

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

Dalal Scarbrough 2019  
Anthropology

The Middle East and North Africa in U.S. Media Representations: An Analysis of the Term  
“Middle East” in *The New York Times* (1900-1909)

This research is part of a larger project, conducted in the lab of Doctor Suad Joseph, that analyzes the portrayal of the Middle East, Arabs, Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times* over a 150-year period. I have researched the ProQuest *New York Times* Newspaper database for the term “Middle East” from January 1st, 1900 to December 31st, 1909, and the total number of 10,849 results. Thus far, I have examined 369 articles from January to April 5th, 1900, and I have found two relevant articles that also have appeared under the term “Orient.” Both articles do not use the term directly although they discuss the people of the region, their moral categorizations, and the mixed feelings of outsiders towards their social and cultural norms. To do so, I pay close attention to certain etymological and linguistic markers used in the articles to portray the people of the Middle East in terms of physical and mental strengths and traits (behaviors).