

AL' ATHR: THE TRACE

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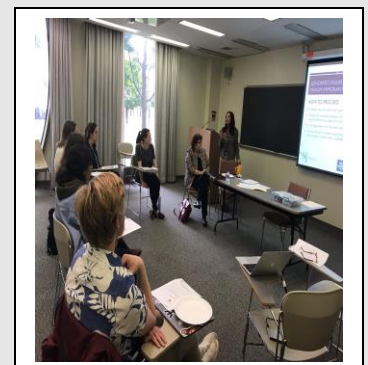
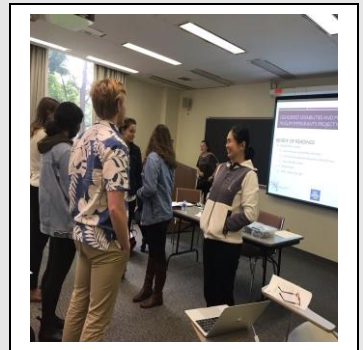
Newest Research Project

Gendered Disabilities and Milwaukee Muslim Immigrants: Empowering Muslim Women, Health Providers, and Researchers to Understand Stigmatizing Effects of Disabilities and Promote Positive Change

Summary:

In many Muslim families, persons with disabilities are often stigmatized, considered a source of shame, a financial burden, or even a curse upon the family. This stigmatization affects women more so: even when they themselves are not disabled, women are considered the primary caregivers of family members with disabilities, a role that can limit women's access to education, healthcare, and employment, and leave them ostracized from the community. For this project, we will use participatory research methods to collect quantitative and qualitative data via written surveys and oral interviews that document the beliefs and perceptions of disability among immigrant Muslim communities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, paying particular attention to the effects on women and girls. We have partnered with Milwaukee's key Muslim communities, including the Muslim Women Coalition, Islamic Society of Milwaukee and Al-Dawah Center, to run focus groups, to establish a cohort of Muslim immigrants to interview via a snowball sampling method, and to connect the research team to individuals with disabilities and their families. An interdisciplinary team of Marquette faculty and community partners will collect, analyze, and make the data available publicly. Our primary vehicle of dissemination will be a community digital archive that will function as: 1) a sharing place, where data will be made available for researchers and healthcare professionals, and where community-generated testimonies can be accessed; 2) a connection place, where community members can safely exchange information and where help-seekers can find help-providers; and 3) a reflecting place, where multidisciplinary commentary can be presented on the cultural constructions of disability. This project will raise awareness within target communities and increase understanding of the issues that care providers can utilize in providing care where there currently is none.

Research Team Workshop
9-28-18



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How you can contribute:

We are seeking community volunteers who have a disability or have a family member with a disability or special needs. Volunteers can participate in any or all of the following ways:

1. Meet with our team to start a discussion about issues regarding disabilities and the ways to overcome the stigma. We need your help to come up with options for better lives for Muslim families.
2. Participate in surveys and interviews.

Our project seeks to understand the weight of cultural beliefs about disabilities and to explore ways of influencing cultures by spurring dialogues with our Islamic scholars and Imams and healthcare professionals. Our goal is to bring down the barriers to care for Milwaukee Muslim women (and, through them, the community at large) by ending the cultural stigmatization of disability. We will also organize workshops connecting community members and health professionals.

Your participation in any stage of this project is voluntarily. Unless you request to be identified, your name will not be disclosed to the public, and you will not be referenced by name in any material obtained from this project.

If you are interested in participating, or if you have any questions about our project, please contact me at 414 288-5761 or info@amwrri.org

New and Improved Website

We invite you to check out our updated website. We have worked hard to add new information, pictures and resources for you. On the website you can now learn about different organizations and services, read new publications, see what projects we are working on now, discover cultural clothing traditions from different countries and more. We hope our website is more accessible to our community and provides you with helpful resources! Visit us at www.amwrri.org