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ABSTRACT

Title: Islamophobia as an Affective Field: *Racialized Emotions, Surfaces and Boundaries*

Much has been written about the rise in acts of Islamophobic violence against Muslim communities. Understanding and mapping this violence has taken many forms, ranging from quantitative "counting" approaches to macro-qualitative political economy methods that aim to outline the linkages and global networks comprising the Islamophobia Industry. The current paper builds from these insights, however, moves to the field of "racialized emotion" (Bonilla-Silva 2019; Ahmed 2004) with the aim of further texturing our understandings of the *disciplinary field* that Islamophobia produces and circulates. As we follow Bonilla-Silva in his assertion that "racialized emotions...are central to the racial edifice of societies", continuing with, "clarity on these matters is key for developing an effective *affective* politics to challenge any racial order" (2019). Moreover, in Sara Ahmed's model of sociality of emotions, she argues that "emotions create the very effect of the surfaces and boundaries that allow us to distinguish an *inside* [Self] and *outside* [Other] in the first place" (Ahmed 2004: 9). And so, "...emotions are not 'in' either the individual or the social but produce the very surfaces and boundaries that allow the individual and the social to be delineated" (Ahmed 2004:10). Through a close visual reading of a community-based initiative that aimed to visualize everyday Islamophobia through collecting over two-dozen community-based hand-sketches depicting first-hand accounts of Islamophobia, our paper aims to unpack the emotional field that Islamophobia produces from the standpoint of those enmeshed in the field. Thereby we engage with the *webbed* "surfaces and boundaries" of exclusion that Islamophobia engenders by posing three questions: how does the community art-maker map their affective navigation? What triggers particularly pathways of navigation? And what do these pathways of navigation reveal about the affective contours of Islamophobia's disciplinary and exclusionary field?

Author Bios:

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Dahab Ibrahim is a recent graduate from Ryerson University's bachelors of Social Work who is aspiring to pursue education in social policy and planning. She initiated the Islamophobia project and photo series. She currently serves as a research fellow with The Tessellate institute.