

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Social Science and Psychology

The US Anti-Sharia Movement and the legalized othering of Muslims in the United States

RHONDA ITAOUI

DATE

Tuesday 17 October 2017

TIME

10am-11am (AEST UTC+10)

VENUE

EA.G.36, Parramatta Campus
(South), Western Sydney
University

ZOOM/LIVE STREAM

<https://uws.zoom.us/j/838315980>

All are welcome to join Rhonda and the Challenging Racism Project team for brunch after the presentation.

TIME

11am-12pm

VENUE

The Boilerhouse, Parramatta Campus
(South)

RSVP

13 October 2017

challengingracism@westernsydney.edu.au



ABSTRACT

Within the broader context of rising Islamophobia, this presentation sheds light on the legalized othering of Muslim communities across the United States via anti-Muslim legislation and bills spanning the years 2000-2016. With a focus on the anti-Sharia movement in the US, the findings of the United States of Islamophobia database and corresponding research report (developed by the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at UC Berkeley) are presented to highlight how anti-Sharia bills have advanced a more organized, contemporary Islamophobia movement in the US over the last decade. On behalf of the Haas Institute, Rhonda Itaoi will present the key report findings on the themes, patterns and trends of these anti-Sharia bills, while exploring the discriminatory impacts of anti-Sharia legislation on the citizenship and belonging of Muslim Americans, and American society at large. The session will also feature a Q&A segment with lead investigators and co-authors of the recent report *Legalizing Othering: The United States of Islamophobia*, Elsadig Elsheikh and Basima Sisemore from the Haas Institute.

BIOGRAPHY

Elsadig Elsheikh is the director of the Global Justice Program at the Haas Institute and lead investigator on the anti-Sharia research project. His research focuses on the socio-political dynamics of neoliberal globalization as related to development, food systems, global forced migration, human and indigenous peoples' rights, state and citizenship, and structural barriers to inclusivity.

Basima Sisemore is a researcher for the Global Justice Program at the Haas Institute, and co-investigator on the anti-Sharia research project. Her research addresses Islamophobia, human rights, and exclusionary practices that marginalize Muslims and other communities of colour. Basima received her Master's in Research Architecture from Goldsmiths, University of London.

Rhonda Itaoi is a PhD candidate at Western Sydney University, and a Research Fellow at the Haas Institute. Her work explores the impact of globalized Islamophobia on the spatial mobility of young Muslims in the Bay Area, California, and Sydney, Australia. As a Research Fellow at the Haas Institute, she worked with the Global Justice Program on Islamophobia research, including the development of a robust and interactive Annotated Bibliography on Islamophobia in the US.

ABOUT HIFIS

The Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at UC Berkeley brings together researchers, organizers, stakeholders, communicators, and policymakers to identify and challenge the barriers to an inclusive, just, and sustainable society in order to create transformative change toward a more equitable nation. The faculty, staff, researchers and affiliates of the Haas Institute work together with multidisciplinary approaches to learn, research, and construct solutions for society's most pressing issues.