

2 0 1 1   A N N U A L   R E P O R T



# The Power of Ideas

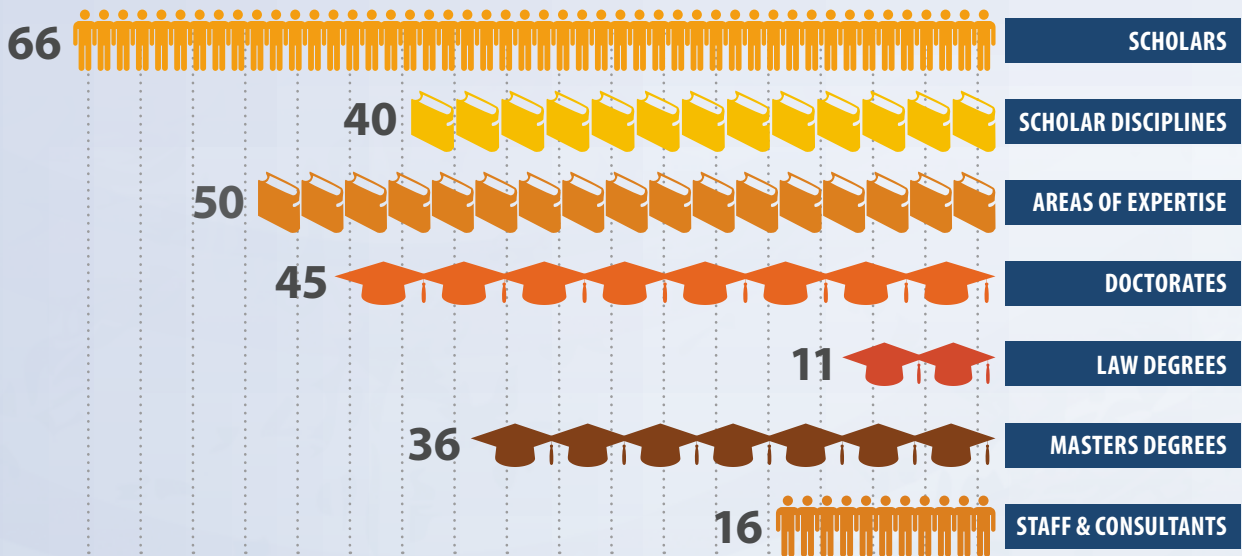
# ISPU

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL POLICY & UNDERSTANDING

# THE POWER OF IDEAS



## PEOPLE POWER



## PUBLICATIONS



### POLICY BRIEFS

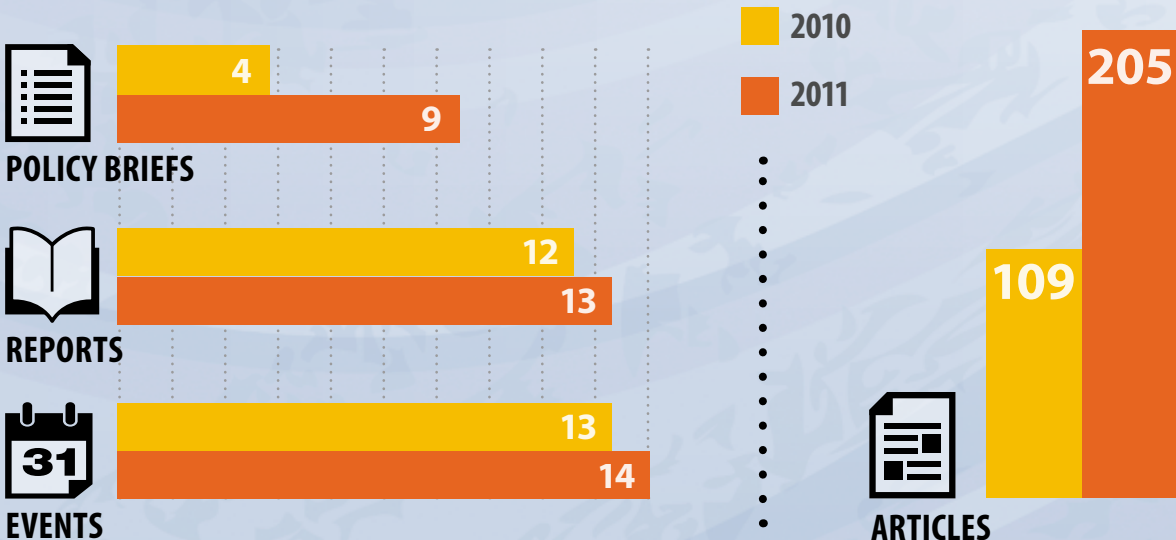
Informative background paper on the latest developments on domestic and foreign issues.



