

Critical Futures in Arab American Studies

Arab American Studies Association 2024 Conference

April 12-14, 2024

Arab American National Museum

Dearborn, MI

In April 2014, the Arab American Studies Association held its inaugural conference at the Arab American Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, home to the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States. Ten years later, we return to the Arab American National Museum to hold the 2024 in-person Arab American Studies Conference on the theme of Critical Futures in Arab American studies. We invite papers, panels, roundtables, skillshares and workshops. Taking place during the recently established nationally recognized Arab American Heritage Month, the conference seeks to celebrate and invigorate scholarly inquiries and public initiatives in Arab American studies by considering the state of current research and its relationship to both our understanding of the past and implications for the future of the field.

Arab American Studies is witnessing incredible vibrancy, with the publication of an exciting number of books, co-edited volumes, articles, and dissertations, along with highly visible and increasingly successful advocacy efforts and community projects. The theme for the 2024 conference draws from this energy to invite researchers, advocates, artists, and community organizers to consider the current state of the field in light of past and future trajectories in Arab American studies. How have past developments in the field shaped cultural debates and scholarly inquiries today? How do translocal, multilingual, cross-racial, and/or ethnic affiliations turn our attention to untold stories and their histories? How might attending to the environment, migration, labor, capital, war, and empire impact our readings of the past and chart future pathways?

The conference theme “Critical Futures in Arab American Studies” aims to highlight the continuities, disruptions, and reconfigurations of key threads in Arab American studies. We welcome proposals that speak to the following broad frames and are open to ideas that extend beyond them.

- Shifting geographies in Arab American studies
- Arab American studies and its relationality to other fields of study
- De-marginalizing scholarship and communities
- Critical Disability Studies, Queer Critique, and Critical Race Studies
- Environmental Justice, Public Health, and Racial Capitalism
- Artificial Intelligence, technologies, surveillance, and data collection
- Community engagement, museum studies, and public scholarship
- Historical narratives and experiences
- Border, Translation, and Transnational studies
- Cultural production and the arts as agents of memory and/or change

As an interdisciplinary organization, we seek papers on politics, society, art, and culture from across disciplines. Submissions that do not fit the conference theme are also welcome.

Submissions and Contact:

Please submit abstracts for papers, panels, workshops, and roundtables to Danielle Haque at danielle.haque@mnsu.edu by **September 5, 2023**. We invite pre-formed panels of three or four presenters or individual papers. Panel and roundtable abstracts should include a **500-word** panel/roundtable description as well as 300 word abstracts from each panelist. Individual paper abstracts should not exceed **300 words**. Decisions will be made by the AASA Conference Committee and will aim for a balance of topics. We encourage a range of scholars at all ranks including graduate students to submit. Accepted panelists will be notified by **October 3, 2023**.

All abstracts are welcome; however, accepted presenters must be current AASA members and register to participate in the conference. Limited funding is available to support travel grants for graduate students, contingent faculty, and independent scholars. Please include a 200 word request for funding along with your abstract.

Please send your inquiries to danielle.haque@mnsu.edu.