



Institute *for* Social Policy *and* Understanding
RESEARCH MAKING AN IMPACT

Annual Report 2009





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RESEARCH MAKING AN IMPACT



Introduction	2
Chairperson's Message	3
Boards & Staff Listing	4
Fellows & Scholars	5
Research & Media	6
Center for the Study of American Muslims	8
Center for Global Health	9
Financial Statements	10
Institutional Partners	12



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TABLE OF CONTENTS





“The journey of ISPU really reflects the journey of the American Muslims. Muslims in America have matured, and as a community have grown from their early focus on establishing houses of worship and schools, to advocacy work, charitable organizations and political action groups, to now, as represented by ISPU, focusing on think tanks and research centers which contribute to the intellectual and policy discourse about the future of America.”

Akbar Ahmed

Professor & Chair of Islamic Studies
American University

Our Mission

The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) is an independent nonprofit public policy research organization. Our mission is to conduct high-quality research and provide in-depth analysis of domestic and foreign policy issues. As a nonpartisan research organization, ISPU is committed to conducting objective, empirical research and analysis on issues of relevance to all Americans. One particular area of focus is our groundbreaking research on the nascent American Muslim community. Since our founding in 2002, ISPU continues to support new thinking and creative ideas to address the many challenges facing the United States.

Words from Our Chairperson of the Board

It is with great pleasure that I present the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) Annual Report 2009. This report reflects ISPU's growth in capacity, scope, and support over the past eight years; I am inordinately proud of what this organization has accomplished.

Eight years ago, my co-founders and I established ISPU on the principle that understanding the American Muslim community, and the Muslim World, was a prerequisite for healthy debate and sound policy development in the United States. Today, ISPU's world class researchers provide vital data on American Muslims to policy makers across the country, and our studies are lauded for their rigor, timeliness, and objectivity. ISPU's network of preeminent scholars share insightful analysis of international and domestic issues, and facilitate cross-national dialogue that informs the development of US policy. I can state with confidence that ISPU is fulfilling its vision.

ISPU's success is a testament to the caliber of our research team and our scholars, and the highly regarded work that they produce. Our dedicated staff works with the research team to ensure efficient and transparent operations and funding. Our Board of Directors assists with the dissemination of our work and the development of valuable partnerships. Words cannot express the regard that I have for our research team, staff and Board; each member of this team works tirelessly to ensure ISPU's success.

But most importantly, ISPU's success would have been impossible without dedicated supporters like you. Whether through your generous financial contributions, your wise counsel, your valuable introductions, or your time and effort, it is your commitment to and belief in ISPU's mission that has allowed us to fulfill our vision. We are indebted to you for your unwavering support.

Our ninth year holds great promise. We have our largest research budget to date, will establish an office in Washington DC, and are expanding our network of scholars and partnerships. We will continue to work unflaggingly to fulfill our mission, and hope we can count on your continued support.

In peace,



Iltefat Hamzavi



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Muzammil Ahmed

Iltefat Hamzavi

Farid Sensai, Ph.D.

Afser Shariff

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“ISPU is reaching people who would otherwise not have access to any other way of thinking about issues other than the stereotypical way that’s disseminated across the air ways... ISPU [enables] them to begin to think intelligently about the issues that concern them.”

