



GLOBAL ISLAMIC STUDIES CENTER

At the University of Michigan, the study of Islam and Muslim peoples and societies is part of the university's mainstream.

The University of Michigan Global Islamic Studies Center (GISC) serves the academic and broader communities by promoting a deeper understanding of global Islamic culture and Muslim societies worldwide. Students and faculty benefit from pioneering research, innovative instruction, and a commitment to building partnerships on campus and beyond. The University of Michigan—with its tremendous strength in humanities and social sciences, highly ranked professional schools, and vibrant arts and culture programming—is uniquely positioned to support the study of Islam across disciplines and build energy between U-M and Muslim institutions and communities across southeast Michigan. As home to both a minor and master's program, GISC supports a range of student opportunities, including summer fellowships, graduate student travel to conferences, internships with local Islamic organizations, and mentoring and support of campus events on Islam.

Gifts to GISC ensure the center will continue to advance the interdisciplinary study of Islam, and that U-M students will have opportunities to deepen their understanding of Islam and the culture and history of the Muslim world. Islam is one of the most common religions around the globe today, with nearly 2 billion Muslims on all seven continents and in all walks of life, yet it is often misunderstood. Your support gives our scholars and our community a global perspective while also helping to dispel common myths. Your generosity allows us to fund events, programming, and student research, as well as continue to recruit and retain the best academic talent.

"Today, Islam is the second largest religion in Europe and the fastest growing; as I continue to ask important questions about how this group interacts with the state in order to make political demands and address grievances, I will rely on the rich array of expertise available to me through the Global Islamic Studies Center!"

—YEHA MEKAWI is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science studying issues of religion, identity, and representation, with a focus on how the state interacts with minority populations in advanced democracies; Class of '25

NAMED ENDOWED CENTER

Endowing and naming the Center for Global Islamic Studies will assure future funding for the center's programs, create new possibilities for growth, and bring additional visibility and prestige to the center. Income from a \$5M endowment would cover the annual needs of the center, including operating and program costs; support for faculty- and student-led initiatives; visiting scholars; undergraduate and graduate fellowships; faculty research and travel; special events, lectures, initiatives, and outreach; and curriculum and program development. It would also provide the director with the flexibility to pursue exciting opportunities that promote the understanding of global Islamic cultures and history. As a robust hub for scholarship across disciplines, regions, and languages, an endowed center will increase U-M's visibility and leadership in the field.

NAMED PROGRAM DIRECTORSHIP

Outstanding leadership drives all GISC activities, including the development of curriculum and programming on Islamic societies throughout the world, unique opportunities to study, volunteer, intern, and work abroad, and conferences, pre-professional events and seminars here at U-M. An endowed directorship will help recruit and retain a leading scholar as director of the program. The GISC director also serves an important external role as representative for the program and as an expert in global Islam, sharing that expertise with U-M faculty and students. A gift of \$2.5M to endow the directorship would position U-M as the foremost center for the academic study of global Muslim communities in the U.S.

GISC STRATEGIC FUND

The strategic fund is critical to the center's ability to pursue new opportunities and supplement gaps in the annual budget for programming. Contributions of all sizes to the GISC Strategic Fund will help to support crucial activities and new initiatives that support our academic mission.



"GISC is built on a global perspective of the academic and cultural study of Islam and Muslim societies across regions, nations, and borders. Our student and faculty research connects people and communities with dynamic programming that expands understanding of one another while creating scholarly knowledge."

Aliyah Khan, GISC Director



NAMED SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ISLAM IN THE AMERICAS

The Global Islamic Studies Center seeks an endowment gift for a new named lecture and event series on Intersectional Islam in the Americas, with a focus on race, gender, and interfaith and comparative religious relations historically and in the present. We treat North America, Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean as linked through a Muslim history of trade, colonization, militarization, and political and religious movements, in conversation with the racialized identities and faiths of non-Muslims. Two inaugural events will be planned for the series: one on Black Islam and another on Muslim chaplaincy in the United States. An endowed gift of \$500,000 is needed to support the full program, or \$250,000 for one element.

