

People hold signs during a demonstration in Montréal in March 2017 in support of Parliament's motion to condemn Islamophobia, systemic racism and religious discrimination.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/Graham Hughes
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Islamophobia and Colonial Violence

Solidarity and Civil Resistance in Post-9/11 Manitoba

A Resource Guide

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Centre for Human
Rights Research



University
of Manitoba



Muslim community rally against terrorism in Sheffield, October 2017; Source: Clive Wren, Flickr

Purpose

On October 25, 2023, the Centre for Human Rights Research (CHRR) hosted a seminar on the topic of Islamophobia and colonial violence with Dr. Youcef Soufi from the Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Toronto. The event focused on the experiences of solidarity and civil resistance of Muslim Canadians in the aftermath of 9/11 and during the US's global war on terror. As an extension of the seminar, this resource guide serves as a starting point for participants who would like to deepen their understanding of Islamophobia in the context of Canada through providing further readings and media.

Attendees return signs after a rally to highlight Islamophobia, sponsored by the Muslim Association of Canada, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June 18, 2021; Source: REUTERS/Alex Filipe.

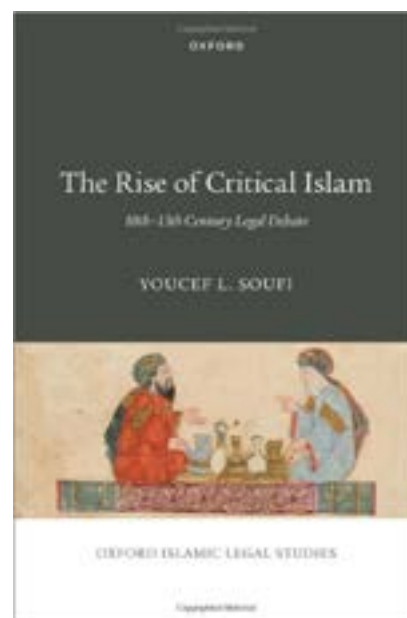


Speaker

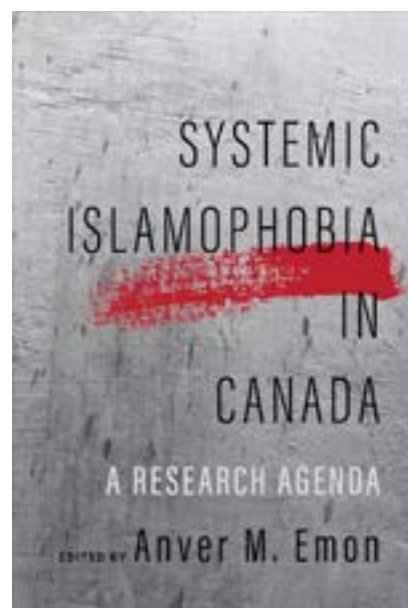


Dr. Youcef Soufi is a Research Associate with the Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Toronto, where he led an international working group funded by the Connaught Global Challenge Foundation studying anti-Muslim racism within Western societies. He is an expert in the history of Islamic law and his first book, *The Rise of Critical Islam: 10th-13th Century Legal Debate* (Oxford University Press 2023), pushes back against secularist assumptions that Islam and critical speech are inherently at odds. His recent publications analyze North American Muslim communities' responses to anti-Muslim racism in the aftermath of 9/11. He is a contributor to the volume *Systemic Islamophobia in Canada*, published by the University of Toronto Press earlier this year and his forthcoming book tentatively titled *On the Outskirts of Empire: Radicalization and State Surveillance on the Canadian Prairies* will be published with NYU Press in 2024. Dr. Soufi is a former faculty member of the University of British Columbia's Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies Department, responsible for the department's Islamic Studies program, and the former Chair of the Canadian Association for the Study of Islam and Muslims (CASIM).

Published Work



[*The Rise of Critical Islam: 10th – 13th Century Legal Debate*](#) (2023) – By Youcef L. Soufi



[*Systemic Islamophobia in Canada: A Research Agenda*](#) (2023) - Edited by Anver M. Emon
- Dr. Soufi contributed Chapter 17: Guilt by Association: The Shaky Foundations of Canada-US Intelligence Sharing and Its Consequences for Muslim Canadians' Mobility

What is Islamophobia?

As a part of Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy for 2019-2022, Canadian Heritage defines Islamophobia as a phenomenon which "includes racism, stereotypes, prejudice, fear or acts of hostility directed towards individual Muslims or followers of Islam in general... In addition to individual acts of intolerance and racial profiling, Islamophobia can lead to viewing and treating Muslims as a greater security threat on an institutional, systemic and societal level." (Canadian Heritage 2019, p. 23)

Islamophobia in Canada

The following initiatives serve to address Islamophobia within the context of North America:



[Manitoba Islamic Association \(MIA\)](#)

To bring awareness to and curb Islamophobia in their community, the Manitoba Islamic Association (MIA) has organized a resource hub on Islamophobia containing various resources such as infographics and reading lists for Muslim and non-Muslim individuals alike. In 2022, they published a report authored by Eve Sotiriadou and CHRR Research Affiliate Dr. Idris Elbakri on the experiences of the Manitoba Muslim community with Islamophobia, which can be accessed [here](#).