### REPORTS

Longer, in depth research report based on long term studies or projects.

## PUBLICATION POWER



**2011 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH** for ISPU with significant increases in staff, scholars, publications, budget and dissemination of important research and analysis. We believe in the Power of Ideas and have positioned ourselves to be a resource for the the public, for policy makers and media and for the Muslim community for years to come.

## WEB POWER

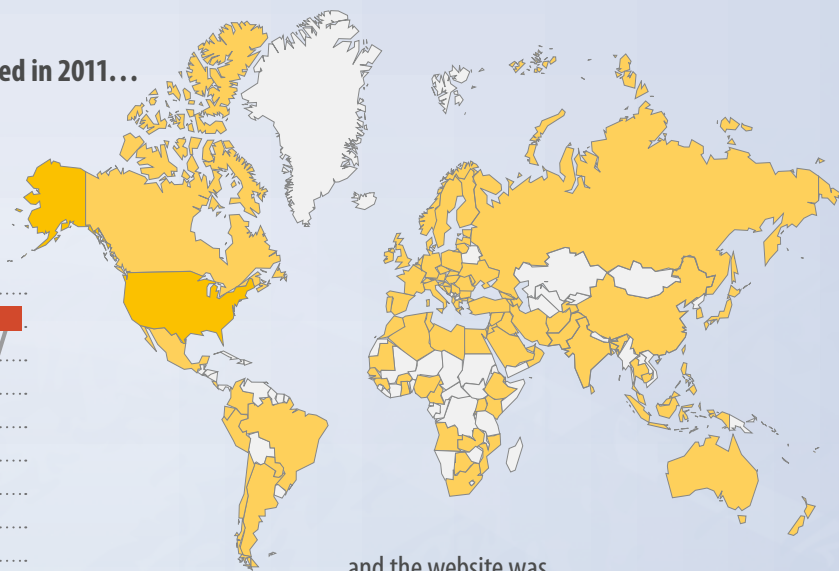
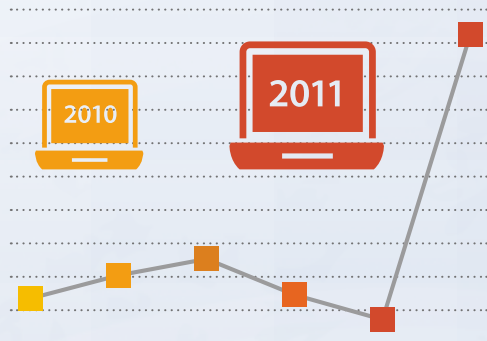
The number of daily visitors to ISPU.org **doubled in 2011...**



**136.5% INCREASE** in  
Facebook followers since 2010



**1475% INCREASE** in  
Twitter followers since 2010



...and the website was  
accessed by people in **over 115 countries.**



### ARTICLES

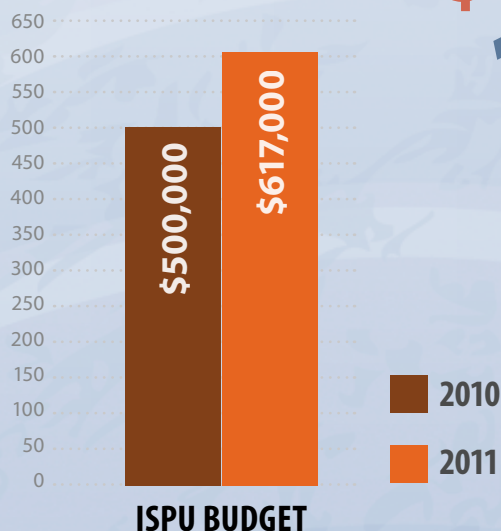
Opinion or editorial pieces analyzing  
the latest news stories in newspapers  
and websites.



### EVENTS

Gatherings held around the  
country to share research with policymakers,  
the media and the general public.

## MONEY POWER



**\$42,600,000**

Amount of money donated to Islamophobic<sup>1</sup>  
think tanks between 2001-2009

**16:1**

Ratio of money raised by Islamophobic think tanks  
to ISPU in that same time

**20**

Number of states who worked  
to pass anti-sharia bills in 2011

**3,610**

Number of news articles written about  
American Muslims and sharia in 2011

**1**

Number of think tanks focused  
on American Muslims.

