Islam in Europe
A Research Guide

The firestorm of controversy over the recent vote in Switzerland to ban the building of minarets on mosques highlights the perilous and contentious state of Islamic community, culture, and religion in Europe. Finding reliable and current research and resources on the many threads that informs the debate surrounding the European Islamic community, Western perceptions, and the tensions between factions can be difficult. Jessica Adamick offers a comprehensive and up to date survey of resources that can aid reference and collection development librarians when working in this subject area. Adamick received her MLS from the School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University Bloomington, with a specialization in Digital Libraries in May 2009 and currently works as the Ethics Clearinghouse Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is working on a National Science Foundation-funded project to build the Ethics in Science and Engineering National Clearinghouse Beta (ESENCE—www.ethicslibrary.org), a subject repository on the responsible conduct of research. Adamick developed her interest in the topic of Islam in Europe when she studied in Amsterdam as an undergraduate. She subsequently explored the topic at Earlham College, where she graduated with a BA in Women’s Studies in 2007.—Editor

Over the last three decades, events involving the conflict between European Muslims and secular or Christian European states have been highly visible. Protests of Salman Rushdie’s *The Satanic Verses* dominated the media in 1989, following a denied appeal by the United Kingdom Action Committee on Islamic Affairs for the British government to ban the book’s release. Also in 1989, *the Affaire du Foulard* (“the Headscarf Affair”) began in Creil, France, when three Muslim girls wearing headscarves were sent home from school. A national controversy ensued that led to the passing of a law in 2004 that banned obvious signs of religious affiliation in French schools. After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, debates that associated Islam with violence became widespread. The murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh by Dutch Muslim Mohammed Bouyeri and the Al-Qaeda bombing of trains in Madrid only fueled the flames of the heightened rhetoric. In response to these events and their political aftermath, there has been an enormous increase in publications on the topic of Islam in Europe. This annotated guide includes relevant, informative, authoritative, and influential reference sources, databases, periodicals, books, and websites that focus on Islam in Europe during the last three decades. Readers should note that in addition to this guide, several comprehensive bibliographies have been published on the subject: Jochen Blaschke’s *Muslims in Europe: A Bibliography* (Berlin: Edition Parabolis, 2002), Robert Goehlert’s *Muslims in Contemporary Europe: A Guide to Selected Resources in*
English (Bloomington: Center for the Study of Global Change, Indiana Univ., 2006), and Jürgen Jensen’s Africans in Europe: A Bibliography, Interethnische Beziehungen und Kulturwandel, Vol. 51 (Münster: Lit., 2002). None of these, however, are annotated. It should also be noted that the current political environment in much of Europe supports the conflations of Islam with Islamic fundamentalism and the conception of all Muslims in Europe as immigrants. Researchers should be aware that some of the materials available reflect this confusion, and they should find sources that account for the level of diversity among Muslims in Europe.

Several methods and tools were employed in the identification and selection of the items for this guide. Reference sources were located by browsing the shelves of Indiana University Bloomington libraries and using standard reference sources such as American Reference Books Annual, Booklist, Choice, College & Research Libraries, and Reference & User Services Quarterly. Books were identified using Choice, Public Library Catalog, WorldCat, and book reviews in scholarly journals, and were selected on the basis of their relevancy, their citation count according to Arts and Humanities Citation Index and Social Sciences Citation Index, the number of library holdings, favorable reviews, reputation of the publisher, and date published. Databases were selected on the basis of the number of relevant items they indexed on the topic, and journals were selected on the basis of the frequency at which they published relevant articles. The Web resources, which were found by searching Google and Intute (www.intute.ac.uk), were evaluated on the basis of their authority and the depth of information they provide.

REFERENCE SOURCES

The following sources are ideal for preliminary research as they are concise and provide accessible, general overviews of current developments in Islam in Europe. Most of the entries include a bibliography or further reading suggestions.


The entry “Muslims in Europe” traces the history of Muslim immigration to Europe post-1945 and briefly discusses main groups of Muslims in France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and the Balkans, with attention to differences between Muslims in Western and Eastern Europe. The entry concludes with a discussion of issues such as laws, integration, education, and Islamic identity.


