

The Socio-Political Dynamics of American-Muslim Discourses in the Digital Age

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The digital age introduced many opportunities and challenges for Muslims globally, including American-Muslims. On one hand, it contributed to the spread of skewed misrepresentations and stereotypes about Islam and Muslims, thus contributing to an escalating global wave of Islamophobia. On the other hand, however, it provided Muslims with the needed tools to resist these anti-Muslim tendencies, through expressing their identities and amplifying their voices.

This presentation will tackle the ways through which American-Muslims have been utilizing new digital tools to express their identities across political, social, and religious domains. In the political sphere, it will shed light on the utilization of digital platforms by young American-Muslims to secure political gains from running for Congress to winning local elections, in addition to expressing their views on ongoing international issues, such as the war on Gaza. In the social sphere, it will explain how American-Muslims have been using social media platforms to engage in philanthropic and charitable acts to serve not only their community, but other communities too, amid, and beyond, the Covid19 pandemic. It will also explore how young Muslims have been utilizing digital media platforms to assert their evolving and hybrid identities. In the interrelated religious sphere, it will shed light on the digitalization of modern Islamic authority and its varied manifestations, from unorthodox religious figures to new social media influencers who are becoming role models for American-Muslim youth in the modern age.