

Call for Post-Doctoral Fellowship Application The Structural Islamophobia Research Lab (SIRL) Fellowship

The Structural Islamophobia Research Lab (SIRL) - at the Institute of Islamic Studies (IIS), University of Toronto – supports the best and brightest minds committed to examining institutionally entrenched modes of Islamophobia that defy simplistic analyses and require creative research methods.

While many mark the beginning of “Islamophobia” as a term of art in a Runnymede Trust report of the 1990s, historians of medieval Islam and Europe know that the history of anti-Muslim hate begins well before recent events in our world. Often that history is framed by reference to studies on Islam in the European imagination, as well as interactions between Islamic suzerains and European ones. Historians such as Suzanne Conklin Akbari, Norman Daniel, Adnan Hussain, Natalie Rothman, Richard Southern, and John Tolan have written extensively on representations of Islam in European medieval and early modern archives. What is less prevalent in this historiography is the medieval foundations for anti-Muslim hate, and the way those historical tropes find expression today, as in the case of France’s Unit 732. Medievalists of colour, such as Geraldine Heng, have in recent years applied a critical race lens to the historiography of medieval Europe, raising important questions about the absence of race in the prevailing canon. Medievalists such as David Nirenberg have written seminal treatises documenting the *longue durée* of anti-Judaism in the Western tradition. Under-represented in this historiography is the study of anti-Islam in the archives of late antique, medieval, and early modern European history.

This call for applications is designed to fill this research gap in our collective history. The successful researcher will ideally be trained with the necessary language skills, archival experience, and the necessary historical and decolonial theoretical/methodological approaches within the relevant historical disciplines.

Eligibility Requirements

- Open to candidates with a completed PhD no earlier than December 2021.
- PhD candidates may apply if they complete their dissertation defence successfully no later than July 1, 2025
- All nationalities may apply
- Preference will be given to those with requisite language capacity, a record of research using European archives to examine the representation of Islam and Muslims, using a critical race/decolonial lens.

Details on the Fellowship

- Remuneration: \$60,000 CAD per year
- Duration: one to three years
- Location: required to be in residence at the University of Toronto
- Start Date: September 1, 2025
- Only one fellowship on this topic is available at this time



Application Process

- Application materials: Please include CV, statement of interest, writing sample, and research proposal.
- Re: Research Proposal. The Research Proposal should specify the research objectives, research plan, theoretical approach, methodology, and preliminary ideas for knowledge dissemination. The proposal or statement should speak to the candidate's training, interest, and background that prepares them to take on the proposed research project (max 2000 words).
- Please submit all application materials via email to islamicstudies@utoronto.ca
In the subject heading of the email, please use the following: "SIRL Application: History of Anti-Islam"
- The application deadline is **December 29, 2024**
- Decisions will be announced by late **February**

For any questions, please direct inquiries to islamicstudies@utoronto.ca