One notable entry in this source by the highly cited Pnina Werber, “Pakistani Migration and Diaspora Religious Politics in a Global Age,” discusses Pakistani migration and Pakistani-British community from World War II to the present, with a section titled “Islam, the Rushdie Affair, and the Development of a Diasporic Consciousness.” The other relevant entry in the encyclopedia is “Turks in Germany,” which gives a recent history starting with the employment of labor migrants in the early 1960s and includes a section on religious beliefs and practices.


The entry “Muslim (A.), Muslims” includes the sections “The Old-Established Communities of Eastern Europe” and “Migrant Muslims in Western Europe,” which provide excellent historical overviews, country profiles, and a breakdown of the demographics of each. There are thorough country profiles of Poland, Finland, Hungary, Rumania, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Yugoslavia, France, Great Britain, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and the countries of Southern Europe.


This dictionary includes entries that present a short, broad overview of Islam in Europe, as well as in France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Great Britain, the Balkan States, Albania, and Turkey. There are numerous other related entries that will provide quick reference.


The entry “Muslims” gives a brief overview of the following areas: Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Yugoslavia, and Kosovo.


This annotated bibliography covers more than six hundred books and articles on Islam, focusing on history and “contributions to knowledge.” Books and articles are separated, and a section titled “Islam–West Linkages” is included. This book is difficult to navigate, but the annotations are in-depth, evaluative, and accessible.


The entry “Muslim Immigration” gives a broad overview of the topic, but it includes the short section “Muslim Migration to the West,” focusing on modern Europe. The following entries include some information about Muslims in Europe or related issues: “Turkish Diaspora,” “Germany,” “France,” “European Union,” and “Guestworkers, Europe.”

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The entry “Islam: Islam in Modern Europe” gives an excellent outline of contemporary trends, with an emphasis on the particularities of Western Europe. Under the subheading “Settlement and Organization of Muslim Communities,” European countries are given brief summaries that include recent population statistics and demographics as well as migration trends. Notably, there is a separate section on Eastern Europe. Subheadings include “Public Participation,” “Education,” and “Islamic Movements and Trends.”


This encyclopedia includes a concise entry, “Germany, Islam in,” that offers a recent historical overview, websites and contact information for German–Muslim organizations, as well as additional sources.


The entry “Muslims in Western Europe” provides a map and gives information about France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, and Spain. “World Distribution of Muslims 2000” provides a map indicating Muslim population percentages worldwide. “World Terrorism 2003” provides a map that indicates countries where terrorists or terrorist groups operate, countries where a suicide bomber attack has occurred, and Islam-majority countries.


The entry “Muslims in Europe” offers a brief history of the topic and discusses current matters, such as integration, the use of mosques, and the lack of political involvement. There is a short recommended reading list.


Relevant entries include “Eastern Europe: Early 20th Century to Present,” “Western Europe: 1945 to Present,” and “Turkey: Early 20th Century to Present,” all of which are thematic essays on recent methods and sources. Included is a bibliography of sources from 1993 to 2003 on women and Islamic cultures, organized by country or subject.


This text briefly mentions Islam in a number of entries, but “France,” “Germany,” and “Turkey” are the only entries that provide significant information about the position of Muslim women in Europe.

DATABASES

The topic of Islam in Europe can be approached by a number of disciplines, and this is reflected by the following databases. Listed below are databases that provide the most comprehensive coverage of relevant literature.

Academic Search Premier. Ipswich, Mass.: EBSCO, coverage varies.

The multidisciplinary database Academic Search Premier indexes and abstracts more than 8,450 journals, with full-text access to more than 4,600 peer-reviewed journals.


More than 1.6 million citations of scholarly religious studies are indexed, which include essays, book reviews, multimedia citations, and more than 555,000 article citations.

Historical Abstracts. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 1955–

This database provides citations to books and dissertations, and it indexes and abstracts more than 1,800 journals covering world history 1450–present. The United States and Canada are excluded.


An international bibliography that indexes 3,470 European-language titles related to Islam and the Muslim world.


Indexes and abstracts international political science articles from about one thousand journals.


Covering sociology and related disciplines, Sociological Abstracts provides abstracts of books, book chapters, dissertations, and conference papers in addition to citations to journal articles and book reviews from more than 1,800 serial titles.