<sup>1</sup> According to "Fear, Inc.", published by The Center for American Progress

# Report *from the* ISPU Leadership



Chairman of the Board of Directors Iltefat Hamzavi (left)  
and Executive Director Shireen Zaman (right)

The year 2011 proved to be one of remarkable change. We witnessed dramatic events unfold across the Arab world and marked the tenth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. With a lens on the United States and the international community, ISPU's mission to provide objective research and analysis on issues related to American Muslims was never more relevant. As the media, policymakers, and general public demanded an understanding of these events and what they mean to the nation and the global community, ISPU rose to the challenge.

In 2011, ISPU produced an extraordinary amount of scholarship designed to fill the information gap. Our 2011 Annual Report reflects ISPU's timely response to a number of key issues that were at the forefront of national and international discussions.

At the organizational level, we took steps to ensure that ISPU will remain efficient, effective, and sustainable for many years. We matched the support of our individual donors with foundation grants, expanded and built the capacity of our staff and scholars, and institutionalized best practices. We grew our team by adding a finance director and a communications manager. In addition to our Washington DC office, ISPU maintains an office in Michigan, where our development and finance staff work tirelessly to maintain our commitment to transparency and efficiency. We persist in our implementation of best practices. During the summer, we held a strategic planning retreat to chart a long-term vision.

The year 2012 will be another year of growth — one characterized by an ambitious research and communications agenda. This extraordinary journey would not be possible without the support and partnership of those of you who believe in our work.

With thanks,

Iltefat Hamzavi  
*Chairman of the Board*

Shireen Zaman  
*Executive Director*

# A Conversation with ISPU



Farid Senzai, one of the founders of ISPU, serves as the director of research.

*Director of Research*

## Farid Senzai

**Q: It's been almost 10 years since the founding of ISPU. What are you most proud of?**

**A:** I'm most proud of the caliber of the organization we have developed. We've brought together the best and largest number of scholars in one institution to focus on issues impacting Muslims. After ten years, we've assembled over sixty top-notch scholars. Housing them all at ISPU and bringing them together under our umbrella is quite an accomplishment.

**Q: You previously worked with The Brookings Institution and The Council on Foreign Relations, both well-established think tanks. What motivated you to help found ISPU?**

**A:** While working with those two prominent think tanks, I felt that so much of what could have been said wasn't being said. There was a real need to create a think tank that expanded the debate and focused specifically on issues largely ignored by others—like those facing the American Muslim community. Even ten years after 9/11, there is no other organization like ISPU devoted to examining these issues from a research perspective.

**Q: How do you see ISPU meeting a need in policy circles?**

**A:** ISPU provides critical data, analysis, and policy recommendations based on a context that is considerably wider than the one we often see in other think tanks and in policy circles. In the policy arena, we often see a far narrower focus that neither considers nuance nor provides a full range of ideas on any particular issue. ISPU is able to fill that gap.

**Q: And with the mainstream public?**

**A:** Our goal has been to identify the key stakeholders who deal with the issues we work on, both foreign and domestic, and get accurate data into their hands. Whether they're policymakers, journalists, academics, or the general public, we do our best to make information accessible to everyone through our website (ISPU.org), e-newsletter, and

social media. Our members also present the data formally in conferences, briefings, and meetings with important policymakers.

**Q: Have things gotten better for the American Muslim community over the past ten years? Where do you see the community being challenged?**

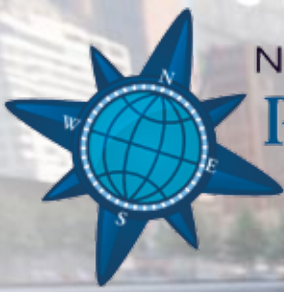
**A:** Actually, things have gotten more difficult. Unfortunately, many Americans now see the very idea of being Muslim as problematic. Ten years ago, American Muslims were not on the public's mind at all. Now that they are, they are seen largely in a negative light. So ISPU has to work twice as hard to make sure that misconceptions and misinformation don't prevail. It's a real uphill battle.

**Q: Why is research so important? What makes ISPU different from Muslim community organizations?**

**A:** At ISPU, we firmly believe that accurate information based on sound research is important to counter negative or uninformed opinions. While there are several prominent national Muslim community, advocacy, and professional organizations, only one think tank—ISPU—focuses on presenting objective, factual data and analysis on issues that impact the community.

