



## DECEMBER 2005

### Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

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Internships available!  
Contact us for details.

### An Update from the Board of Directors

ISPU has developed several important partnerships this year. First, it is collaborating with the Brookings Institute with the Bridging the Divide Project which brings together premier scholars and activists to study current US policy towards Muslim communities.

ISPU has also partnered with Georgetown University in order to study Islamic education in America. More details are found on this page.

ISPU's core projects currently involve the National Muslim Census and the study of American Muslim education. ISPU has created the Center for the Study of American Muslims to allow for focused research in this area. Updates on other projects and pa-

pers produced by our scholars are found on the second page. Several conferences and seminars are being arranged in cities across the country to familiarize people with ISPU and also allow an opportunity to interact with leading scholars in private settings. Dinners are currently being scheduled for San Francisco, Chicago, New York, St. Louis and Detroit. Please contact us for details.

ISPU remains indebted to its members and supporters. Without your pledges, much of the research and scholarship simply would never be done by those who maintain a balanced view of the American Muslim community. We look forward to your ongoing support.

### ISPU meets with Prince Charles



Prince Charles at Georgetown University meeting with ISPU

Washington DC— On November 3, Prince Charles visited Georgetown University as part of his highly anticipated visit to the United States. It was his first official international trip with his wife. ISPU was invited to participate in a meeting with Prince Charles along with several other scholars and groups studying Muslims. He was interested particularly in the data from the Detroit Mosque Study which profiled an American Muslim community in detail. Understanding how Muslims in other societies are integrating into the community is an important part of the British approach to dealing with its own large Muslim population. ISPU looks forward to further follow up meetings.

### Islam and Education in America

Conference starts April 6, 2006  
Georgetown University,  
Washington DC.

In partnership with Georgetown University, ISPU is sponsoring an important conference on education. We are inviting abstracts in the following areas:

1. Trends in Islamic K-12 schools, charter schools, Sunday schools, and Home schooling
2. Studies of Muslims in public and private schools systems
3. Comparative studies in education between various ethnic and religious groups.

Please see website for details. Deadline for the abstracts is 12/15/2005 and the papers are due by 2/28/2006

**The ISPU Mission**

The Institute of Social Policy and Understanding is an independent and nonprofit organization committed to studying U.S. domestic and foreign policy and its impact on American society in general and its Muslim communities in particular. ISPU provides analysis, research, policy briefs and commentary which directly involve public policy through publications, conferences, media events, grants, training and research support. ISPU is established on the idea that every community must address, debate and contribute to the pressing issues facing our nation.

**Dr Fawaz Gerges**

Dr Fawaz Gerges, political science professor and ABC news analyst, spoke at an ISPU dinner hosted in **St Louis** on November 12, 2005. He discussed the impact of think tanks on US foreign policy and also discussed his latest book. He is scheduled to speak in **Chicago** in February.

**Contribute To ISPU**

ISPU is a non-profit 501c3 organization and relies upon generous individuals and institutions to support its work. Our development staff can work with you to identify the most advantageous means to contribute to the Institute. Please consider making a bequest to ISPU in your wills. **Stock transfers, online donations and checkomatic deductions** are available for your convenience. For more information please contact the ISPU office or send an email.

**Recent Articles and Reports**

***Karen Hughes and Muslims: Alliance Against Extremism***

ISPU Fellow Muqtedar Khan discusses the newly appointed "ambassador to the Muslim world"—Karen Hughes, a close advisor of President Bush and an Undersecretary at the State Department. He points out the shared interest of protecting American national security and ensuring a thriving American Muslim community. He argues that these shared goals will be mutually beneficial, but both parties need to take important initial steps. Muslims must vociferously stand against extremism in their community and the US government must alter its policies regarding torture and improve respect for civil liberties.

***Addressing Foster Care and Mental Health***

From Wayne State University, Dr Paul Toro and colleagues have continued to explore the various facets of poverty. In this policy brief, they discuss their findings regarding foster care children and the significant amount of mental health problems they encounter. Almost 25-50% of foster care children require mental health care. Specific policy recommendations are made to improve screening of these children and effectively intervene.

***Critics of Iraq Policy Come out of the Woodworks too Late***

ISPU Fellow Ivan Eland examines the various critical positions of former Bush officials. Individuals such as Gen. Colin Powell, Col. Lawrence Wilkerson. Many of these individuals criticize the execution of the war rather than its premise. He argues that US forces in wars of "choice" are often in a force protection mode. The American public has a strong aversion to high US casualties, hampering the ability of the military to take aggressive steps needed to win the conflict.

***Failure of Nation Building in Bosnia and Iraq***

In another article, ISPU Fellow Ivan Eland compares the attempts at nation building in Bosnia and Iraq. He reviews the challenges Bosnia and Iraq face in their varying paths towards nation-building. He argues that the lesson to be learned from Bosnia is this: "the creation of peaceful multiethnic state with a strong central authority is a mirage."

***Legislating Price Controls Won't Aid Katrina Recovery***

Benjamin Powell analyzes government measures against price gouging in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Although various states enact anti-gouging ordinances to protect disaster victims, the ordinances only lead to shortages of essential goods and lengthen the amount of time it takes to recover. Katrina was a horrific disaster, but government interference with market prices can only compound the misery. Powell argues that it is difficult to define the difference between gouging and recovering overhead cost in crisis situations. However, high costs force people to conserve and carefully ration their goods.

**San Francisco Event**



ISPU will host an event with one of its scholars in the San Francisco Bay area on Saturday, March 4, 2006. Please contact our office for further details if you wish to attend this event.

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