

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

Lauren N. Turner 2014
International Relations

The Middle East and Muslim Women in U.S. Media Representations: Muslim Women in Contemporary U.S. Media.

In this paper I examine the current U.S. media representations of women in the Islamic world. In my capacity as an outreach materials writer for the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (EWIC), I have found that the media portrays Muslim women as oppressed, passive, and voiceless. My EWIC research analyzes contemporary media including online newspapers, UN reports, and academic journals. Though these sources are generally viewed as unbiased, I argue that they create a stereotypical and static view of Muslim women. My findings echo Edward Said's *Covering Islam*, in which Said argues that a biased Western media controls public perception of the Muslim world. My research builds upon the work conducted by the Media Team, demonstrating that their historical findings of a biased portrayal of Muslims and Arabs in *The New York Times* continue into the present day. I have found a persistence of misrepresentation in the media, as pre-existing stereotypes are incorporated into the production of new knowledge(s) about the Muslim world. This research is part of a larger project analyzing 150 years of *The New York Times* conducted in the lab of Professor Suad Joseph.