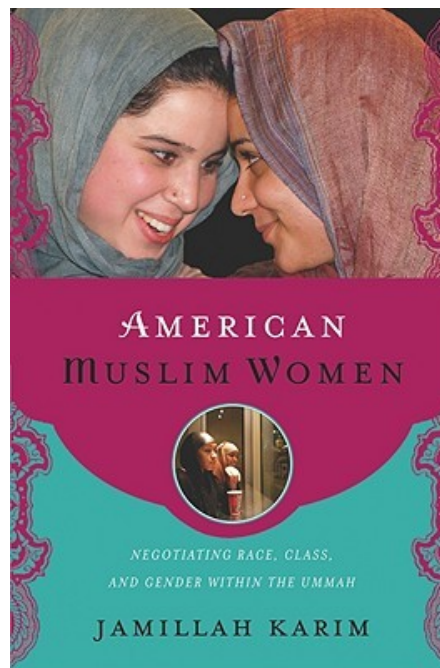




American Muslim Women: Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender Within the Ummah

Jamillah Karim

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American Muslim Women: Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender Within the Ummah Jamillah Karim African American Muslims and South Asian Muslim immigrants are two of the largest ethnic Muslim groups in the U.S. Yet there are few sites in which African Americans and South Asian immigrants come together, and South Asians are often held up as a "model minority" against African Americans. However, the American ummah, or American Muslim community, stands as a unique site for interethnic solidarity in a time of increased tensions between native-born Americans and immigrants.

This ethnographic study of African American and South Asian immigrant Muslims in Chicago and Atlanta explores how Islamic ideals of racial harmony and equality create hopeful possibilities in an American society that remains challenged by race and class inequalities. The volume focuses on women who, due to gender inequalities, are sometimes more likely to move outside of their ethnic Muslim spaces and interact with other Muslim ethnic groups in search of gender justice.

American Muslim Women explores the relationships and sometimes alliances between African Americans and South Asian immigrants, drawing on interviews with a diverse group of women from these two communities. Karim investigates what it means to negotiate religious sisterhood against America's race and class hierarchies, and how those in the American Muslim community both construct and cross ethnic boundaries.

American Muslim Women reveals the ways in which multiple forms of identity frame the American Muslim experience, in some moments reinforcing ethnic boundaries, and at other times, resisting them.

American Muslim Women: Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender Within the Ummah Details

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From Reader Review American Muslim Women: Negotiating Race, Class, and Gender Within the Ummah for online ebook

Shahidah Siraaj says

If you want to understand the complexities of the Muslim community, there is no better place to start than with this book. Ms. Karim did a wonderful job of capturing the nuances of race, class and gender in the Muslim community.

Amy says

this book was useful, well written and well planned. The execution was almost flawless, yet i am sure that it would be much more useful to people looking specifically at the experiences of both African American women choosing Islam, and South Asian Immigrant communities. However there were multiple populations that were grossly overlooked in this discussion of race, class and gender. I believe that overlooking Latinas or Caucasian American converts only serves to marginalize these groups and send them into a category of lesser importance.... afterall, we dont investigate issues when it comes to people who are less important, right? (sarcasm)

That isnt to say that i didnt find areas of this book to be useful or beneficial to my research, however not in any area that i had originally thought.

Melanie says

incredibly insightful and taught me a lot about a group of people i know too little about.

Kadijah Michelle says

This is a dense read, I believe that is why it took me several years to get past the first several pages. I knew I was going to have to give this book the time it needed, and not pick it up casually. I was finally able to do that this last week, and alhumdilillah, I enjoyed it. This book was written during a time right before I accepted Islam. A time right after 9/11 but before it was common to find a white woman in a hijab (not saying that there are tons of us, but when I became Muslim, it took me a year to meet before I met another white Muslim woman, and now it's not hard to at least find a few at the local masjid). In a way, I am glad that I did not read this sooner, I would have been so disappointed by the cultural splits in my new found faith. Instead, time and experience knowing the women of my faith has helped to understand where they come from. Being a white Muslim woman in America is like being an alien. You just don't fit into any circle, sometimes even with other white women because they may all be married to Moroccans while you are married to a Palestinian. This book looks into inter-cultural organizations such as MSAs on college campuses. That was one way I was introduced to many Muslim women. At a community college, there were several women of different races and ages coming together to practice faith, in fact, it was through an MSA event that I bought this book. I guess things are changing.

Mills College Library says

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Ebadur says

i'm getting to like ethnography. Jamillah Karim especially looks at African American and South Asian Muslim communities in Chicago and Atlanta. A good balance between theory and field research with a nice writing style. Highly recommended.

Brooke says

Ummahfication 101 Required Read. Excellent explanation and analysis--puts names to many of the isms facing the American Ummah. I always enjoy meeting fellow American sisters in text and Karim does a wonderful job at revealing the intricacies of her subjects' lives. She has produced an enjoyable as well as educational text.
