press Release.....	9
Information Submitted to ULS	11
Comments and Suggestions for Future Events	12

Introduction

In the Spring 2008 semester, the Muslim Students Association (MSA) organized four lectures at Carnegie Mellon University in efforts to open venues of dialogue and exchange with the campus community. In conjunction with the Office of Student Development and Black History Month, the MSA invited Arif Jamal, a faculty member and librarian at the University of Pittsburgh, to talk about the **History of Islam in the African-American Community**. Again in conjunction with the Office of Student Development, MSA invited David McCarthy, a religious studies graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, to speak about **God and the Devil in Catholicism and Islam**.

The remaining two lectures were part of the University Lecture Series (ULS) co-sponsored by Office of the Vice Provost of Education, Indira Nair. The MSA with the Saudi Students House invited Dalia Mogahed from the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies to speak as part of the ULS about her latest book co-authored by John Esposito, **WHO SPEAKS FOR ISLAM?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think**. Lastly, MSA invited David Cole, Professor of Law at Georgetown University and a volunteer staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights, to speak to the campus community about his latest book co-authored by University of Pittsburgh Law Professor Jules Lobel, **Less Safe, Less Free: Why America is Losing the War on Terror**.

This report gives a summary of these four lectures, in addition to helpful guidelines to organize future lectures. This is done in the form of documentation of planning and publicity from Dalia Mogahed lecture as it was very successful and a widely attended event.

We ask Allah to grant us all sincerity, patience and success.

Muslim Students Association at Carnegie Mellon University

Lectures Summary

A History of Islam in the African-American Community

Speaker: Arif Jamal, Faculty Member and Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh

Date: Friday, February 5, 2008

Locations: Connan Room, University Center, CMU

Audience: 40

Sponsors: MSA and the Office of Student Development

The Muslim Students Association partnered with the Office of Student Development to bring Arif Jamal to give a talk on Carnegie Mellon Campus. Arif Jamal is faculty member and a librarian at the University of Pittsburgh, specializing in the African-American Collection. Forty people attended his talk on Feb 5th, 2008, entitled **A History of Islam in the African-American Community**. His talk was a unique addition to this year's Black History Month (BHM) and aimed to emphasize the prevalence of Islam in the United States among the African-American community. "Islam is not a foreign religion in the U.S.; rather it is among the old religions here. It tells them [the black community] a big part of the history [of Islam in the U.S.] that affects what they are now," said Electrical and Computer Engineering graduate student and MSA member Basil AsSadhan.

"The fact that MSA came to the BHM committee shows that connections in unlikely places can be made," M. Shernell said. "The collaboration on the event shows the campus community spirit of bringing together multi-cultural organizations and empowers other groups to see what they can contribute to the campus community."

Press Coverage:

The Tartan: **Campus celebrates diversity** by Dawn Wang

<http://www.thetartan.org/2008/2/18/news/history>

AlWatan Saudi newspaper, article in Arabic:

<http://www.alwatan.com.sa/news/newsdetail.asp?issueno=2860&id=64089&groupID=0>

God and the Devil in Catholicism and Islam

Speaker: David McCarthy, Religion History graduate from the University of Pittsburgh

Date: Thursday February 28, 2008

Location: McKenna/Peter Room, University Center, CMU

Audience: 45

Sponsors: MSA and the Office of Student Development

The Muslim Students Association partnered with the Office of Student Development to bring David McCarthy to give a talk on Carnegie Mellon Campus. Forty-five people gathered in McKenna/Peter Room in the University Center at Carnegie Mellon to have a dialogue about the concept of God and the Devil relates to the faiths of both Catholicism and Islam. The speaker, David McCarthy, a Religion History graduate from the University of Pittsburgh and a recent convert from Catholicism to Islam spoke in depth about this topic to a mixed audience of 45 students, faculty and administrators from various faiths including Muslims, Catholics and other denominations of Christianity, as well as other faiths. The talk was followed by an engaging discussion section where the audience had a chance to ask questions and speak about the nuances of their own faiths.