Dr. Sherman A. Jackson
Professor, University of Michigan

Fellows & Scholars

- Hassan Abbas, Ph.D.** [Columbia University](#), Fellow
- Wahiba Abu-Ras, Ph.D.** [Adelphi University](#), Fellow
- Zaid Adhami, Ph.D.** [Candidate Duke University](#), Fellow
- Akbar Ahmed, Ph.D.** [American University](#), Adjunct Scholar
- Sameera Ahmed, Ph.D.** [Wayne State University](#), Fellow
- Hisham Aidi, Ph.D.** [Columbia University](#), Fellow
- Imtiaz Ali, U.S. Institute of Peace**, Fellow
- Cynthia Arfken, Ph.D.** [Wayne State University](#), Fellow
- Mohammed Ayooob, Ph.D.** [Michigan State University](#), Scholar
- Ihsan Bagby, Ph.D.** [University of Kentucky](#), Fellow
- Abdul Basit, Ph.D.** [Northwestern University](#), Fellow
- Wendy Cadge, Ph.D.** [Brandeis University](#), Fellow
- Louise Cancair, Ph.D.** [Marquette University](#), Fellow
- Louis Cristillo, Ph.D.** [Teachers College](#), Fellow
- Marda Dunskey, Ph.D.** [DePaul University](#), Fellow
- Ivan Eland, Ph.D.** [The Independent Institute](#), Fellow
- Muneer Fareed, Ph.D.** [Former Secretary, ISNA](#), Fellow
- Graham Fuller, Ph.D.** [Former CIA station chief](#), Fellow
- Fawaz Gerges, Ph.D.** [London School of Economics](#), Fellow
- Zareena Grewal, Ph.D.** [Yale University](#), Fellow & Director of CSAM
- Hamada Hamid, Ph.D.** [Yale University](#), Fellow & Director of CGH
- James Hanley, Ph.D.** [Adrian College](#), Fellow
- Mazen Hashem, Ph.D.** [University of Southern California](#), Fellow
- H.A. Hellyer, Ph.D.** [Oxford Center for Islamic Studies](#), Europe Fellow
- Ben Herzig, Ph.D.** [Candidate Antioch University](#), Fellow
- Azeem Ibrahim, Harvard University**, Fellow and Member of Board of Directors
- Sherman Jackson, Ph.D.** [University of Michigan](#), Adjunct Scholar
- Heather Janisse, Ph.D.** [Wayne State University](#), Fellow
- Muqtadar Khan, Ph.D.** [University of Delaware](#), Fellow
- Saeed Khan, Wayne State University**, Fellow
- Lance D. Laird, Ph.D.** [Boston University School of Medicine](#), Fellow
- Julie Macfarlane, Ph.D.** [University of Windsor](#), Fellow
- Aminah McCloud, Ph.D.** [DePaul University](#), Adjunct Scholar
- Haider Ali Hussein Mullick, Joint Special Operation University**, Fellow
- Omar Nayeem, UC Berkeley**, Fellow
- Sulayman Nyang, Ph.D.** [Howard University](#), Adjunct Scholar
- James Piscatori, Ph.D.** [Australia National University](#), Adjunct Scholar
- Aamir Rehman**, Research Associate and Member of Board of Directors
- Farid Senzai, Ph.D.** [Santa Clara University](#), Fellow and Director of Research
- Paul Toro, Ph.D.** [Wayne State University](#), Fellow



Research Making an Impact

Public policy in the United States today is a complex process involving the interplay of governmental agencies with opinions from the media, interest groups and think tanks. These myriad sources together influence the course of American policy. ISPU fills an important gap within the existing constellation of think tanks by devoting its mission to research and analysis of key policy issues, with an emphasis on issues relevant to the American Muslim community.

Since its founding, ISPU has increasingly contributed to key policy debates ranging from health care, immigration and national security to Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Today, ISPU is one of the leading think tanks providing valuable research and analysis to inform policy makers and help shape the debate on issues pertaining to Muslims in the United States and abroad.

Through its recently established Center for the Study of American Muslims (CSAM) and the Center for Global Health (CGH), ISPU continues to produce timely, high quality, relevant research and policy analysis. The new structure distributes responsibility to experts in specific fields while preserving the overall mission of ISPU as a public policy think tank. ISPU broadens the thinking that goes into policy decisions

affecting American Muslims and expands the body of research and resources available to the general public and all levels of government.

ISPU also helps to shape policy toward Muslims abroad by providing expertise on US relations with the Muslim world. Over the last decade, the opinion of the United States has deteriorated worldwide, particularly in the Muslim world, just as the image of Islam is often seen in a negative light here in America. Addressing the root causes of anti-Americanism and Islamophobia remains a major goal for ISPU. We believe that improved US-Muslim relations, built on mutual respect and understanding are a vital and enduring objective of American interests.



In 2009, ISPU continued to be recognized as an objective and well respected research institution. We consulted with policymakers and government officials at the local, state and federal level. Our studies continued to offer authoritative interpretation of a wide range of critical issues. Forming the heart of ISPU's important work, each publication was thoroughly researched, rigorously verified, and immediately disseminated. Through books and research reports, policy briefs and op-ed articles, appearances on major news outlets to policy events in Washington and Congressional testimony on the Hill, ISPU plays a vital role in educating the public and informing policy-makers of creative and effective new ideas.

In the Media

ISPU's cutting-edge research and policy analysis has increasingly commanded the attention of the media in recent years. In addition to ISPU fellows offering direct Congressional testimony, in 2009, ISPU's work was widely disseminated through multiple media outlets. ISPU fellows made appearances on national television, such as Fawaz Gerges' guest spot on *CNN's GPS with Fareed Zakaria*, on *PBS*, and on *NPR*.

