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**“Norms and Practices of Women's Dress”  
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The image of the veiled Muslim woman continues to be used by Orientalists as well as feminists to establish the foreignness and the barbarism of Islam and Muslims. Mystery, foreignness, traditionalism, remoteness from modernity, disempowerment, victimization, and lack of agency are wrapped up in this image. American Muslim women, including college students, find that this powerful image, fueled by popular culture, remains a backdrop to their identity work on campuses. In this paper, I examine the data from my interview-based study of American Muslim women's identity work on two college campuses in the Washington, DC area, focusing on American Muslim Women's encounters with this image, and how they resist it. I examine the role of modest clothing as well as the hijab (veil) in this identity work. Under “scrutiny from the colonial, Orientalist, religious, multiculturalist, academic, and feminist gaze” (Khan 2002, xxi), my participants challenge the attempts of the gaze to categorize and stereotype them. They are “constantly pressured to identify [their] single truth and as they express [their] desire for flexibility and the right to be contradictory and confused, which more fully reflects the hybrid nature of [their lives, they] receive subtle and sometimes not so subtle messages that [they] do not quite fit” (ibid). They do not quite fit in dominant majority circles, nor do they fit in the one-dimensional mold of the Muslim woman generated by the Orientalist perspective. Often, they do not quite come up to Islamist expectations either.