WHO SPEAKS FOR ISLAM?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think

Speaker: Dalia Mogahed, Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies

Date: Monday April 14, 2008

Location: Rangos Hall 3, University Center, CMU

Audience: 130

Sponsors: MSA, University Lecture Series and the Saudi Students House

The Muslim Students Association with the Saudi Students House, invited Dalia Mogahed as part of the University Lecture Series. Dalia Mogahed is a Senior Analyst and Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, a nonpartisan research center dedicated to providing data-driven analysis on the views of Muslim populations around the world. With John L. Esposito, Ph.D., she is the coauthor of the book **Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Million Muslims Really Think**. Her analysis has appeared in a number of leading publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Foreign Policy Magazine, Harvard International Review, The Journal of Middle East Policy, and many others.

An audience of diverse backgrounds numbering about 130 people gathered in Rangos 3 in the University Center to enjoy multiethnic food from around the Muslim world such as baklava, minted tea, kofta, and various pastries and listen to the lecture. In her talk, Dalia challenged conventional wisdom and shed greater light on what motivates Muslims worldwide. She shared some anecdotes from her book that was created from six years of research and tens of thousands of interviews representing 1.3 billion Muslims who reside in more than 35 nations that are predominantly Muslim or have sizable Muslim populations.

What the study reveals may surprise you. “The conflict between Muslim and Western communities,” write Esposito and Mogahed, “is far from inevitable. It is more about policy than principles. But, until and unless decision makers gain an accurate understanding of this conflict by listening directly to the people, extremists on all sides will continue to gain ground.”

The presentation was followed by an engaging Q&A session with the speaker.

Press Coverage:

AlWatan Saudi newspaper, article in Arabic:

<http://www.alwatan.com.sa/news/newsdetail.asp?issueno=2847&id=62415&groupID=0>

Less Safe, Less Free: Why America is Losing the War on Terror

Speaker: David Cole, Professor of Law at Georgetown University

Date: Monday April 21, 2008

Location: Adamson Wing, Baker Hall, CMU

Audience: 50

Sponsors: MSA and University Lecture Series

The Muslims Students Association, with the support from members of the Muslim community in Pittsburgh, arranged for David Cole to speak as part of the University Lecture Series. David Cole is a professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center, a volunteer staff attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights, the legal affairs correspondent for The Nation, a regular contributor to the New York Review of Books, and a commentator on National Public Radio's All Things Considered. Fifty students, faculty, and members of the Pittsburgh community came to listen to Professor Cole's talk about the dangers of the loss of civil liberties in the U.S based on his book **Less Safe, Less Free: Why America is Losing the War on Terror** co-authored by University of Pittsburgh Law Professor Jules Lobel.

“Who Speaks for Islam?” Task List

Tasks for event		Responsible People	Notes
Finger food samples from around the Muslim world Note 1: We will not have more than 5 food samples, otherwise people will end up taking plates of a lot of food. Note 2: \$300 is the maximum budget for food Nader and Amal in charge	Kofta and Dates	Nader	Salem's
	Gape leaves	Basil	Pita land
	Samosa	Nader/ Faheem	Indian Garden
	Baklawa	Amal/Sarah	Baked at home
	Hot drinks	Hazim ask Saudi students	Arabic coffee and tea
	4 boxes of small bottled water	Nader	
	Utensils	Amal/Nader	Serving spoons, cups, small plates, and napkins
	Serving drinks on the day of the event	Hazim, AbdulWahab, others	
Preparing a PowerPoint slide show before the lecture Sajid in charge	Purpose: show diversity of Muslims	Sajid, Hazim, Samiah, Khalid	Has pictures from different: Muslim countries, Muslim faces, Islamic centers and Masajid in the U.S. and around the world
Information table Sajid and Sarah in charge	Bringing copies of the Qur'an and pamphlets about Islam	Sajid/Sarah	
	Bringing a member signup sheet	Sarah	
	Printing a welcoming sign at the entrance	Sajid	Don't forget to point to the other door
	Book signing by the speaker	Sajid	Alison Haimson from CMU's bookstore will have someone sell the book
MC		Basil	Summarize MSA's activities at CMU, and present the speaker
Small tent in the cut between 11:30 and 3:00 on the day of the event to publicizes it Sarah in charge	Setting and standing at tent	Sarah, Nader, Amal, Basil, anyone else	Have copies of the Qur'an, pamphlets about Islam, fliers of Mogahed and Cole events
	Baking cookies	Amal/Sarah	
	Raffle game	Sarah	
	Buying the prize	Nader	
Technology issues	Taking pictures	AbdulWahab	
	Extensions cords	Khalid	
	Video taping	Amal	

