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**“Between Orientalism & Fundamentalism:  
Muslim Women and Feminist Resistances”**

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In the post 9/11 era, Muslim women navigate between both racialized and gendered politics that variously script the ways their bodies and identities are narrated, defined and regulated. Located within this dialectical dynamic, the rhetoric of Muslim women’s liberation is all too often caught up in the vast undercurrents of ideological extremism on the one hand, and racism and Islamophobia on the other. Muslim women’s feminist praxis is shaped and defined within and against these discursive terrains. This paper will examine the ways in which Muslim women’s feminist theorizing and praxis has responded to the current context of “gendered Islamophobia,” that has reactivated Orientalist tropes and representations of backward, oppressed and politically immature women in need of liberation through imperialist interventions, and to the challenge of religious extremism and puritan discourses that authorize equally limiting narratives of Islamic womanhood and compromise their human rights and liberty. Addressing these feminist negotiations and contestations includes an analysis of the complex social, economic, political and ideological challenges posed by the global postmodern, postcolonial condition. Currently there is no cohesive framework for feminism shared among the variously oriented Muslim women who operate from either secular or religious paradigms. Secular feminists have built transnational alliances connected to global anti-racist feminist and anti-fundamentalist movements and remain ideologically at odds with faith-centered Muslim women who root their resistance within the space of religious reform. Reconciling these positions in order to develop strategic solidarities among Muslim feminists is a contemporary challenge. A common agenda of combating racist and imperialist domination will be proposed as a means of developing a framework of solidarity among these diversely situated Muslim women engaged in liberatory feminist practices.