

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project
Representing Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times*: 1851 – 2020.
University of California, Davis
Undergraduate Research Conference &
Middle East/South Asia Studies Student Research Symposium

Carina Mkrtchyan 2018
Anthropology

Arabian Nights: Deconstructing Terminology and Exoticization in *The New York Times*

My research questions the exoticization of Islam, Arabs and the term Moslem* as found in *The New York Times* from 1900-1909. As a media analyst in Dr. Suad Joseph's lab, I study historical *New York Times* articles with the objective of tracing the genealogical representation of terms related to the Middle East and note the various discourses that often coincide with shifts in international politics, imperial interests and globalization. By addressing the changing uses of terminology in the media and understanding the way a broader narrative is constructed, stereotypes surrounding both historical and present perceptions of people and events can be discredited. My research studies the stylistic framework that was set up in the media over a hundred years ago as evidenced by misrepresentation, stereotyping, exoticization and compliments. These studies show that despite a reputation as the world's leading liberal newspaper, *The New York Times* often fails to provide an unbiased narrative in regards to the Middle East.