

Call for Papers: Islam, Peace, and Justice



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Department of Religion and Culture

Conference September 21 and 22, 2020

Islam, Peace, and Justice Conference hosted by the Department of Religion and Culture, St. Thomas More College Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, Treaty Six Territory, and the Homeland of the Métis Nation

September 21, 2020

7:30 pm

Public Keynote featuring Asma Afsaruddin, Indiana University, Bloomington, on the UN's International Day of Peace (***Made possible by a donation from the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan—Saskatoon***)

September 22, 2020

10:00 am-11:20 pm

Conference Concurrent Sessions (for registered attendees)

11:30 pm - 12:50 pm

Lunch (included in registration)

1:00 pm - 2:20 pm

Concurrent Sessions (for registered attendees)

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Public Plenary featuring Azeezah Kanji, Noor Cultural Centre, Toronto (***Made possible by the Joanna Miller and Project Ploughshares Grant from the Saskatoon Peace Coalition***)

3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

Public Closing Synthesis Panel featuring the Keynote, the Plenary Speaker, and Two Local Faith Leaders

In order to help animate interest in Islamic Studies in Saskatchewan, the Department of Religion and Culture at St. Thomas More College welcomes abstract submissions for our upcoming conference examining issues at the intersections of Islamic traditions, peace, and social justice. This conference will bring together scholars working in both specific academic fields and across disciplinary boundaries.

We are interested in papers that challenge worn-out stereotypes about Muslims, their relationship with cultural and religious pluralism, and the connection between Islam and violent extremism. In the place of such stereotypes we are looking for reflective and critical articulations of how Islam and Muslims have, do, and can draw on faith-inspired principles and energies to fostering resilient cultures of peace and justice.

Submissions are invited that address Islam and Muslims' fostering (historical, actual, and potential) of cultures of peace and justice. Possible topics include, ***but are not limited to***: (1) the roots in the Qur'an and hadith of peacebuilding and fostering social justice; (2) interfaith

dialogue (e.g., Catholic-Muslim encounters) as a form of peacebuilding supportive of justice; (3) Muslim figures, societies or social movements that hold lessons for peacebuilders and/or justice advocacy; (4) intersections of sexuality, gender justice, and peace within Muslim praxis; (5) Islamic education and formation for peace and justice; (6) the supports within Islamic traditions for pluralistic societies marked by peace and social justice; (7) Muslim critiques of structural violence and shallow peace; (8) how Islam and Muslims' experiences provide resources for challenging and thinking beyond some of the limitations of dominant racially- and colonially-constituted conceptualizations of peace and justice; (9) Islamic NGOs' engagement with peace and justice issues; (10) nonviolent resistance in the service of just causes within Islamic traditions; (11) engaging Muslim justice traditions to work towards decolonization and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; (12) care for marginalized people as an Islamic moral imperative; (13) policy and decision makers to engaging Muslim peacebuilders and justice advocates; (15) intersections of care for ecology, peace, and justice within Muslim praxis; and (16) Muslims in North America working for peaceful, just, and tolerant societies.

Submission Requests

To be considered for a 20-minute presentation in the conference program, please submit a 100 – 150 word abstract, along with a 100-word biography, and your current CV. Please submit all three items to chrynkow@stmcollege.ca by **April 6, 2020**. All those who submit these three items will be notified of the committee's decision within a week of this date. Any questions may be directed to Christopher Hrynkow at chrynkow@stmcollege.ca.

Confirmed Keynote and Plenary Speaker

The keynote speaker for the Islam, Peace, and Justice Conference will be **Asma Afsaruddin**, a professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University, Bloomington. Professor Afsaruddin specializes in the religious and political thought of Islam, Qur'an and hadith, Islamic intellectual history, and gender. Her books include *Contemporary Issues in Islam* (2015); *Striving in the Path of God: Jihad and Martyrdom in Islamic Thought and Praxis* (2013); *Islam, the State and Political Authority: Medieval Issues and Modern Concerns* (2011); and *The First Muslims: History and Memory* (2008). Professor Afsaruddin earned her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University and previously taught at the University of Notre Dame and Harvard University. Her participation in the conference has been made possible by a donation to St. Thomas More Islamic Studies fund by the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan-Saskatoon.

The plenary speaker for the Islam, Peace, and Justice Conference will be **Azeezah Kanji**, a legal academic and writer. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law, and her Masters of Law specializing in Islamic Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Ms. Kanji's work focuses on issues relating to racism, law, and social justice. She also serves as Director of Programming at Noor Cultural Centre in Toronto. Ms. Kanji's participation has been made possible by the Joanna Miller and Project Ploughshares Grant from the Saskatoon Peace Coalition.