

The Hajj in Comparative Perspective

Pilgrimage around the Globe



A Panel Presentation
Thursday, February 9, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Sobrato Commons
Santa Clara University

In early January Muslims from over 125 countries gathered in Mecca for the annual Hajj. As many as two million individuals each year undertake this pilgrimage to the most sacred of sites in Islam. A panel of scholars will draw upon their research and travel to analyze the practice of Hajj today. The panel will begin with a presentation from his various works on the Hajj by:

Michael Wolfe, a Muslim scholar, author of *The Hadj: An American's Pilgrimage to Mecca* and *One Thousand Roads to Mecca*; he will present an excerpt from his *Nightline* coverage of the Hajj, and discuss the Muslim experience of pilgrimage.

Three Santa Clara University faculty will use photos and video to offer comparative perspectives on pilgrimage as practiced in different faith traditions around the globe:

Cynthia Baker, associate professor of religious studies, will draw upon her historical research and travel in Israel to discuss Jewish pilgrimage to holy sites;

Dorothea French, associate professor (retired) of history, will draw upon her research and travel in Spain to analyze Christian pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella;

David Pinault, associate professor of religious studies, will draw upon his research and travel in Indonesia to analyze Buddhist pilgrimage to Borobudur in Java and the diverse understandings of Indonesia's pre-Islamic heritage in contemporary Java.

This event is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by the Muslim Community Association of the San Francisco Bay Area, CAIR-SFBA, and Santa Clara University's Religious Studies Department and Local Religion Project. For additional information, call (408) 727-7277 ext 402. (MCA) or 408 554 2199 (LRP).