CALL FOR PAPERS:
Epistemic Islamophobia and its Consequences for Muslims Today: The Complex and Mutually Constitutive Relationship between Orientalists and Islamologues.

Abstracts are due June 2, 2014
Final Papers are due September 30th, 2014
Invites for the conference and participation in the conference is contingent on a submitted paper with a permission for possible publication in the Islamophobia Studies Journal.

Islamophobia as a form of racism has multiple faces and dimensions. One unexplored dimension is epistemic Islamophobia. The inferiority of non-Western knowledge relative to Western knowledge creates a global eurocentric structure of knowledge where Orientalists become the authoritative voices to talk about anything related to Islam and Muslims. Who is authorized to talk about Muslims is determined by this geopolitical politics of knowledge. Who speaks about and for Muslims is crucial because it shapes the definition of the problems, policies and priorities implemented by states, governments and institutions at both the national and global levels. Orientalism as a discourse of the domination of the 'West over the Rest' since the 18th century, has contemporary expressions and manifestations. The situation becomes quite complex when Muslim Islamologues in the West, as well as in Muslim majority countries, reproducing eurocentric binaries and Orientalist discourses disguised as authentic, native, authoritative Muslim voices. The complicity of Islamologues with Orientalists is not only in the shared epistemology and presuppositions, but also in their vision about the future of the political-economy of the Middle East and Muslim populations in the West.

We would like to explore the multiple questions that emerge when we examine knowledge production about Muslims and Islam as a research question in this conference. Who speaks for Muslims and Islam? What consequences does this have for both domestic and foreign policy making? What policies at the level of knowledge production should be implemented in order to have a fair and balanced approach to Muslim populations? What are the funding sources of institutions producing the knowledge that states and media use for the representation of and policy making regarding Muslim populations? What role do universities play in reproducing or questioning epistemic Islamophobia? What are the epistemic foundations of the "War on Terror"?

Submit a 400 word abstract and a 150 word CV to the attention of Dr. Hatem Bazian: hatemb@berkeley.edu.

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE:
ISLAMOPHOBIA RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION PROJECT,
CENTER FOR RACE AND GENDER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY AND
CADIS AT THE ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES -CADIS-EHESS.

LOCATION:
Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales
190-198 Avenue de France 75013 Paris, France
Comparative Approaches to Studying Islamophobia

While in the Anglo-Saxon world, Islamophobia has been studied mostly in a comparative setting with racism, and Islamophobia in the United States has often been analyzed by looking at experiences of anti-Catholicism, anti-Communism, and Orientalism, many authors in central Europe and especially in German speaking countries put their focus of a comparison with insights from anti-Semitism-studies. All of these comparative approaches to investigating Islamophobia entailed not only serious questions of the possibilities and borders of comparing these phenomena, but also heavy reactions in public debates linked to the collective memory of the Holocaust, modern anti-Semitism and the history of slavery and colonialism. This conference aims not only to reflect these public debates and their inherent implications, but also to bring together divergent approaches to the study of Islamophobia as well as to a comparative approach in Islamophobia Studies. Case studies as well as theoretical reflections are welcomed. Submit a 300 word abstract and a 50 word short biography (to be used for advertising materials) to Dr. Farid Hafez at fh2300@columbia.edu.