

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Registration details: <http://muslimfuturism.com/conference>

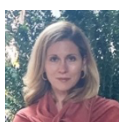
### FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

\*all times in Eastern Standard Time (EST)

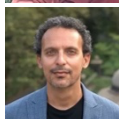
**10:00 am** Welcome Address  
**MIPSTERZ Team**

**10:30 am** Surveying Arab and African American Muslim Science Fiction: A Conversation [TALK]  
**Professor Rebecca Hankins**  
Wendler Endowed Professor and a certified archivist/librarian, Texas A&M University  
**Dr. Emad El-Din Aysha**  
Academic, journalist, translator, and author, Beirut Center for Middle East Studies

**11:00 am** The Future We Make: Creating Our Future Today [PANEL]



**Dr. Kathryn Spellman Poots** (Moderator)  
Faculty at Columbia University and Aga Khan University  
Academic Program Director for the MA in Islamic Studies, Columbia University



**Dr. Hisham Aidi** (Moderator)  
Senior Lecturer, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University  
Author of *Rebel Music: Race, Empire and the New Muslim Youth Culture*

- *This is the Islam of the Future: Discursive Futurism in Found Poetry*  
**Katrina Daly Thompson, University of Wisconsin-Madison**
- *Ayahcene vs. Anthropocene: Planetary Hima: Imagining a Green Ummah as an Antidote to Muslim Extinction*  
**William Williamson, Harvard Divinity School**
- *Arabic Dystopia as a Muslim Futurism Scope: Resistance and Identity in Arabic Dystopic Imaginary*  
**Linyao Ma, Sorbonne University**

# MIPSTERZ

# MUSLIM FUTURISM

## DEFINITIONS, EXPLORATIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS



DORIS DUKE  
FOUNDATION FOR ISLAMIC ART



Duke  
UNIVERSITY



The Center for  
Afrofuturist Studies

Center for Global Black Studies  
at the University of Miami



UNIVERSITY  
OF MIAMI



COLORADO  
COLLEGE



MIDDLE EAST  
INSTITUTE



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

12:00 pm

Keynote Opening Speaker



**Vanessa Taylor**

Vanessa Taylor is a writer currently based in Philadelphia. Her work focuses on exploring Black Muslim womanhood and the taboo. She's interested in using a multi-disciplinary approach to social justice, from on-the-ground activism to finding accessible ways to educate the community, with writing as a way to make sense of it all. Her work has appeared in *Racked*, *Teen Vogue*, *Rise Up Review*, and *Sapelo Square*, and she was a fellow for Muslim Wellness' inaugural DREL fellowship class. You can follow her across social media at @bacontribe.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022

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10:00 am

The Future of Being: Identity Formation and the Politics of Community Participation [PANEL]



**Dr. Sylvia Chan-Malik** (Moderator)

Associate Professor, Rutgers University; Scholar of American studies, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Religious Studies

- *Laal Husayn: The Queer Politics of Sufism and Poetic Voice in Punjab*  
**Muhammad Ali Imran, Denison University**
- *Frankensteins of the East and West: Re-imagining Identity Formation in Science Fiction*  
**Rukhsar Ali, Carleton University**
- *Queer Muslim Futures: Visualizing and Performing the Queer Ummah*  
**Zino Adjroud**

10:45 am

(Nation of) Islam and Afrofuturism: Black Art and Black Life [TALK]

**Dr. Ellen McLarney**

Director of Duke University Middle East Studies Center and Duke Islamic Studies Center

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**11:05 am**

Is the Future Here?: Critiquing Identity Narratives toward a Broader Vision of Self [PANEL]



**Dr. Nebil Husayn** (Moderator)

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Miami

- *Aight Y'all Be Easy: The Future Might Just Be Where Fictive Religious Kinship Ends*  
**Kamilah A. Pickett, Rashida James-Saadiya**
- *Speculative Fiction, the Aesthetics of Discomfort, and Muslim Futurisms in Mohsin Hamid's Exit West*  
**Netty Mattar, International Islamic University of Malaysia**
- *Master of Mystical Modernity: P. Djèlí Clark's Vision of an Alternate Muslim Modernity*  
**Matthew R. Hotham, Ball State University**

**12:00 – 12:55pm [BREAK]**

**1:00 pm**

Belonging in the Future: Authenticity of Being and Inclusion [PANEL]



**Dr. Donna Auston** (Moderator)

Anthropologist, Disciplinary Conversations & Public Programs, Wenner-Gren Foundation

- *Sufism on the Slant: Affective Networks of Queer MENA Party Life in NYC*  
**Jessie Lee Rubin, Columbia University**
- *The Racialization of Muslims and the Question of Citizenship in the Era of the War on Terror*  
**Isra Ali, New York University**
- *About Holy Places: Exploring the Potentiality of Future Mosques in the Films A Door to the Sky (1989) and Women's Country (2019)*  
**Rabab El Mouadden**

**1:45 pm**

Beneath Every Ruin Lies a Treasure: Imagining Muslim Futures with Mevlana [TALK]

