



March 16, 2018

Engaging Islam: A Perspective for Educators

With 1.7 billion followers, Islam extends throughout the world, across diverse nations and cultures. Yet the current social climate paints Muslims with a broad brush, emphasizing terrorism and conflict. Significant profiling, prejudice, and fear have fostered a need for engagement with this group, engagement that requires knowledge, understanding, and acceptance. We will explore how we can help to bridge the divide between Islamic identities and various societies. Through facilitated dialogue, discussion, and contextual exploration, we will address issues of Islamophobia and consider how interculturalists can support processes that foster thoughtful awareness and healing.



Dr. Amer F. Ahmed serves as the director of intercultural teaching and faculty development at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is a member of SpeakOut: The Institute for Democratic Education and Culture. Amer is a social justice educator and scholar, hip-hop activist, intercultural diversity consultant, and higher education administrator. His background in anthropology, Black studies, higher education, and global involvement supports his efforts to address issues of social justice that continue to affect traditionally marginalized communities globally.