Indexes and abstracts international serials literature from political science and related fields from more than 1,700 titles, the majority of which are non–U.S. publications.

PERIODICALS

Journal literature on Islam in Europe or Muslims in Europe can be found in hundreds of titles. The following are some of the journals that frequently publish articles on the topic.
Looking at the relationship between the expansion of the European Union and the rise of religion in politics, the editors and most of the contributors worry about religion’s interference with the creation of a “modern and secular” Europe, and vouch for an inclusive European identity. This collection discusses Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Islam.


Buruma investigates the murder of Theo van Gogh and its implications for the historically tolerant Netherlands. He gives a history of political thought and Enlightenment philosophy in the Netherlands, interviewing Dutch politician Ayaan Hirsi Ali (who created the short film “Submission” with van Gogh) and legal scholar Afshin Ellian. The text is written in a journalistic style and is appropriate for public and academic library users.


Looking at Europe and the United States, Cesari offers a contemporary comparative history of Muslims in the West that emphasizes particularities of location and multitudes of experience. She engages with the ethnic diversity of Muslims as well as the diversity in their host nations, claiming that the intersection of the two transforms both Western politics and Islamic identity.


The first of two books produced by a component project of Microcon (the European Union’s Sixth Framework Programme) outlines ethno-religious conflict in the form of case studies on Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Written for an academic audience, themes of economic and social integration are considered alongside terrorism. The second book will follow up with an examination of political strategies.


Examining how postwar Germany has been transformed by immigration, this text looks at national identity in the face of major demographic, economic, social, and cultural change. Particularly relevant chapters include “Religion and Diaspora: Muslims, Jews, and Christians,” “A Turkish Germany: Film, Music, and Everyday Life,” and “Is the Boat Full? Xenophobia, Racism, and Violence.” There is a website associated with the text: the Multicultural German Project (http://mgp.berkeley.edu/).
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The first chapter of this accessible text is a historical corrective that dispels the belief that the conflict between Islam and Europe is a recent development, noting Islam's deep-rooted impact on Europe. The last three chapters address the recent histories of ethnic cleansing, Islam and terrorism, and the Taliban's demolition of the Buddhist statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan. Goody contests the notion that Islam is inherently backward, un-European, and violent.


Each of the ten essays devoted to Muslims in Europe (part of the book is devoted to Muslims in America) covers a European country: Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, and the Netherlands. Most of the authors in this text are highly cited, including Steven Vertovec, Jocelyne Cesari, Anne Sofie Roald, Thijl Sunier, and Tariq Ramadan. This text is for an academic audience.


Ayaan Hirsi Ali's autobiography associates the West with modernity and safety, and gives particular attention to the theme of Muslim women's freedom. Hirsi Ali recounts her strict Muslim upbringing in Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya and also discusses her recent history in the Netherlands. This text is appropriate for public and academic library users.


Rooted in history and political science, ten of these essays are devoted to counties: France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg), Scandinavia, Austria, Spain, Greece, and Portugal. These essays provide demographic information. The remaining essays discuss issues such as the European Union, Muslim youth, and multiculturalism, among others. All essays speak to Muslim identity and integration. Highly cited authors included in this text are Shireen Hunter, Nico Landman, Tariq Ramadan, John L. Esposito, Peter P. Mandler, and Fraser Cameron. This text is written for an academic audience.


Strictly addressing Eastern and Southern Europe, this collection's essays cover the transforming politics and identities of the European Union, the Caucasus, Russia, Turkey, Central Europe, and the Balkans. Contributors include fellows and colleagues who live and work on policy in their research area from the Open Society Institute’s International Policy Fellows program (which supports policy research). This text is appropriate for academics, policy makers, and the general public.


This text optimistically revisits the perception that the integration of Islam into secular France has failed. It argues that Muslims wish to be integrated into French society, and that they are not as religious or fundamentalist as they are perceived, pointing to unemployment as the largest barrier to integration. This text is appropriate for public and academic library users.


A common theme in this lengthy and scholarly work is the assertion that Islam must not be essentialized, but be seen for its diversity, especially in different political and geographical contexts. The text comprises analytical essays that are based on bibliographic research and field studies, examining the construction of Islam through institutions such as law, the media, organizations, and education, with attention to changing views post–September 11.


