

Title: Native American and Indigenous Muslim Stories: Reclaiming the Narrative

Native Americans are often invisible in our public discussion of America and even more so in any discussion of Muslims in the United States. As a group, Native Americans broadly make up 1.8% of the US general population. As such, they are often overlooked, invisible, and underrepresented in public conversations and decision-making. And Muslims broadly make up an estimated 1.1% of the US general population. Among Muslims in the United States, Native Americans make up just 1-2%. There is an absence of awareness and lack of representation of Native American and Indigenous Muslims both in the broader US public and within the US Muslim community. **Native American and Indigenous Muslim Stories: Reclaiming the Narrative (NAIMS)**, the first comprehensive study of its kind, is centered around spreading awareness of the lived experiences of Native American and Indigenous Muslims in the United States. It includes the first-ever photo narrative project to center the lived experiences of Native American and Indigenous Muslims in the United States. This research amplifies Indigenous Muslim voices to highlight this small but incredibly diverse community's challenges, strengths, and needs. We explored identity, ways to navigate multiple marginalized communities, insights into participants' struggles, hopes, and dreams, and intersectionality of identities. Participants will walk away with a deeper understanding of such a small but diverse community and use the stories to navigate intersectionality, challenges, assumptions, and personal narratives. By centering their voices and images, this form of storytelling opens up the possibilities of new ways of understanding, disrupts dominant narratives about Native American and Indigenous Muslims, and helps audiences contemplate broader themes of identity and what it means to be an American today.

The NAIMS project is the first of its kind to shed light on the experiences of a largely unknown sector of American Muslim and Native communities. Native American Muslims are a diverse group hailing from multiple federally and state-recognized tribes across the United States. They are a multi-generational group, consisting of both converts to Islam and those born into the faith. Our project highlighted their wide array of life experiences and struggles, but, more importantly, NAIMS showcased their hopes, dreams, and wide-reaching accomplishments.

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