“Who Speaks for Islam?” Publicity Task List

Publicity Tasks		Responsible People	Notes
Mailing lists in CMU on Wednesday 4/9/2008	Multi cultural list	Basil	
	Dorms list	Sarah	Ask Emily Half or Jon Kroll to send it a week before
	International list	Basil	Ask Lisa Krieg to send it a week before
	Arab and Saudi lists	Basil	
	MSA	Sajid	
Fliers Start posting fliers on Sunday 4/6/2008	Design	ULS	Basil will follow
	UC& info desk/ Hunt	AbdulWahab	
	HH,REH	Amal	
	PH, BH	Nader/Sarah	
	WEH, DH, NSH	Nader/Sarah	
	HBH	Faheem	
	CFA	Amal	
	CIC	Khalid	
	Morewood	Sarah	
Duquesne, Pitt, and Chatham	Sarah	Sarah will follow with Samiah, Ranim, and Ahlam	
Facebook		Basil	
Invitations	Personal	All of us	
	University Officials	Sarah	
	Other student organizations	Sarah	
Mailing lists outside CMU	Muslims + others	Basil	
Press release	Tartan + Post-Gazette	Basil	Coordinate with Abby Houck

Email Announcement:

Please distribute widely ...

The **Muslim Students Association** and the **Saudi Students House**
are co-sponsoring with **Carnegie Mellon University**
a **University Lecture Series Event**

Who Speaks for Islam?

What a Billion Muslims Really Think

Dalia Mogahed

Senior Analyst and Executive Director,
Center for Muslim Studies,
The Gallup Organization

Monday, April 14th, 6:00pm
Rangos 3, 2nd floor of University Center,
Carnegie Mellon University
5044 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA

Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Million Muslims Really Think by John Esposito and Dalia Mogahed is a book that challenges conventional wisdom and sheds greater light on what motivates Muslims worldwide. The book was created from six years of research and tens of thousands of interviews. What the study reveals may surprise you. "The conflict between Muslim and Western communities," write Esposito and Mogahed, "is far from inevitable. It is more about policy than principles. But, until and unless decision makers gain an accurate understanding of this conflict by listening directly to the people, extremists on all sides will continue to gain ground."

The Event Will Include:
Free Multi Ethnic Sample Food
& Book Sale and Signing

Facebook event link <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=9594314117>

Directions:

The lecture is held at the **University Center** building. It is the big building on Forbes Ave. right before the stadium if you are coming from Oakland and heading to Squirrel Hill. To enter the parking garage, pass the Morewood signal light then enter right. **The parking there is free after 5 pm** (and on weekends as well). Check [CMU's campus map](#) if you need to visualize the location. The University Center's building number is 28, and the parking garage number is P7.

Event's Poster

CarnegieMellon

Who Speaks for Islam?

What a Billion Muslims Really Think



**Monday,
April 14th**

6:00pm

Rangos 3

University Center

Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Million Muslims Really Think by John Esposito and Dalia Mogahed is a book that challenges conventional wisdom and sheds greater light on what motivates Muslims worldwide. The book was created from six years of research and tens of thousands of interviews.

