

## Muslim Networks Consortium

### First Annual Meeting, Duke University

October 4-5, 2002

Members in attendance:

|                      |                               |  |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Jon Anderson         | Catholic University           | <a href="mailto:Anderson@cua.edu">Anderson@cua.edu</a>                               |
| Jacqueline Armijo    | Stanford University           | <a href="mailto:Armijo@stanford.edu">Armijo@stanford.edu</a>                         |
| Gary Bunt            | University of Wales           | <a href="mailto:g.bunt@lamp.ac.uk">g.bunt@lamp.ac.uk</a>                             |
| Jay Bonner           | Bonner Designs                | <a href="mailto:bonnerdesign@aol.com">bonnerdesign@aol.com</a>                       |
| miriam cooke         | Duke University               | <a href="mailto:mcw@duke.edu">mcw@duke.edu</a>                                       |
| Vincent Cornell      | University of Arkansas        | <a href="mailto:vcornell@uark.edu">vcornell@uark.edu</a>                             |
| Edward Curtis        | UNC-CH                        | <a href="mailto:ecurtis@email.unc.edu">ecurtis@email.unc.edu</a>                     |
| Carl Ernst           | UNC-CH                        | <a href="mailto:cernst@email.unc.edu">cernst@email.unc.edu</a>                       |
| Judith Ernst         |                               | <a href="mailto:jernst@sprynet.com">jernst@sprynet.com</a>                           |
| Christof Galli       | Duke University               | <a href="mailto:christof.galli@duke.edu">christof.galli@duke.edu</a>                 |
| David Gilmartin      | NCSU                          | <a href="mailto:Gilmartin@social.chass.ncsu.edu">Gilmartin@social.chass.ncsu.edu</a> |
| Michael Hudson       | Georgetown University         | <a href="mailto:hudsonm@georgetown.edu">hudsonm@georgetown.edu</a>                   |
| Hussein Kadhim       | Dartmouth University          | <a href="mailto:Hussein.N.Kadhim@dartmouth.edu">Hussein.N.Kadhim@dartmouth.edu</a>   |
| Jamillah Karim       | Duke University               | <a href="mailto:jak1@leguin.acpub.duke.edu">jak1@leguin.acpub.duke.edu</a>           |
| Nedim Kaya           | Baku State University         | <a href="mailto:nedim@kaya.baku.az">nedim@kaya.baku.az</a>                           |
| Scott Kugle          | Swarthmore University         | <a href="mailto:skugle@swarthmore.edu">skugle@swarthmore.edu</a>                     |
| Charles Kurzman      | UNC-CH                        | <a href="mailto:kurzman@email.unc.edu">kurzman@email.unc.edu</a>                     |
| Bruce Lawrence       | Duke University               | <a href="mailto:bbl@duke.edu">bbl@duke.edu</a>                                       |
| Richard Martin       | Emory University              | <a href="mailto:rcmartin@emory.edu">rcmartin@emory.edu</a>                           |
| Ikram Masmoudi       | Duke University               | <a href="mailto:Ikram@duke.edu">Ikram@duke.edu</a>                                   |
| Ebrahim Moosa        | Duke University               | <a href="mailto:moosa@duke.edu">moosa@duke.edu</a>                                   |
| Nozim Muminov        | Samarkand Inst. of For. Lang. | <a href="mailto:nmuminov@yahoo.com">nmuminov@yahoo.com</a>                           |
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| Omid Safi            | Colgate University            | <a href="mailto:osafi@mail.colgate.edu">osafi@mail.colgate.edu</a>                   |
| Samia Serageldin     |                               | <a href="mailto:FrenchFile@aol.com">FrenchFile@aol.com</a>                           |
| Gregory Starrett     | UNC- Charlotte                | <a href="mailto:gstarre@email.uncc.edu">gstarre@email.uncc.edu</a>                   |
| Jason Thompson       | American University in Cairo  | <a href="mailto:Jason@aucegypt.edu">Jason@aucegypt.edu</a>                           |
| Deborah Wheeler      | University of Washington      | <a href="mailto:wheelerd@u.washington.edu">wheelerd@u.washington.edu</a>             |
| Nadia Yaqub          | UNC-CH                        | <a href="mailto:yaqub@email.unc.edu">yaqub@email.unc.edu</a>                         |

After general introductions, participants gave brief reports about institutional responses to 911.

