



Stereotypes and Arab American Muslim High School Students: A Misunderstood Group

By Nader Ayish

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Arab American Muslims are one of the most misunderstood ethnic and religious groups in the United States. Indeed, to many Americans, Arabs and Islam seem alien and shrouded in mystery. For a number of complicated reasons, the education and social adjustment of Arab American Muslims has received less scholarly attention than other ethnic and religious groups. This is ironic, given that Arab American Muslims are highly visible (albeit in a negative sense) and one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S. In an effort to better understand this diverse community, this study investigated how five Arab American Muslim high school students perceive and cope with stereotypes and the way their culture and religion is portrayed in film, the media, popular culture, and school curricula. Through the compelling words of these quintessential Arab American Muslim teenagers, we come to appreciate the lived experiences of the 'Other' as they navigate growing up in a post-September 11 world. This book is intended for educators interested in incorporating critical pedagogy, critical literacy, equity, and multicultural education into their instruction.

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About the Author

Nader Ayish, PhD: Studied multicultural/ multilingual education at George Mason University. An educator with more than 20 years of diverse professional experience, he teaches middle school near Washington, DC and graduate school at GMU and American University. He also consults as a cross-cultural trainer across the United States.

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