

# 2010-2011 Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies

Today, Islam is the second largest religion with 1.5 billion followers around the world. Established at John Carroll University in 2003, the Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies is named after Bediüzzaman Said Nursi (1876-1960), a prominent scholar of Islam from Turkey, who lived an ascetic life style with great devotion to the teachings of the Qur'an. Promoting dialogue, peace and non-violence, Nursi has written over 100 books and treatises on various Islamic subjects. His writings are collectively known as *Risale-i Nur* or *The Treatises of Light*. One of the major goals of the Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies is to promote a more thorough understanding about Islam and its culture, as well as to develop positive relations with adherents of other religions, particularly with members of the Abrahamic family of faith.

The Nursi Chair Endowment supports courses on Islam taught within John Carroll's Religious Studies Department. It also supports a variety of campus and community events, including:

- An annual week of Islamic Art and Culture.
- An annual community Iftar Dinner during the holy month of Ramadan.
- A lecture series featuring internationally-recognized speakers on topics of interest to Islamic Studies.
- Film and arts events about Islam.
- Community interfaith dialogues.
- Support for Muslim student group activities.

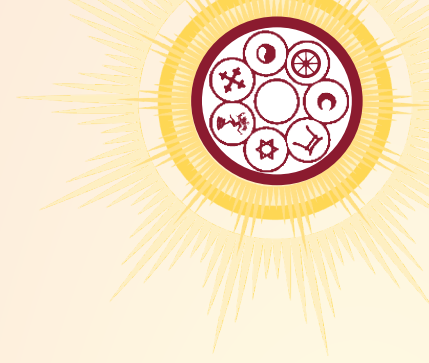


*Selimiye Mosque in Edirne, Turkey*

For more information:  
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## 2010-2011 Nursi Chair In Islamic Studies Presents

November 4, 2010 Dr. John Voll  
February 17, 2011 Dr. Edward Curtis IV  
March 3, 2011 Dr. Hina Azam  
April 4-8, 2011 Week of Islamic Art and Culture  
Featuring: Dr. Dale Eikelman  
April 14, 2011 Dr. Ahmet Yukleyen

DEPARTMENT OF  
THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES



Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 7 p.m.  
Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Donahue Auditorium

**Dr. John Voll**  
**Islamic Movements and New Media**



New media of communication at the beginning of the 21st century shape religious movements. This lecture will examine the diverse Muslim groups, ranging from non-political televangelists to networks of militant extremists, which utilize new media to present their messages. The impact and long-term significance of these new-style movements will be discussed.

John O. Voll is Professor of Islamic History and Associate Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. He is a specialist in modern Islamic history and the author of *Islam: Continuity and Change in the Modern World* and a number of other books and numerous articles. He is a past president of the Middle East Studies Association and has done research on Islamic movements in sub-Saharan Africa and southeast Asia as well as in the Middle East. At Georgetown University, he teaches courses on Islamic movements and modern Muslim thought.

Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 7 p.m.  
Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Donahue Auditorium

**Dr. Edward Curtis IV**  
**Why African American Muslims Matter to U.S. History**



Anti-Muslim prejudice is nothing new to America. It is an historical mirror through which we can reflect on American ideologies of social injustice. Until recently, most anti-Muslim activity has been directed toward African American Muslims. Examining how non-Muslims have viewed black Muslim Americans--and how African American

Muslims have responded--is a necessary first step toward bettering relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in the contemporary United States.

Edward E. Curtis IV is Millennium Chair of the Liberal Arts and professor of religious studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). He is the author or editor of six books on Muslim American and African American history, including *Muslims in America: A Short History*, which was named one of the top 100 books of 2009 by Publishers Weekly. A former NEH Fellow at the National Humanities Center, he has been awarded Carnegie, Fulbright, and Mellon fellowships. Most recently, Professor Curtis has completed work as general editor of the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History*.

Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7 p.m.  
Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Donahue Auditorium

**Dr. Hina Azam**  
**Is there an Islamic Feminism? How are Muslim Women Working for Change in the World Today?**



It is often thought that Islam and feminism are mutually exclusive. For a number of Muslim women scholars and activists around the world today, however, Islam is not only compatible with principles of gender equality, but actually encourages it. In her presentation, Dr. Azam will introduce some contemporary "Islamic feminist" figures, and

will discuss the sorts of religious interpretations that are being developed among Muslims today in order to support greater rights for women and girls.