**Q: What can we expect from ISPU in 2012?**

**A:** We're very excited about 2012. We will publish major reports that are timely and relevant to several current debates: the Sharia issue, the 2012 presidential election, American Muslim political participation, and ongoing foreign policy concerns (e.g., the "war on terror" and American policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan). We'll continue to make sure our research gets into the right hands, where it can have the most impact.



## NAVIGATING A POST ★ 9/11 WORLD



## NAVIGATING A POST-9/11 WORLD: A DECADE OF LESSONS LEARNED

*Across the country, people observed the tenth anniversary of 9/11. For ISPU, this was an opportunity to reflect on the last decade as well as to produce agenda-setting papers on how to move forward as a country.*



*Zahra Jamal, author of "Charitable Giving among Muslim Americans: Ten Years after 9/11"*

Since September 11, 2001, Washington has scrutinized the American nonprofit sector, including American Muslim charities, in order to bolster national security, according to Zahra Jamal in her "Charitable Giving among Muslim Americans: Ten Years after 9/11." New laws enable the government to label individuals or groups as "specially designated global terrorists," admit secret evidence, and freeze their assets. The result is that Muslim charities saw donations drop by up to 50 percent.

In late August 2011, Jamal was invited to be the featured speaker at a private policy roundtable event held in ISPU's Washington DC offices. During the briefing, she shared her findings alongside experts from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Charity and Security Network.

*Pia Britto, author of "Global Battleground or School Playground: The Bullying of America's Muslim Children" (right). H.A. Hellyer and Sahar Aziz (below) authored policy briefs covering important challenges facing the Muslim community both in the US and in Europe.*



In this year alone, 18 million children will be bullied in the United States. Bullying prevention efforts garnered so much attention in 2011 that the White House and the Department of Education held major conferences to discuss this issue. Muslim children are especially at risk and are increasingly subjected to abuse in schools. Pia Britto's "Global Battleground or School Playground: The Bullying of America's Muslim Children" was circulated at the Department of Education's Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention Summit. While bullying is not a new phenomenon, Britto's research found that much of the bullying of Muslim children is linked to cultural misunderstandings. Unlike typical bullying, Muslim youth are not being bullied because of their own characteristics, but because they are often paying the price for global politics.

While the 9/11 attacks were felt most strongly in the United States, they had a

significant impact on Muslim and non-Muslim communities in Europe as well. H. A. Hellyer visited Washington DC in late 2011 to speak about his "Across the Atlantic: Islam, Muslims, Europe and Repercussions of the Attacks." This event, cosponsored by ISPU and the British Council, was held at John Hopkins University's

**ISPU released eight policy briefs on a variety of subjects related to the changing post-9/11 landscape, both domestically and internationally.**

School of Advanced International Studies in Washington DC. Hellyer discussed the different challenges facing Muslims in Europe post-9/11 and compared their experience to that of American Muslims. His policy brief provided an overview of the longstanding relationship between Europe's Muslims and non-Muslims and recommended key steps for policymakers on how to reduce the threat of terrorism while embracing civil rights and liberties.