**Dr. Peter Wright**

Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion and Co-Chair of the Arabic, Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies program, Colorado College



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2:05 pm

Keynote Speaker Panel



**Dr. Abbas Rattani** (Moderator)

Director of MIPSTERZ, resident physician, and affiliated scholar of the Institute of Bioethics, Health Policy, and Law at the University of Louisville



Dr. Deborah Whaley

Deborah Elizabeth Whaley is an artist, curator, writer, poet, and Professor at the University of Iowa. Whaley received degrees in American Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz (BA), California State University, Fullerton (MA), and the University of Kansas (Ph.D. with Honors). Her research and teaching fields include American literature, history, and culture; the institutional history, theories, and methods of American and cultural studies; comparative ethnic studies, Black cultural studies, the digital humanities, the medical humanities, and the visual arts.



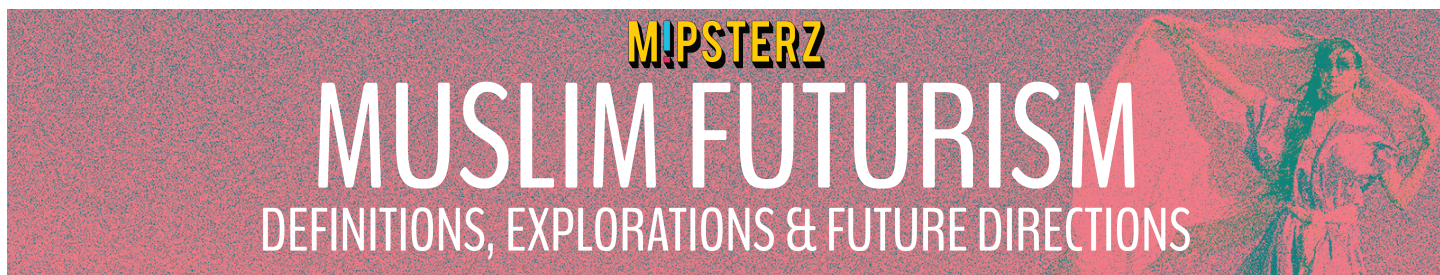
Kaaronica  
Evans-Ware

Kaaronica Evans-Ware is a doctoral candidate in the English department at the University of California Santa Barbara. She completed her undergraduate degree at Northwestern University while also publishing her first non-fiction book. Kaaronica began researching Islamic esotericism and slavery for her speculative and fantasy Islamic fiction series, *Fire & Clay*. The research into this historical fiction series expanded into scholarly interests that explore alternative systems of meanings and perspectives. Like her fiction, Kaaronica sees her scholarly research as being at the forefront of an emerging field of African American women's speculative fiction with non-exclusionary Islamic themes.



Dr. Zain Abdullah

Zain Abdullah is an Associate Professor of Religion & Society and Islamic Studies at Temple University. He is the author of *Black Mecca: The African Muslims of Harlem* (Oxford University Press), and his articles have appeared in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of History and Culture*, *African Arts*, and other periodicals. Professor Abdullah has been quoted in media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Atlantic* magazine. He holds a doctorate in cultural anthropology and has earned awards from agencies like the Smithsonian Institution, where he serves on the International Advisory Board for an exhibition on Islamic medicine.



## SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

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**11:00 am**

The Nature of Future (iR)Reality:  
Imagination as a Tool of Resistance and Religious Catalysis [PANEL]



**Dr. Jörg Matthias Determann** (Moderator)  
Associate Professor, History, Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar

- *Challenges For Muslims During Space Travel and Habitation*  
**John D. Austin**
- *Interface & Infinity: Transporting through Woven Glitches and Encoded Selves on Screens*  
**Mélika Hashemi, L.E. Brown**
- *Reimagining Muslim Self and the Future: A Study of South Asian Poetry*  
**Sumera Saleem**

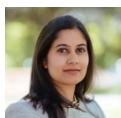
**12:00 pm**

American Muslim Women Authors and the Claiming of Self-Agency and Islamicate History [TALK]  
**Dr. Hussein Rashid**  
Founder of islamicate L3C and lecturer at Columbia University

**12:15 – 12:55pm [BREAK]**

**1:00 pm**

Frameworks of Muslim Futuring: Alternative Ethical Discourses on Liberation [PANEL]



**Dr. Zahra Ayubi** (Moderator)  
Associate Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Religion and faculty member of the Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies Program, Dartmouth College

- *Blessed Be the Strangers: An Islamic Ethical Framework for Eschatological Time*  
**Aseel Azab-Osman, Brown University**
- *The History of Imagination and the Question of Prophecy*  
**John L. Miller, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**2:00 pm**

Informing Tomorrow through a Malcolm X Framework of Black Muslim Futurism [TALK]  
**Zaheer Ali**  
Executive Director, Hutchins Center for Race and Social Justice, The Lawrenceville School  
**Anaïs Duplan**  
Poet, curator, artist, and Founding Director, Center for Afrofuturist Studies

**2:30 pm**

Closing notes from conference organizers