[Islamophobia Studies Centre \(ISC\) – Berkeley, California](#)

The Islamophobia Studies Centre (ISC) is a not-for-profit research organization in Berkeley, California, US which aims to counter Islamophobia through educational and research efforts. In 2022, they published a [report](#) by Jasmine Zine on the Islamophobia industry in Canada.



[Systemic Islamophobia Research Lab \(SIRL\) – Institute of Islamic Studies \(IIS\), University of Toronto](#)

Housed in the University of Toronto, the Systemic Islamophobia Research Lab (SIRL) is a project from the Institute of Islamic Studies which aims to support research examining systemic islamphobia in Canada.



[The Canadian Islamophobia Industry Research Project – Wilfrid Laurier University](#)

The Canadian Islamophobia Industry Research Project was created in support of [Motion 103 \(M-103\)](#) from the Canadian House of Commons, which acknowledged systemic Islamophobia in Canada. The initiative aims to investigate the institutions and systems which perpetuate Islamophobia in Canada.

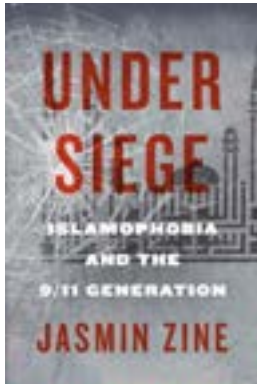


[Government of Canada - Combatting Islamophobia in Canada](#)

Reflecting their commitment to diversity and inclusion, the campaign "Combatting Islamophobia in Canada" is part of the Government of Canada's [anti-racism strategy](#).

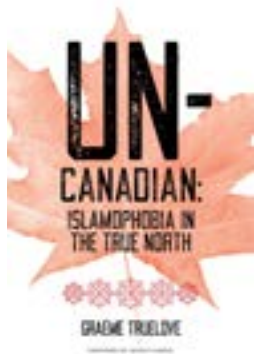
Further Reading

Books



Under Siege: Islamophobia and the 9/11 Generation

By Jasmine Zine



Un-Canadian: Islamophobia in the True North

By Graeme Truelove



Islamophobia and the Question of Muslim Identity: The Politics of Difference and Solidarity

By Evelyn Leslie Hamdon



Securitized Citizens: Canadian Muslims' Experiences of Race Relations and Identity Formation Post-9/11

By Baljit Nagra

Articles/Reports

“Friendly Manitoba: Community Experiences with Islamophobia” (2022)

– By Eve Sotiriadou and Dr. Idris Elbakri, Manitoba Islamic Association

“The Canadian Islamophobia Industry: Mapping Islamophobia’s Ecosystem in the Great White North” (2022)

– By Jasmine Zine, Islamophobia Research Centre (ISC), Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project

“Islamophobia in Canada: Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief” (2020)

– By Azzezah Kaji (JD, LLM), as submitted by International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, Islamic Social Services Association, and Noor Cultural Centre.

“The coloniality of Canadian Islamophobia – and anti-Islamophobia” (2021)

– By Azzezah Kanji (JD, LLM)

“Framing Muslims in the “War on Terror”: Representations of Ideological Violence by Muslim versus Non-Muslim Perpetrators in Canadian National News Media” (2018)

– By Azzezah Kanji (JD, LLM)

“Islamophobia in Canada: Four mindsets indicate negativity is nationwide, most intense in Quebec” (2023)

– Angus Reid Institute

“No Exit: Racial Profiling and Canada and Canada’s War against Terrorism” (2003)

– By Reem Bahdi

Women pray ahead of an event marking the one-year anniversary of the killing of four members of a Muslim family in London, Ontario, Canada Source: Chris Helgren/Reuters

Other Media

Documentaries

[Home No More](#)

CBC Short Docs - Written and Directed by Zahra Moloo

“Home No More explores what it’s like living as a Muslim woman in Quebec City, one year after one of Canada’s worst terrorist attacks — the deadly shooting at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec (CCIQ) on January 29, 2017.” (CBC 2017)



[Change Your Name Ousama: How Canadian Muslims were Marginalized by 9/11](#)

Directed by Fuad Chowdhury

“On September 11, 2001 a small group shocked the world killing more than 3000 people. The backlash spilled over the border as Canada’s Parliament rushed to pass a tough new Anti-Terrorism law. In a revealing new documentary, filmmaker Fuad Chowdhury shows how Canadian Muslims became 9/11’s unintended victims.”

Podcasts

[Reading Muslims](#)

from the Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Toronto

[Securitized Citizens: Canadian Muslim Identity Post 9/11](#)

- Reading Muslims with Youcef Soufi and Baljit Nagra

[Contesting Islam/Constructing the West](#)

- Reading Muslims with Youcef Soufi and Sunera Thobani