## 9/11 SERIES POLICY BRIEFS:

### **ACROSS THE ATLANTIC:**

*Islam, Muslims, Europe, and Repercussions of the Attacks*  
by H. A. Hellyer

### **CHARITABLE GIVING AMONG MUSLIM AMERICANS:**

*Ten Years after 9/11*  
by Zahra Jamal

### **COUNTERING RELIGION OR TERRORISM:**

*Selective Enforcement of Material Support Laws against Muslims*  
by Sahar Aziz

### **MALLEABLE STEREOTYPES:**

*How Media Is Improving the Image of American Muslims*  
by Daniel Tutt

### **GLOBAL BATTLEGROUND OR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND:**

*The Bullying of America's Muslim Children*  
by Pia Britto

### **AN EXTENDED PROFILE OF THE PAKISTANI TALIBAN**

by Shehzad Qazi

### **LIFE AFTER DEATH:**

*Al-Qaeda and the Terrorism Narrative*  
by Fawaz Gerges

### **THE LEGALITY OF U.S. DRONE ATTACKS IN PAKISTAN**

by Sikander Shah

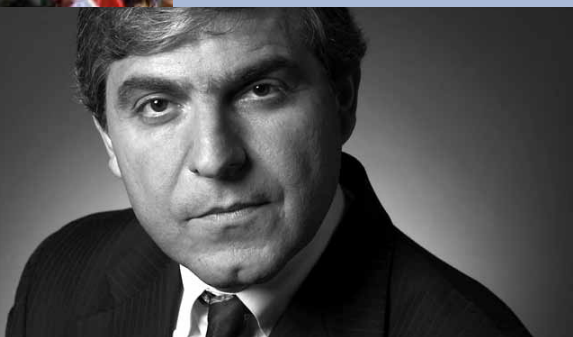
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*This series was possible thanks to the generous support of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Mohamed and Rania Elnabtiy, and the Khan Family Foundation.*



# THE ARAB SPRING

*In early 2011, the world watched as protests erupted in the Middle East and North Africa. Over the course of the year, the demonstrations led to changes of government in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. Conflict continues to simmer throughout the region.*



Fawaz Gerges was called the  
"King of Egypt commentary."

Commentators in the West were looking for on-site analysis and reports on what became known as the "Arab Spring." ISPU answered the call by positioning scholars in the heart of the action: H. A. Hellyer, who reported from Tahrir Square in the *Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, *al-Masry al-Youm*, *Daily News Egypt*, *Daily Star* (Malaysia), and *Religion Dispatches* and Fawaz Gerges, who wrote for *The Christian Science Monitor*, *BBC*, and *The New York Times*, among others. Both scholars also routinely appeared on Al Jazeera and Sky News. *Newsweek* named Gerges the "King of Egypt commentary." Other scholars were featured heavily on television, in print media, and online as they discussed unfolding events and explained their ramifications to international audiences.



Moataz Fattah, author of "The U.S. Talks to Egyptians: Who Is Listening?"

Sahar Aziz and co-author Abdullah Musalem wrote one of the few reports highlighting the crisis in Bahrain. "Citizens, Not Subjects: Debunking the Sectarian Narrative of Bahrain's Pro-Democracy Movement" covered the Bahrainis' desire for universal social, economic, and political rights irrespective of religious sect. This report led to briefings on Capitol Hill and at the Century Foundation, as well as private meetings with policymakers at the State Department.

**ISPU scholars were featured heavily on television, in print media, and online as they discussed unfolding events and explained their ramifications to international audiences.**

In March 2011, Moataz Fattah offered research-based analysis when it was most needed: during the early days of Arab Spring. His report "The U.S. Talks to Egyptians: Who Is Listening?" surveyed Egyptian university students' image of the United States and their reactions to our public diplomacy messages. The data helped inform American policymakers on how they can reach out to the Egyptian people during a time of great change.

## SALIENT ARTICLES ON THE ARAB SPRING BY ISPU FELLOWS

### **The Future of Al-Qaeda**

by Hassan Abbas in Foreign Policy

### **'Arab Spring' Becoming the Arab Year?**

by Arsalan Iftikhar at CNN.com

### **Obama's Unique Opportunity to Redefine U.S.-Muslim World Relations**

by John Esposito in The Huffington Post

### **The Irresistible Rise of the Muslim Brothers**

by Fawaz A. Gerges in The New Statesmen

### **What's Behind the Egyptian Military's Attacks on Civil Society?**

by Sahar Aziz in Foreign Policy





## AFGHANISTAN & PAKISTAN

*The war in Afghanistan is the second longest continuous military conflict in American history. In 2011, President Obama announced that 10,000 American troops would be withdrawn by the end of 2011. An additional 23,000 troops would leave by the summer of 2012.*



On the other side of the border, insurgencies in Pakistan and tensions between US and Pakistani governments continued to plague American foreign policy. Afghanistan and Pakistan were at the forefront of American foreign policy in the region dubbed “the most dangerous place in the world.”

Our scholars were involved on every level of the debate on what the future might hold for these countries. In articles and interviews in such major international media outlets as *Foreign Policy*, *The Washington Post*, *Al Jazeera*, *Dawn*, CNN, BBC, PBS, and others, ISPU scholars were a key source of information and analysis. Their policy briefs and reports contained important suggestions and policy recommendations.

The ongoing drone attacks in Pakistan have led to contentious debate as hundreds of these unmanned aircraft have targeted “militants” in northwestern Pakistan. Sikander Shah, whose report asks about “The Legality of U.S. Drone Attacks in Pakistan,” examined the drones’ effectiveness and recommended that Washington end its use of aggressive military tactics and foster nation-building through political dialogue.

