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Contact Author for further details*

“Impact of Muslim Intellectuals on Muslim Communities in Canada”

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The paper will consist of the presentation of the findings of ongoing focus group discussions and interviews that are being conducted for a research project on the impact of Muslim intellectuals on Muslim communities in Canada, United States and Britain. Interviews and focus group sessions are examining the engagement of Muslims with the contemporary West and with modernity. They are making the following inquiries: who has the capability or the authority to interpret the teachings of Islam to deal with modernity? How do you view *ijtihad*? What are your views on the issuing of fatawa through the Internet? Where do Muslims look for answers to such issues as bio-ethical questions? What does western knowledge have to offer Muslims in coping with life in the present day? The theoretical framework was presented at a panel at the 32nd Annual Conference of the AMSS in 2003, and feedback from the audience was incorporated into the research design. The proposed presentation for the 2004 conference will be an update on the findings to date and a further opportunity to receive feedback.