



MARCH 2006

Institute for Social Policy and Understanding

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Find us on the web!
www.ispu.us

Internships available!
Contact us for details.

An Update from the Board of Directors

ISPU continues to have significant growth and expansion of its numerous projects.

In April, ISPU will be conducting a conference, **"Islamic Education in America,"** in partnership with Georgetown University. This conference will serve as a springboard to identify top scholars to lead a comprehensive study of Islamic educational institutions in the United States.

Another core project for ISPU is the **National Muslim Study**. We are working with a variety of experts and foundations to secure the necessary resources to complete this vital analysis of the American Muslim community.

ISPU received a grant from the **Tides Foundation**. This has allowed ISPU to initiate programs aimed at bridging the divide between the American Muslim community

and other Americans through a series of conferences and town-hall meetings.

Several **conferences** and seminars are being arranged in cities across the country to familiarize people with ISPU, including San Francisco, Chicago, New York, St. Louis and Detroit. Please contact us for details.

Finally, ISPU will have a permanent **Washington office** in addition to the Michigan administrative office. A Washington office allows our scholars ready access to policymakers and research institutions.

ISPU remains indebted to its supporters. Without your help, much of the research and scholarship simply would never be done. This research is vital to provide thought leaders and policymakers with accurate data and alternative perspectives. We appreciate your ongoing support.

In the latest policy brief (full report is online at www.ispu.us), ISPU Fellow Dr. James Hanley argues that effective responses to catastrophes can reduce the loss of life by fifty percent or more. The poorly executed response to Hurricane Katrina's flooding of New Orleans has probably resulted in hundreds of avoidable deaths. While weather related

Hurricane Katrina Policy Brief

emergencies cannot be prevented, catastrophic disasters often can be. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is tasked with responsibility for the federal response to emergencies, and the confused and disorganized response to the flooding of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has spotlighted the agency's current failings.

Islamic Education in America

**Conference on April 6, 2006
Georgetown University,
Washington DC.**

In partnership with Georgetown University, ISPU is sponsoring an important conference on education. All ISPU members are invited to attend. Please contact our office for reservations.

All presentations at the conference will be made available online. A book edited by Yvonne Haddad and Farid Senzai is planned.

Dr. Fawaz Gerges Discusses Foreign Policy Crisis



Dr Fawaz Gerges in San Francisco

Dr. Fawaz Gerges has spoken at several ISPU events. He is author of "A Far Enemy: Why Jihad went Global" and holds an endowed Chair at Sarah Lawrence College. He is a frequent contributor for ABC, CNN and NPR. He is currently an ISPU Fellow, and is scheduled to make several presentations and produce policy briefs for over the upcoming year. Dr. Gerges will be addressing the role for American minority communities in understanding US policy in the middle east. He has given lectures for ISPU in St. Louis and San Francisco. The next events will be held near **Chicago on April 1 and April 2, 2006**. Please contact the ISPU office for more information.

Detroit's 4th Annual Banquet

ISPU will host its 4th annual banquet in Detroit, Michigan with special guest Dr. Reza Aslan, author of "No God but God" on **May 13th, 2006** at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. Please contact us for more details.

Recent Articles and Reports

Restoring the Rule of Law and Constitutional Government

ISPU Fellow Ivan Eland examines the proposed changes to the PATRIOT act and argues that they do not go far enough. He is also critical of the warrantless domestic spying by the National Security Agency and the secret proceedings of the FISA courts (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) which he argues is in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. He proposes that in the current environment of "creeping authoritarianism," radical measures—such as repeal of the PATRIOT Act, the ending of warrantless domestic spying, and the declassification of the FISA court—are the only things that can restore the rule of law and true constitutional government

Despite TV appearances, Al Qaeda is not winning the war

Dr. Fawaz Gerges analyzes communications from Al Qaeda over the past few months and considers their impact on American policy. In particular, Dr. Gerges notes that Osama bin Laden is alive, and this by itself is an indication of American policy failure. However, Dr. Gerges states that Al Qaeda has also failed in that it has alienated the Muslim mainstream with its violence and barbarism. It has also divided Muslim extremists themselves. The most

effective means to put the global jihad out of business is to complete its internal marginalization in the Muslim world. Muslims almost universally reject Al Qaeda's global jihad. Yet the Bush administration only pays lip service to the war of ideas, and has not taken effective measures to win Muslim minds.

More defense dollars, less security

ISPU Fellow Ivan Eland discusses the Bush Administration's Quadrennial Defense Review. This outlines the budget priorities for the Defense Department. Dr. Eland finds that a significant portion of funds are placed into outdated or irrelevant programs based on the political and military challenges of the last 15 years. For example, the Coast Guard should receive more priority than missile based defense systems. He believes creating an offensively oriented force will provide less security at home or abroad.

Hamas Victory: New Challenges

Muqtedar Khan, ISPU fellow, offers a rare perspective on the recent Hamas victory arguing this provides several opportunities to American policy makers. It forces Hamas and its supporters to prove themselves in the arena of governance. It also gives credibility to Washington's claim to be serious about promoting democracy. Dr. Khan advises American policy makers to not derail the democratically elected Hamas-led government.

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Summer Internships are available to college level and graduate students for 2006. Please contact us at info@ispu.us.



The ISPU Mission

The Institute for 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.

WWW.ISPU.US

Analysis and Recommendations for Muslim non-profits

The ISPU report "**Enhancing Board Performance in the Islamic Non-profit Sector**" is available online for community organizations. It is a valuable tool based on research of currently existing organizations that can improve the function of non-profits. The author, Aamir Rehman, is also available for presentations. Please contact us for more information.



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ISPU is a non-profit 501(c)(3) 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.