Ahmed Humayun’s report, “No Shortcuts: U.S. Policy and the Challenge of Stabilizing Pakistan,” proposed recommendations designed to help Washington’s policymakers get Pakistan to do more against the militancy that undermines its security, helps fuel the insurgency in Afghanistan, and increasingly endangers the American homeland.

Shehzad Qazi authored two important reports on the Taliban: “The Neo-Taliban, Counterinsurgency, and the American Endgame in Afghanistan” and “An Extended

Profile of the Pakistani Taliban.” Both of these underlined the important but overlooked fact that there are several Talibans, each of which has a different background, goals, and strategies. These agenda-setting reports helped inform a more nuanced policy toward Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The 2010 devastating flood in Pakistan created one of the worst humanitarian disasters in recent history. Over 1.6 million homes were damaged and about 20 million people were affected. Sania Nishtar worked with ISPU’s Center for Global Health to produce “Through the Health Lens: The Aftermath of the 2010 Pakistan Flood.” Her report detailed the institutional challenges that Pakistan faces in dealing with natural disasters and outlined policies for improving the socioeconomic well-being of millions of impoverished Pakistanis. Dr. Nishtar presented the report on an ISPU panel in collaboration with the US Institute of Peace.



*Dr. Sania Nishtar, author of “Through the Health Lens: The Aftermath of the 2010 Pakistan Flood”*

**Our scholars were involved on every level of the debate on what the future might hold for these countries.**





## A PREVIEW OF 2012: UPCOMING PROJECTS

*Many of ISPU's major reports take several years to complete. From background research to data collection, fieldwork, writing and finally publication and dissemination, ISPU scholars and staff work together throughout the process to produce exhaustive and unique reports on some of the most important issues facing our country. Here is a preview of what is to come.*



### **AMERICAN MUSLIM POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Covering ten years of research on the political and civic engagement of American Muslims, ISPU Director of Research Farid Sensai is leading this important report that will look at the American Muslim community, its potential role in the 2012 election and highlight social and political concerns of American Muslims. The report will feature case studies of two key swing states with high concentrations of American Muslims.

## **TRENDS IN AMERICAN MUSLIM DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE**

Julie Macfarlane will look at the North American Muslim population's experience with marriage and divorce, based on a four year empirical study. The report's objective is to provide a resource and discussion guide for couples and the larger community when faced with challenges and questions dealing with Islamic marriage and divorce.

## **WHAT SHARIA REALLY MEANS TO AMERICAN MUSLIMS**

A second report by Julie Macfarlane is based on the first empirical study of what Sharia means to North American Muslims in their everyday lives. Much has been said and written about the American Muslim community's use of Sharia law and its relationship with civil courts and the state, yet no study has previously sought to investigate the American Muslim community's opinions of and application of Sharia law in their lives.

## **A WINDOW INTO AMERICAN MUSLIM PHYSICIANS**

This report, the result of a three year study, will look at an influential minority community that is contributing to American society. By examining their demographics, identities, attitudes, contributions, and challenges, Wahiba Abu-Ras, Lance Laird, and Farid Senzai seek to offer a first of its kind portrayal of American Muslim physicians using interviews, focus groups and original survey data.



## **AGING MUSLIM FAMILIES**

ISPU has undertaken a major survey of the American Muslim community that aims to assess the needs of aging Muslim families. The results will lead to a report written by Kristine J. Ajrouch and published by ISPU. The study will include an opportunity for Muslims to define both strengths and needs related to caring for older adults, providing valuable data for the future to benefit individuals and families in the Muslim community.



## SPONSORS

**ISPU MAINTAINS** a healthy funding mix, including significant support from thousands of individual donors. Currently, ISPU has donors hailing from: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Washington, DC, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

### **ISPU has gained grant support from:**

The Good Planet Foundation

The Henry Luce Foundation

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

The Security & Rights Collaborative, a project of the Proteus Fund

The Tides Foundation

The Pillars Fund

Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America

Islamic Medical Association of North America

ISPU also receives significant in kind support including from Labayk and Google, Inc.