Black Islam in the Americas will feature the creator of the pioneering Sapelo Island forum on Black Muslim American history and other scholars and filmmakers, who will address the history and enslavement of African Muslims in the Americas, with special attention to the United States; the Sufi-based aesthetics of early Black Americas Islam, Black Muslim music and film, and the evolution of hemispheric Islam and politics in dialogue with Christianity, Hinduism, and African diaspora religions.

Muslim Chaplaincy in the United States will feature the book launch of *Mantles of Mercy*, the first published collection of essays by chaplains serving Muslims in the United States. The event will include a roundtable of editors, contributors, and community stakeholders including the Michigan Medicine Muslim chaplain, the filmmaker of a documentary on Muslim chaplaincy in the military, and U-M students. Islamic chaplaincy is a growing professional field in the United States for which there is great demand. The GISC currently offers an Islamic Studies specialization for graduate students in the U-M Masters in International and Regional and Studies program, and a minor in Islamic Studies for undergraduate students that are gateways to professional study in chaplaincy. This event will further solidify our place in the field of Islamic Studies and chaplaincy.



Lectures, conferences, film screenings, and other programs at U-M promote knowledge and appreciation of Islamic culture among students and faculty and bring community members to campus. We need funding to continue to attract people to Islamic Studies, build momentum across the region, and foster creative discourse. Some recent sponsored or co-sponsored programs include:

- **Margins of the Mediterranean –**
Understanding boundaries and transit zones
- **Destination Detroit –**
Stories about migration and immigration in Detroit
- **Afghanistan Series –**
Journalism, Talks, and Film Screening
- **Muslim Women in the Digital Age –**
Podcasting, Music, and Illustration
- **Stories Never Told –**
A traveling display visually narrating the artistic renaissance born out of Yemen's crisis
- **Halaloween –**
An October film series featuring horror films with sociopolitical themes from around the Muslim world, including Iran, Indonesia, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia

FACULTY RESEARCH AND INITIATIVES

GISC funds a wide range of initiatives and opportunities to enhance the ways in which faculty engage in their scholarship and with others. By supporting faculty travel—both domestic and international—for research and conferences, the center fosters cutting-edge scholarship. Other initiatives bring guest lecturers, seminars and workshops, short-term faculty and artist residencies, and prominent visiting scholars to campus to enhance outreach and student engagement while also increasing collaboration and knowledge sharing. These initiatives help define the center's reputation. Endowed gifts of \$250,000 - \$1M will fund all or a portion of these opportunities. Annual gifts are also welcome; \$6000 would fund one year of GISC faculty research while \$1500 would support one faculty member.

INTERNSHIPS AND STUDENT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

GISC programming provides students with fellowships and grants for research, conference travel, and internships. Whether through a graduate research grant or an undergraduate summer fellowship to study abroad, GISC knows that being able to fund the experiences individual students seek in their unique educational journeys means these lives can be transformed.

We are seeking gifts to support this important area of the center's mission—to cultivate students' broad perspectives and extend their learning beyond the traditional classroom. Internships and fellowships are particularly valuable since they provide opportunities to improve interpersonal, practical, and cultural skills while gaining work or research experience in a variety of settings. An endowed gift of \$250,000 - \$1M will fund all or a portion of these opportunities for our students. Annual gifts of \$20,000 will support 10 graduate student research fellowships (\$2000 per student). For undergraduate students, \$5000 will support 10 students, including funding for internships.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

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"This fellowship opened new windows for my educational and future goals. I learned that I face many untouched sources related to my research that could change the current scholarship views regarding people and their social activities in the early modern era of Iran and India. The invaluable research I conducted through this fellowship will allow me to effectively support the arguments in my dissertation."

—SHAHLA FARGHADANI is a Ph.D. candidate in Middle East Studies focused on the history and literary historiography of the Persianate world with a particular focus on the early modern period; Class of '24