What the study reveals may surprise you. "The conflict between Muslim and Western communities," write Esposito and Mogahed, "is far from inevitable. It is more about policy than principles. But, until and unless decision makers gain an accurate understanding of this conflict by listening directly to the people, extremists on all sides will continue to gain ground."

Co-sponsored by the Muslim Students Association and the Saudi Students House

The University Lecture Series is a partnership between the Office of the Vice Provost for Education and the Division of Student Affairs. All lectures are free and open to the public. For additional information, please call 412-268-8677 or send email inquiries to cr2@andrew.cmu.edu. All lectures are on Carnegie Mellon's Oakland campus.

Press Release

Carnegie Mellon

Department of Media Relations

Carnegie Mellon University
Alumni House
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-268-2900
Fax: 412-268-6929

Contact: Abby Houck
412-268-4290
ahouck@andrew.cmu.edu

For immediate release:
April 12, 2008

Gallup Expert Dalia Mogahed Speaks on “What a Billion Muslims Really Think,” April 14

PITTSBURGH — Dalia Mogahed, senior analyst and executive director of The Gallup Organization’s Center for Islam Studies, will give a talk about her new book co-authored with Georgetown Professor John Esposito titled “Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think” at 6 p.m., Monday, April 14 in Rangos Ballroom 3 in Carnegie Mellon’s University Center. Mogahed’s visit is sponsored by Carnegie Mellon’s Muslim Students Organization and the University Lecture Series.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Gallup Chairman and CEO Jim Clifton commissioned his company to research the views and attitudes of Muslims around the world. The result of this research is the book “Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think,” written by Mogahed and John Esposito. The book, based on six years of research, challenges conventional wisdom about what motivates Muslims worldwide. Gallup researchers conducted the largest poll of Muslims to date by interviewing tens of thousands of individuals residing in more than 35 countries.

“The conflict between Muslim and Western communities is far from inevitable,” Mogahed and Esposito write. “It is more about policy than principles. But, until and unless decision makers gain an accurate understanding of this conflict by listening directly to the people, extremists on all sides will continue to gain ground.”

Mogahed’s work has appeared in a number of publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Foreign Policy magazine, Harvard International Review and the Middle East Policy journal. She travels the globe engaging diverse groups on what Muslims around the world really think. Her audiences have included the High-Level Group of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the Community of West and Islam Dialogue (C-100) group of the World Economic Forum, the Brookings Institution's U.S.-Islamic World Forum, British parliamentarians, U.S. senators and religious leaders from every faith. She has discussed Gallup findings with a

wide range of opinion leaders, including Madeleine Albright, Deepak Chopra, Stephen R., Covey, Quincy Jones, and Jeffrey Sachs; Nobel laureate Daniel Kahneman; evangelical leader Richard Land; bestselling author Karen Armstrong; U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel; Muslim activist and teacher Amr Khaled; and Sheikh Habib Ali al-Jifri, Sheikh Hamza Yusuf, Her Majesty Queen Rania al Abdullah of Jordan, as well as two of the highest authorities of Sunni Islam, the Grand Muftis of Egypt and Bosnia, their Excellencies Ali Gomaa and Mustafa Ceric.

Mogahed earned her master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in strategy from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh. She received her undergraduate degree in chemical engineering.

###

About Carnegie Mellon: Carnegie Mellon is a private research university with a distinctive mix of programs in engineering, computer science, robotics, business, public policy, fine arts and the humanities. More than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students receive an education characterized by its focus on creating and implementing solutions for real problems, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovation. A small student-to-faculty ratio provides an opportunity for close interaction between students and professors. While technology is pervasive on its 144-acre Pittsburgh campus, Carnegie Mellon is also distinctive among leading research universities for the world-renowned programs in its College of Fine Arts. A global university, Carnegie Mellon has campuses in Silicon Valley, Calif., and Qatar, and programs in Asia, Australia and Europe. For more, see www.cmu.edu.

