

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project
Representing Muslims and Islam in the New York Times: 1850 – 2016.

Muslim Women in Contemporary U.S. Media
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Panel: The Middle East and Muslim Women in U.S. Media Representations

In this paper I examine the current U.S. media representation of women in the Islamic world. Through my research in producing informational data sheets for the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (EWIC), I have found that the media often portrays Muslim women as oppressed, passive, and voiceless. My EWIC research includes such media outlets as online newspapers, UN reports, and academic journals. Though these sources are generally viewed as unbiased, I argue that they create a stereotypical and static view of Muslim women. These findings echo Edward Said's *Covering Islam*, in which Said argues that a biased Western media controls public perception of the Muslim world. My research builds upon the work conducted by the Media Team, demonstrating that their historical findings in regards to the New York Times are in no way confined to the past. Instead, I have found a continuity of misrepresentation in the media, as pre-existing stereotypes are incorporated into the production of new knowledges about the Muslim world. This research is part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of The New York Times conducted in the lab of Professor Suad Joseph.