Hina Azam is an assistant professor in Islamic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where she is jointly appointed in the Departments of Middle Eastern Studies and Religious Studies. She obtained her PhD in 2007 from Duke University's Department of Religion, where she completed her dissertation on the construction of sexual violation in classical Islamic law; she is currently working on a monograph on the same subject. Professor Azam also conducts research on the intersection of popular Islamic thought, sexuality and marriage, and has recently published her findings on this topic.

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**Week of Islamic Art and Culture**  
**April 4-8, 2011**

**Pictorial Mosque Exhibition**

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Dolan Gallery  
Including pictures of mosques from around the world and "Traditional Costumes" from some Islamic countries

*Sponsored by the Muslim Student Society at JCU*

Monday, April 4, 2011 at 7 p.m.

*Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Donahue Auditorium*

**Dr. Dale Eickelman**  
**Mainstreaming Islam: Taking Charge of the Faith**

**Reception BEFORE the lecture**

**at 6 p.m. Dolan Atrium – Sponsored by the Niagara Foundation, Cleveland Chapter**

Dale F. Eickelman is Ralph and Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology and Human Relations at Dartmouth College. He joined the Dartmouth faculty in 1989. He has conducted long-term field research in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, focusing especially on religion, politics, and education, and regularly visits the Middle East. His books include *Muslim Politics*, co-authored with James Piscatori (new edition, 2004); *The Middle East and Central Asia*, 4th ed. (2002); and *Knowledge and Power in Morocco* (1985). His recent edited books include *Public Islam and the Common Good* (co-edited with Armando Salvatore, 2004); and *New Media in the Muslim World* (co-edited with Jon Anderson, 2nd ed. 2003). Several of his books and articles have been translated into Arabic. He is a former President of the Middle East Studies Association and currently coordinates the American University of Kuwait–Dartmouth College project, involved in the development of Kuwait's first private liberal arts university. As a 2009-2011 Carnegie Fellow he is working on a project entitled "Mainstreaming Islam: Taking Charge of the Faith."

Wednesday, April 6 and Friday, April 8, 2011  
6 - 7 p.m. Dolan Gallery

**Sufi Music**

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 7 p.m.

*Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Donahue Auditorium*

**"Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think"**

Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 7 p.m.

*Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Donahue Auditorium*

**"Inside Mecca"**

Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 7 p.m.  
Dolan Center for Science and Technology, Donahue Auditorium

**Dr. Ahmet Yukleyen**  
**Localizing Islam in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities of Islamic Pluralism**



Islam has become a source of challenge and opportunity to examine pluralism in Europe in the 21st century. Transnational Islamic movements do not simply transplant religious extremism from their countries of origin, nor do they necessarily conform to all of the European liberal values.

This lecture compares how Islamic movements promote or resist pluralism in the context of Europe.

Ahmet Yükleven is Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Mississippi. He studied international relations at Bilkent University and completed his MA degree at the Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver. He received his Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Boston University in 2006. His dissertation research in Germany and the Netherlands in 2003-4 was funded by grants from Wenner Gren Foundation, United States Institute of Peace, and Dutch Council of Higher Education. He has a forthcoming book titled "Localizing Islam in Europe: Turkish Islamic Communities in Germany and the Netherlands" by Syracuse University Press. He has published articles in journals such as *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Contemporary Islam*, *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, and *Turkish Studies*. His research interests include anthropology of religion, ethnicity, Muslims in Europe, Islamic movements, and multiculturalism. He has taught at Tufts University and joined the faculty of the Sociology and Anthropology department at the University of Mississippi in 2006 where he is also affiliated with the Croft Institute for International Studies. He teaches courses on cultural anthropology, ethnic and religious identity politics in Europe, and Muslims in Western Europe and the United States.

*\*\*\*sponsored in part by Modern European Studies, American Hungarian Educators Association, and Center for Global Education\*\*\**

*Refreshments will be served after all lectures in the Atrium*