Information Submitted to ULS

Full Name: Dalia Mogahed

Title/Affiliation: Senior Analyst and Executive Director, Center for Muslim Studies, The Gallup Organization

Date of lecture: 4/14/2008

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Rangos 3, UC

TOPIC: Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think?

ABSTRACT:

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on 9/11, U.S. public officials seemed to have no idea whether or not many Muslims supported the bombings. This troubled Gallup Chairman and CEO Jim Clifton, who felt that “no one in Washington had any idea what 1.3 billion Muslims were thinking, and yet we were working on intricate strategies that were going to change the world for all time.” Clifton commissioned his company to undertake the enormous job.

The result is WHO SPEAKS FOR ISLAM?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think by John Esposito and Dalia Mogahed (Gallup Press; March 2008; hardcover). This is an important book that challenges conventional wisdom and sheds greater light on what motivates Muslims worldwide. The book was created from six years of research and tens of thousands of interviews representing 1.3 billion Muslims who reside in more than 35 nations that are predominantly Muslim or have sizable Muslim populations. This group represents more than 90% of the Muslim community, and the poll is the largest, most comprehensive study of its kind.

What the study reveals may surprise you. “The conflict between Muslim and Western communities,” write Esposito and Mogahed, “is far from inevitable. It is more about policy than principles. But, until and unless decision makers gain an accurate understanding of this conflict by listening directly to the people, extremists on all sides will continue to gain ground.”

Bio:

Dalia Mogahed is a Senior Analyst and Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, a nonpartisan research center dedicated to providing data-driven analysis on the views of Muslim populations around the world. With John L. Esposito, Ph.D., she is coauthor of the forthcoming book *Who Speaks for Islam?: What a Million Muslims Really Think*. Her analysis has appeared in a number of leading publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Policy Magazine*, *Harvard International Review*, *The Journal of Middle East Policy*, and many other academic and popular journals.

Comments and Suggestions for Future Events

Arif Jamal and David McCarty's events can be classified as small events, and on that basis they were very successful. Dalia Mogahed and David Cole's events were bigger events as they hosted out-of-town speakers who hold higher positions. Dalia Mogahed's event was very successful; David Cole's event was well executed, however, it was less successful in terms of the number of audience.

Other than that, we think we did a great job, and here are some comments and suggestions for future events, which also points to the causes of not having a high number of audiences at Cole's event compared to Mogahed's event.

1. Two high-profile events (e.g., Mogahed and Cole) should not be scheduled so close to each other. As this does not give enough time to do proper publicity for the second lecture.
2. Scheduling events earlier in the semester is better. For example Cole's talk coincided with exam week for Pitt. In addition, most CMU students were relatively busy at that time.
3. Publicity tasks such as distributing and posting fliers have to be organized in a way to utilize more people.
4. This is also true for the tasks on the day of the event (e.g., bringing food, items)
5. To address the last two comments, a larger meeting must be organized at least a week prior to the event, and include all volunteers to distribute supplies and further individualize duties. This provides an opportunity to fully explain the tasks needed for each event, as opposed to depending on the few people who had done it before. It allows individualizing certain tasks. It also allows distributing supplies like fliers, posters, etc, needed by each of the volunteers.
6. No one should overload him/herself, especially on the day of the event.
7. People in charge of individual tasks should share their plans with another person, in case the person in charge got busy or was suddenly unavailable. This guarantees that everything will proceed as planned.
8. Remind restaurants in the morning of the event of our food order.
9. Holding lectures at 4:30 pm will not give many workers, especially from outside CMU, the same opportunity to attend compared to having it at 6:00 pm.
10. Be sure, especially in email announcements, to include the directions to the building and parking to where the lecture is held. This will attract more people from outside CMU to attend.