There were two levels of response from administration and faculty (although individual engagement in outreach and media activity varied): low and high key.

**Low key:**

**US Universities:**

Colgate University (but intense for the only Muslim on campus)  
Catholic University  
Dartmouth University  
Stanford University (although Hoover was active)  
Swarthmore College  
Trinity University  
University of North Carolina –Charlotte (UNC-Charlotte)

**Non US Universities**

Aix-en-Provence  
American University in Cairo (AUC)  
University of Seville  
Samarqand University  
University of Wales, Lampeter  
University of Teheran

**High**

Baku State University  
Duke University  
Georgetown University  
North Carolina State University  
University of Arkansas  
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (UNC-CH)  
University of Washington

It is critical to note the differences between US and non-US institutions and also between colleges and research universities.

**On-going projects that may be of interest for the Consortium members**

- 1) Madrasas (or, institutions of religious knowledge production)—Jacqueline Armijo
- 2) Progressive Muslims—Ebrahim Moosa
- 3) Islam and the Internet in Europe—Gary Bunt
- 4) Scholars of Islamist Networks dialog with Social Movements Theorists—Charles Kurzman and Quintan Wictorowicz

- 5) Transmission of Alternative Muslim Epistemologies (toward a humanistic Islam?)  
Vincent Cornell
- 6) Contemporary Progressive Muslims—Omid Safi
- 7) Muslim Women Redefining their Roles and Status and Role of Internet—Deborah Wheeler
- 8) Islam and Human Rights—Richard Martin and Abduh an-Naim
- 9) Non-violent Islamic Theologies—Scott Kugle
- 10) Marketing Moderate Muslim—Jon Anderson

**Consortium Projects:**

- 1) Following discussion it was concluded that a number of the preceding research agendas could usefully be organized under two broad rubrics: “Progressive Muslims” and “Digital Islam.” However, further discussion clarified that the two should dovetail and be in constant conversation with each other, thereby creating a healthy tension between digital and conventional modes of knowledge production, so that Islam on-line not be an exclusive focus. There will be a televideo conference in the spring among interested consortium partners, with the expectation that this will be a long-term consortium activity.
- 2) Islamic art project to be developed by Jay and Judy with artists in Muslim countries.
- 3) Pedagogy: collaborative teaching using televideo will begin in the spring between Duke and Arkansas, U. Washington with the possibility of Swarthmore, Stanford and Emory joining the triumvirate seminar on Islamic Law and Theology
- 4) Another collaborative teaching project is Muslim Networks that will bring virtual lecturers to the Duke University campus.
- 5) Create a MNC website that will list activities and resources, e.g., syllabus bank, lectures on line, intra-Consortium activities
- 6) Stationery—Judith Ernst and Jay Bonner will design and circulate MNC logo by Nov.1
- 7) List serves
- 8) Outreach – Jim will coordinate connections between the Consortium and the Rotary International Network for Peace that brings together concerned Rotarians from seven countries.

### **Issues confronting the Consortium in 2003:**

How to translate our work? How to distribute knowledge beyond conventional publications, videos, on-line publications, costs for those with slow access to the web.

How to link up with traditional scholars outside the U.S.?

How to develop a critical insider perspective in order to avoid apologetics?

How to counter the witchhunt of scholars studying Islam and Muslim cultures?

- produce a volume analyzing Muslim responses to anti-Muslim bias and hate campaigns following the experiences of Black and Feminist Studies.
- Critical and investigative studies of anti-Muslim and anti-Islamic networks
- Explore the possibility of syndicated column
- Create a lobby and resource for scholars under threat

Rotation of MNC organizing node

- Emory and UNC-CH will confirm their readiness to host the node in 2004-06
- Other universities that have expressed interest in being future hosts
- University of Washington
- AUC
- University of Arkansas

Expanding the MNC and linking with other existing networks of scholars working on Islam:

- Golden Gate Web (warraq.org)
- Gary Bunt's European Union initiative on digital Islam

### **Calendar for 2003**

- 1) Islamist Networks and Social Movements Conference Feb 21
- 2) Progressive Muslims Virtual Conference (late March)—to coordinate with C-Span Conference and Axis of Evil film festival entitled Reel Evil
- 3) Muslim Networks Seminar
- 4) Islamic Law and Theology Seminar
- 5) Annual Convention of MNC Board of Directors: proposed date, October 3-4, 2003