

## Call for Post-Doctoral Fellowship Application

### The Structural Islamophobia Research Lab (SIRL) Fellowship on Islamophobia and Anti-Palestine Racism (APR)

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.

In the context of Israel's unabated violence in Gaza and other occupied Palestinian territories since October 2023, this call for application invites an examination into the politics, discourses, and dynamics related to Palestine that have emerged in Canada. This call invites inquiries that undertake theoretical and empirical inquiries into the relationship between Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism, examining intersectionality, distinctions, and erasures. In some regards, two pathways of a colonial racial logic and Orientalism have emerged in the contemporary moment. One relates to the racist discourses and institutions that have cropped up as part of the War on Terror to manage the “Muslim” problem. The other is that of anti-Palestinian racism which can, according to the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association, involve the erasure of Palestinian history and identity while defaming those advocating for Palestinian self-determination as antisemitic or supporters of terrorism. There are touchpoints between Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism: weaponizing “terrorism” to justify state violence against Palestinians or using Islamophobic civilizational discourse to frame Palestinians as inherently violent or distracting from Israel's settler-colonial human rights violations with caricatures of an obstinate and hateful Muslim majority. Yet much work is needed to properly define and study the relationship (and disjuncture) between Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism. At a time when terms like Islamophobia and Anti-Palestinian Racism are featured in public discourse, this fellowship is an invitation to develop robust theoretical and empirical insight into how to conceive of these terms and their relationship.

The successful researcher project will ideally be well-versed in critical race, historical, and decolonial theoretical/methodological approaches, and relevant humanistic and interpretive social science methodologies to undertake complex research endeavors.

#### 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 experience working with Muslim and Palestinian communities, archives, and institutions

#### 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 open-subject fellowship is available at this time

### Application Process

- Application materials include a CV, statement of interest, research proposal (2000 words max), names and contact information of two referees (letters will not be immediately requested), and a writing sample.
- Please submit all application materials via email to [islamicstudies@utoronto.ca](mailto:islamicstudies@utoronto.ca). In the subject heading of the email, please use the following: “SIRL IS/APR Application”
- The application deadline is **January 6, 2025**
- Decisions will be announced by **March 2025**

For any questions, please direct inquiries to [islamicstudies@utoronto.ca](mailto:islamicstudies@utoronto.ca)