With a broad scope, this collection of articles serves as a solid introduction to right-wing extremism in modern Europe. Included are essays that address the changing European right wing in response to a perceived Islamic threat in addition to case studies of Germany, Austria, France, and Russia, and a contextual examination of Western Europe.


Jorgen presents a recent survey of Islam in the following Western European countries or regions: France, West Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium, Scandinavia, and Southern Europe. The text is in encyclopedic form, with a chapter devoted to a single country or region and discussing topics such as immigration, legal structure, and education. The remaining chapters discuss general historical, cultural, and social trends related to Islam in Western Europe. Each chapter includes an excellent bibliographical essay.


Pargeter examines the diversity present within the jihad minority of Islam. Written for a broad audience, a history of individuals with a commitment to Islam, this well-researched work is suitable for public and academic library users.
of jihadism is traced over the last three decades, including analyses of recruitment, terrorism on France stemming from the colonization of Algeria, the Madrid and London bombings, and the Danish cartoon controversy.


The major theme in this rigorous text is the refutation of the view that Islam and the West are inherently irreconcilable. It looks at the way Islam is constructed as a singular negative body, and disagrees with the notion that an acute struggle between the two cultures is inevitable.


In this succinct text, Roy examines the opposition toward French Muslims that comes from the belief that Islam cannot exist within French laïcité, a concept similar to secularism. Roy examines the existence of distinct religious and secular spheres, the separation of cultural background from religion, and the similarities between the Islamic revival and other contemporary Western religious movements.


Scott examines the headscarf affair in France and the 2004 ban placed on displaying apparent religious affiliations in schools. Supporters of the law claim that the ban strengthens the French values of secular liberalism and view the headscarf as sign of backwards religion. Scott invalidates this argument by looking at the history of racism and opposing beliefs about women’s sexuality that are embedded in the debate. She proves that the law does not erase differences in the name of the French abstract individual, but only accentuates them.


Drawing from anecdotal evidence and personal interviews, Shore uses a journalistic style to discuss the inability of Europe and the United States to integrate Muslims. According to Shore, a consequence of the marginalization of moderate young Muslims is their attraction to Islamic fundamentalism, which can lead to violence. Shore argues that Europe and America must change their integration tactics or the production of Islamic fundamentalist violence will continue. This text is appropriate for public and academic library users.


The author, a Muslim living in Europe, embeds personal illustrations in this scholarly text that examines the compatibility of political Islam and democracy. He places Islam in a European context and introduces the idea of the “Europeanization of Islam” while analyzing the ways in which Europe is challenged by Islam.

WEB RESOURCES

The following Web resources were selected for the depth of information and scholarship they provide as well as the links to other useful resources they list.

Euro-Islam.info
http://euro-islam.info

Group Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités (GSRL) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique is a research institute that focuses on religion and secularism. Euro-Islam.info is a product of GSRL, and it provides an excellent resource for online researchers of Islam in Western Europe. Compiled by scholars and doctoral students, the site presents country and city profiles, reviews and summaries of recent publications, upcoming events, Internet links, and links to recent news articles. Those involved with the site make their own research available.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
http://fra.europa.eu

Previously named the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), this agency is an independent body of the European Union (EU) that provides information and assistance to organizations and the EU relating to fundamental rights. Included are outstanding links pages and a searchable database with access to publications, media, and relevant organizations.

International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World
www.isim.nl

This institute was formed in 1998 by the University of Amsterdam, Leiden University, Utrecht University, and the Radboud University Nijmegen, and closed in 2008 because of a lack of adequate funding. Its research on contemporary Islam is still available on the institute’s website. Publications, including the ISIM Review, ISIM Papers, ISIM Dissertations, ISIM Annual Reports, and the ISIM Series on Contemporary Muslim Societies are made available online.

Islam in Western Europe
wwwuser.gwdg.de/~mriexin/euroislam.html

This Internet guide by Islam scholar Martin Riexinger is a first-generation website, but it provides a large number of links to organizations, documents, research institutes, and mosques. The multilingual links are organized by country, after general European links. Riexinger indicates sites that contain hate propaganda.

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