Our scholars have published editorials in a variety of national newspapers and magazines, including the *New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Newsweek*. And our high quality scholarship continues to be accepted and validated by respected academic journals such as *Foreign Affairs*. This trend is one of the ways ISPU is achieving its goal of influencing policy and promoting understanding, by ensuring that our work reaches all of its intended audiences.





“ISPU has through the years attracted the best minds to do the research on a variety of topics including eradication of poverty in the inner city areas, the mosque study, and the recent Pew study on Muslim attitudes to the United States. The quality of its advisory board and its research scholars are but two reasons why ISPU studies are so well received by the media, by academic institutions, and by policy makers.”

Muneer Fareed, Ph.D.
Former Secretary General, ISNA

Center for the Study of American Muslims

“Who are American Muslims?” ISPU’s Center for the Study of American Muslims (CSAM) is the first major independent center devoted exclusively to collecting, analyzing, and disseminating empirical data on the Muslim community in the United States. Led by Professor Zareena Grewal (Yale University), CSAM has brought together a team of scholars from across academic disciplines to examine this increasingly visible yet often misunderstood diverse American community. CSAM provides quantitative and demographic research on American Muslims and their attitudes towards policies at the national and local scale. CSAM also produces qualitative research on issues of special concern to American Muslims, such as institutional burnout in Islamic charities, the future of Islamic private schools, domestic violence, and youth identity-formation. CSAM supports cutting edge research on American Muslims by commissioning experts to share their original, path-breaking research through accessible publications and reports, media venues, public outreach events, academic conferences and scholarly workshops, and collaborations and partnerships with universities and other research foundations. Our goal is to share fresh research about American Muslims to audiences outside of the academy, and to nurture scholars who can develop an inspired future research agenda for Islam in America in an increasingly global age.





C.G.H.

Center for Global Health

ISPU's Center for Global Health (CGH) provides in-depth analysis of global health policy and its impact on Muslims around the world. Led by Dr. Hamada Hamid (Yale University), CGH conducts original research on topics such as family and mental health, substance abuse, and assessing the delivery of health services to immigrants, the poor and other underserved communities.

In 2009, CGH continued to play a role in addressing the health challenges of Muslim populations by sponsoring a conference on Muslim Mental Health at Michigan State University, producing policy briefs, and supporting research on the intersections of policy, health, and Muslim populations.

CGH is one of the few organizations that analyzed the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS programs in Muslim populations in Africa. The study has drawn attention from policy makers in Tanzania and has led to an invitation for further work in the summer of 2010.

Another major effort by CGH is the American Muslim Physician Study, which explores how U.S. immigration policy shifts the physician workforce from predominantly Muslim countries to the U.S., how American Muslim physicians contribute to American society, how immigrant physicians can more effectively provide to the underserved in the U.S., and how immigrant physicians can contribute to their home countries.

CGH also has a study underway exploring the barriers to health care services among American Muslims. Finally, CGH is coordinating the first study on alcohol and substance use among American Muslim college students.





“If there is one outlet for Muslims in America to make their voices heard, institution-building is it! ISPU is an ambitious step in the right direction. Twenty, thirty years from now, we'll look back and remember that it all started with a vision, imagination, and an idea. Let us remember that ideas drive history, drive the world, ISPU's business is IDEAS.”

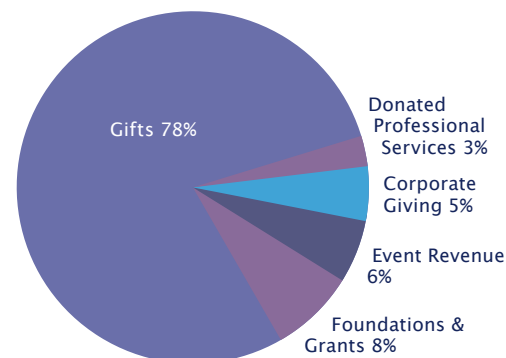
Fawaz A. Gerges
Professor of International Relations
& Middle Eastern Policies
London University



