

UNIVERSITY LECTURE SEASON 2024-2025



SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

In partnership with the
Dow Visiting Scholars Lecture Series

THE RAANA AKBAR MEMORIAL LECTURE ON ISLAM & CULTURE PRESENTS

**“The Beauty and the Horror!”:
Sensing the Muslim as Enemy
and as (Super)Hero in Post-9/11 Film**

Guest speaker Fareed Ben-Youssef

Where is our Western cinematic mythology about Muslims taking us? In his book “No Jurisdiction,” Dr. Fareed Ben-Youssef examines Hollywood post-9/11 genre films as the key to grasping a crisis-filled world shaped by the global War on Terror. Hollywood adapts tales of the cowboy, the femme fatale and the superhero for its chief enemy – the Muslim and Arab other. More recently, these maligned figures have given way to some positive depictions, even the Muslim as hero or superhero. Yet these more positive efforts are not without their flaws according to Ben-Youssef. His lecture will draw upon influential post-9/11 films, up to very recent examples like “The Marvels” and “Dune.”

Dr. Ben-Youssef is assistant professor in film & media at Texas Tech University. He has a Ph.D. in film and media from the University of California, Berkeley. His book, “No Jurisdiction: The Law and Post-9/11 Genre Film,” explores issues of state violence and human rights abuse in post-9/11 cinema. His journal publications on global cinema are extensive. Ben-Youssef has also organized many university film series and hosted master classes with award-winning directors such as Ari Folman and Ryūsuke Hamaguchi.

The Raana Akbar Memorial Lecture on Islam and Culture was established in 2011 by Dr. Waheed Akbar in memory of his wife Raana, a former member of the SVSU Board of Control, physician and community leader. The Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists program was established through an endowment from The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation to enrich our regional cultural and intellectual opportunities.

SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability or veteran status in the provision of education, employment and other services.

SVSU will provide reasonable accommodation for those persons with disabilities. Individuals who wish accommodation should contact **The Conference Center** at SVSU at **989.964.4348** at least three days prior to the need.



**WED. | SEPT. 18
6:30 P.M.**

**MALCOLM FIELD
THEATRE FOR
PERFORMING ARTS**

Entrance inside Curtiss Hall

To watch online, or for more information,
please visit svsu.edu/akbarlecture
or email raanaakbar.memorial@gmail.com.

**REFRESHMENTS & BOOK SIGNING
WILL FOLLOW LECTURE**

**STAND OUT
SPEAKER**