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**Abstract Only – Work in Progress**

**“Formation of an American Muslim Public Sphere”**

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In the last few decades, the growth of the American-Muslim population and institutions has culminated in the formation of a distinct Muslim public sphere in the United States. As a site of identity articulation, a Habermasian space of democracy, the public sphere plays a crucial role for minorities in liberal societies. For religious minorities that are dispersed across the country, collective spaces of interaction and spheres of representation are crucial to the achievement of cultural citizenship. This paper explores Muslim institution-building, spaces of culture, and new media of communication. In an attempt to map out the emerging American-Muslim public sphere, this study focuses on the processes and ways in which a minority public sphere forms itself and interacts with the larger national public sphere in the context of the United States. Two historic moments in the formation of a national Muslim public sphere are identified: the founding of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) in 1963 (the diasporic moment), and the launching of the CAIR-Net e-mail list in the 1990s (the post-diasporic moment). This study is constructed around the following three empirical cases: The Muslim organizations of ISNA and CAIR on the national level, the Metro Detroit area mosque cultures on the local level, and the new Muslim media, Bridges TV, on the virtual level. This study provides an analysis of the synchronic and diachronic development of Muslim collective spaces and institutions, and discusses their changing orientations over time.