



Masculinity in Muslim media: A case study of Radio Islam

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Date: 30 May 2018

In loving memory of my Dadima

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In the name of God, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful

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Aaisha Dadi Patel

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What
massacre
happens to my son
between
him
living within my skin
drinking my cells
my water
my organs
and
his soft psyche turning cruel.
Does he not remember
he
is half woman.

- '*from*', Nayyirah Waheed

ABSTRACT

This project examines the ways in which Radio Islam, a South African community radio station, constructs masculinity in the South African Indian Muslim community. This community is its largest audience. The radio station is strongly influenced by the ideologies and rulings of the Jamiatul Ulama, an ideological body whose teachings stem from Indo-Pak interpretations of Islam and with whom much of the South African Indian Muslim community align themselves. The conflation of this culture and religion in this context results in patriarchal and misogynistic teachings being repeated by this body without much questioning, resulting in the common upliftment of men and confinement of women in the community to certain roles and spaces only. Through the examination and discourse analysis of broadcasted content on Radio Islam in three categories that have many gendered dynamics to them - hijab, marriage, and Ramadan - this study aims to unpack the way in which masculinity is constructed, and the extents to which these constructions then facilitate the entrenchment of patriarchy in the broader South African Muslim community.

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Glossary

Athaan: the call to one of the five daily prayer, in this case at sunset

Awrah: a part of a person's being which has to be concealed, by Islamic law

Eid: Islamic holy day of celebration

Fiqh: Islamic jurisprudence

Fitna: chaos and disorder

Hadith: records of prophetic tradition, including sayings and accounts of the prophet and his companions

Haya': modesty

Ibaadah: worship through prayer and supplication to God

Iftaar: the time at sunset when a fast is broken and a meal is eaten

Kurta: a robe that is traditional men's clothing

Maghrib: the sunset prayer, at which time a fasting person also breaks their fast

Mahram: members of the opposite gender (besides one's spouse) whom one is forbidden to marry

Masjid: Arabic word for mosque (plural: *masaajid*)

Moulana: a term of respect ascribed to learned men who have completed extensive Islamic studies

Nikah: an Islamic marriage ceremony

Qiyamat: the end of the world

Quran: Islam's holy book, akin to the Bible in Christianity, the primary text which is used to guide Muslims in their daily lives

Rakaats: units of prayer within *salaah*

Ramadan: a month in the Islamic calendar when Muslims fast and observe additional prayers

Salaah: the name given to the five daily prayers compulsory for Muslims to perform

Sehri: pre-dawn meal during Ramadan

Sharia: Islamic law, as outlined in the Quran

Sunnah: examples from the life of the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him)

Taraweeh: the additional *salaah* during Ramadan

Zina: any kind of sexual relationship outside of the constraints of a heteronormative marriage