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
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 @bacontribute.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022
*all times in Eastern Standard Time (EST)*

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
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
  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
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

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 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.

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
*all times in Eastern Standard Time (EST)*

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 – 12:55 pm [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