

**Arabs in America: Communities and Identities after 9/11**  
**Donald L. Houston Building**  
**200 Discovery Drive**  
**February 9th-10th, 2007**

Arab Americans are Americans of Arab ancestry and constitute an ethnicity made up of several waves of immigrants from 22 Arab countries, stretching from Morocco in the west to Oman in the east. These different waves of immigration started in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continue until today. The profile of immigrants has changed throughout the decades. Immigrants tend to be better educated and increasingly of the Muslim faith. Indeed, while immigrants in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were mainly Christians from "Greater Syria" and while 63% of Arab-Americans are Christians, the number of Muslim immigrants from other regions of the Arab world is steadily increasing.

The purpose of this conference is to better understand this understudied community especially in light of the tragic 9/11 events. We aim to answer the following questions: Who constitutes this community? How assimilated are they in the fabric of US society? What has been the impact of 9/11 --and the ensuing backlash -- on the Arab American community? How has it shaped processes of self-identification among Arab Americans?

Each speaker will address the audience for 20-30 minutes. The talk will be followed by a Q&A session.

The event is the result of cooperation between The Bush School of Government & Public Service, the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute at Texas A&M (RESI), and the International Center at Texas A&M University.

**Conference Schedule**

***Friday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007***

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|-------------|---|
| 9:00-3:00PM | <i>A Workshop for Teachers organized by the TAMU International Center</i>   |
| 3:00-4:00PM | <i>Keynote Address "Partners or Enemies: Arabs in America"</i><br>Dr. Philip Salem, President of Salem Oncology in Houston<br>Bush Presidential Library Orientation Theater |
| 4:00-7:00PM | Screening of documentary films:<br><br>Arab American (30 minutes); Caught in the Crossfire (54 min.);<br><br>In my Own Skin (16 min.); Under One Sky (44 min.)              |
| 7:00PM      | <b>Reception / dinner for speakers, MSC 206</b>   |

*Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>8:30 AM</b>       | <b>Breakfast and Registration</b>   |
| 9:00-10:00 AM        | "Arab Americans and the U.S. Census: Challenges for the 'Not Quite White' "<br>Ms. Helen Samhan, Arab American Institute  |
| 10:00-11:00 AM       | Title TBA<br>Dr. Louise Cainkar, Marquette University   |
| <b>11:00-11:15AM</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 11:15 -12:15PM       | "Arab-Americans' Boundary-Making Mechanisms post 9/11"<br>Dr. Dalia Abdel Hady, Southern Methodist University   |
| <b>12:15-1:30</b>    | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 1:30-2:30PM          | "Looking Beyond September 11: "New Syria" U.S.A. and Arab American Political Activism from 1915 to 1950."<br>Mr. Hani Bawardi, University of Michigan at Dearborn |
| 2:30-3:30PM          | "Paradoxes of 9/11 Backlash: Mobilizing Middle Eastern & Muslim Americans,"<br>Dr. Anny Bakalian, CUNY-Graduate Center  |
| <b>3:30-3:45PM</b>   | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 3:45-4:45 PM         | "The Role and Expectations of Arab and Muslim Organizations in Post-Sep. 11 U.S."<br>Dr. Asa'd Abu Khalil, California State University-Stanislaus.                |
| <b>4:45-5:30 PM</b>  | <b>Closing Remarks</b>  |