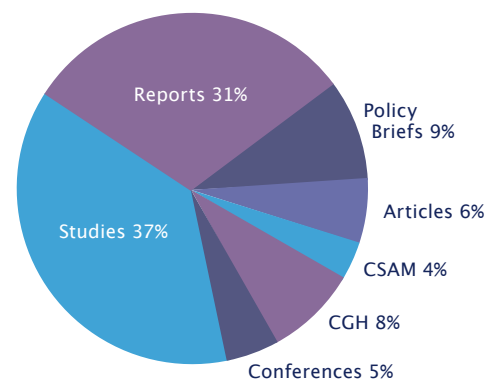
Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2009	2008
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 80,969	\$ 79,250
Contributions receivable, less allowance for uncollectible contributions of \$8,800	\$ 180,899	\$ 133,221
Grants receivable	\$ 17,790	\$ 41,750
Prepaid expenses	\$ 1,403	
Total Current Assets	\$ 281,061	\$ 254,221
Equipment:		
Computer equipment	\$ 846	\$ 846
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 1,880	\$ 1,880
	\$ 2,726	\$ 2,726
Less: Accumulated depreciation	\$ (1,361)	\$ (1,092)
Total Equipment	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,634
Other Assets:		
Long-term contributions receivable	\$ 7,061	\$ 16,802
Total Assets	\$ 289,487	\$ 272,657
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 15,843	\$ 13,588
Loan payable, officer		\$ 10,800
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 15,843	\$ 24,388
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 247,214	\$ 196,830
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 26,430	\$ 51,439
Total Net Assets	\$ 273,644	\$ 248,269
TOTAL Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 289,487	\$ 272,657

Operating Revenues



Program Expenses






Statement of Activities

Years Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2009 TOTAL	2008 TOTAL
Public Support and Revenue:				
Contribution income	\$ 328,066	\$ 10,000	\$ 328,066	\$ 279,203
Grant Income	\$ 10,000		\$ 20,000	\$ 81,908
Miscellaneous Income			\$ 0	\$ 200
Event income, net of expenses	\$ 13,785		\$ 13,785	\$ 2,349
Interest Income	\$ 761		\$ 761	\$ 6
	\$ 352,612	\$ 10,000	\$ 362,612	\$ 363,666
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 35,009	\$ (35,009)		
Total public support and revenue	\$ 387,621	\$ (25,009)	\$ 362,612	\$ 363,666
Functional expenses:				
Program expense	\$ 208,631		\$ 208,631	\$ 162,076
Management and general expenses	\$ 25,547		\$ 25,547	\$ 33,889
Fundraising expenses	\$ 103,059		\$ 103,059	\$ 112,057
	\$ 337,237		\$ 337,237	\$ 308,022
Change in net assets	\$ 50,384	\$ (25,009)	\$ 25,375	\$ 55,644
Net assets at beginning of year	\$ 196,830	\$ 51,439	\$ 248,269	\$ 192,625
Net assets at end of year	\$ 247,214	\$ 26,430	\$ 273,644	\$ 248,269

A copy of the Institution's accountant reviewed statements is available by request.

A photograph of Keith Ellison, a man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is gesturing with both hands while speaking.

“ *Policy makers are always looking for insight and analysis on the topics that ISPU is uniquely positioned to provide. I have no doubt that ISPU will continue to educate and inform policy makers on topics of vital interest to the United States. This is especially important as the United States works to improve its relationship with the Muslim World. I wish ISPU much continued success.*”

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Institutional Support and Partners

Our multidisciplinary work is conducted in partnership with universities and other research institutes with the aim of building understanding and effecting lasting, positive change. Some of our partners include:

**The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace • The Pew Research Center
The Century Foundation • DePaul University • UC Berkeley • Yale University
Michigan State University • Wayne State University • Georgetown University
Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy • The Brookings Institution
Santa Clara University • Wayne State University • Columbia University
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs • The U.S. Institute of Peace
Harvard University • University of Delaware**

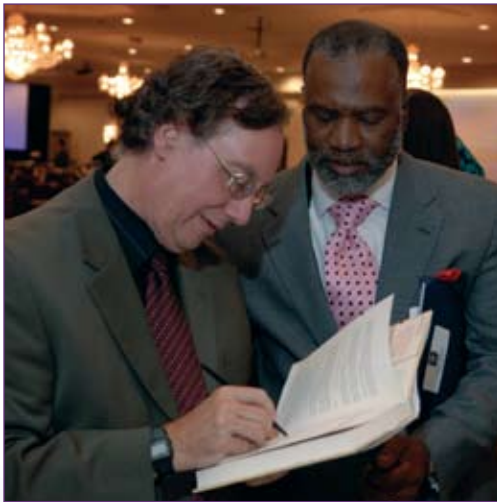
ISPU also works closely with other organizations to work strategically towards common goals. Some of our supporters include:

Congressional Muslim Staffers Association • University Muslim Medical Association • American Muslim Health Professionals • Strategic Inspirations

ISPU receives significant funding through private donations and foundations, including

**One Nation • Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America
Islamic Medical Association of North America • The Tides Foundation
The Pew Research Center**





Photos courtesy of:
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