

Arab American women : representation and refusal (/review/10.5860/CHOICE.227388)

ed. by Michael W. Suleiman, Suad Joseph, and Louise Cainkar Syracuse, 2021

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This must-read volume aims to set the foundation for Arab American women's studies as a multidisciplinary study covering history, literature, culture, and women's studies. Across six parts, the contributing authors provide a history of Arab women in the 19th century, followed by an exploration of the 20th-century issues of cultural identity, women's literary activism, women's political activism, representation and identity, and entanglement with the war on terror and national security. Reading this pioneering compilation is necessary to lay bare misconceptions, especially given the existence of protest texts asking whether Arab women need saving. This volume speaks directly to the challenges and successes in overcoming them that Arab women have faced since coming to the US in the 19th century. Particularly interesting is part 6, "War 'National Security,'" which brings forth rarely thought-about issues. After 9/11, for instance, the national focus was on terrorists in the Arab world without much thought given to the mothers, sisters, and daughters who potentially might have supported them and whether Americans should consider those women dangerous. Though hints of this perspective showed up in movies, little entered academic writing.

Summing Up: Essential. Advanced undergraduates through faculty; professionals.

Reviewer: A. B. Al-Deen (/search?reviewer=A. B. Al-Deen), emerita, DePaul University

Recommendation: Essential

Readership Level: Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects: Middle Eastern Studies (/search?q=&ints[]=me), Women's & Gender Studies (/search?q=&ints[]=wg)

Subject: Social & Behavioral Sciences (/search?q=&sbj[]=sbs)

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October 26, 2022

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Sincerely,

Rachel Hendrick
Interim Editor & Publisher



CHOICE

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC TITLES, 2022



Awarded To Syracuse University Press

- Arab American women: representation and refusal
- The best of hard times: Palestinian refugee masculinities in Lebanon

Awarding outstanding works for their excellence in presentation and scholarship, the significance of their contribution to the field, their originality and value as an essential treatment of their subject, and significance in building undergraduate collections.

Rachel Hendrick, Interim Editor & Publisher