### **ISPU would like to thank all of our generous supporters, especially those who sponsored our 2011 events. They include:**

Rany Aburashed & Sarra Brinjikji

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Islamic Society of North America

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Majid & Sobia Khan

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Miller, Canfield, Paddock, & Stone

Muslims Against Terrorism

Noor Academy

Northwestern Mutual Financial Network

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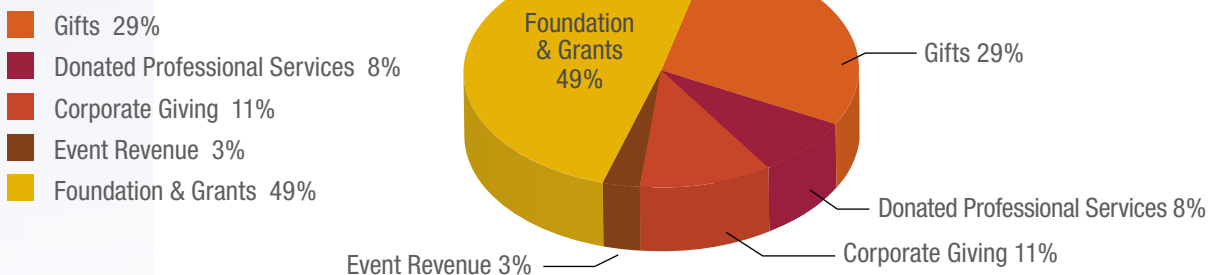
**Radwan Ziadeh**

*Fellow*

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2011	2010
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$295,209	\$239,090
Contributions receivable, less allowance for uncollectible contributions of \$76,515	\$29,922	\$95,101
Grants receivable	\$15,990	\$30,490
Prepaid expenses	\$13,319	\$-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$354,440</b>	<b>\$364,681</b>
<b>Equipment:</b>		
Computer equipment	\$3,145	\$2,106
Furniture and fixtures	\$1,880	\$1,880
Less: Accumulated depreciation	\$(2,414)	\$(1,755)
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$2,611</b>	<b>\$2,231</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$357,051</b>	<b>\$366,912</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$18,924	\$6,159
Accrued expenses	\$3,329	\$19,202
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$22,253</b>	<b>\$25,361</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	\$84,520	\$217,598
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$250,278	\$123,953
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$334,798</b>	<b>\$341,551</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$357,051</b>	<b>\$366,912</b>

## Operating Revenues

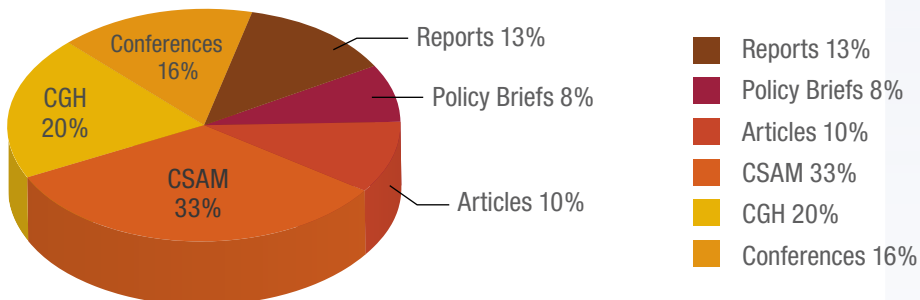


## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	2011 TOTAL	2010 TOTAL
<b>Public Support and Revenue:</b>				
Contribution income	\$243,622	\$-	\$243,622	\$399,616
Grant income	\$30,939	\$270,050	\$300,989	\$160,002
Event income, net of expenses	\$20,469		\$20,469	\$4,567
In-kind contributions	\$45,058		\$45,058	\$-
	<b>\$340,088</b>	<b>\$270,050</b>	<b>\$610,138</b>	<b>\$564,185</b>
<b>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</b>				
	\$143,725	\$(143,725)		\$-
Total public support and revenue	\$483,813	\$126,325	\$610,138	\$564,185
<b>Functional Expenses:</b>				
Program expenses	\$376,280		\$376,280	\$254,858
Management and general expenses	\$131,874		\$131,874	\$101,534
Fundraising expenses	\$108,737		\$108,737	\$139,886
	<b>\$616,891</b>		<b>\$616,891</b>	<b>\$496,278</b>
Change in net assets	\$(133,078)	\$126,325	\$(6,753)	\$67,907
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$217,598</b>	<b>\$123,953</b>	<b>\$341,551</b>	<b>\$273,644</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$84,520</b>	<b>\$250,278</b>	<b>\$334,798</b>	<b>\$341,551</b>

A copy of the Institution's audited financial statements is available by request.

## Program Expenses





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