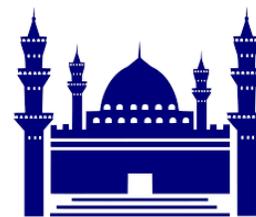


# Teaching Islam in Asia

## *Faith, Ethnicity & Conflict*



### Friday, March 23

1:00 – 1:15	Opening Remarks Introductions Welcome	<i>David Starling, Chair – USG Asia Council</i> <i>Salli Vargis, Vice Chair – USG Asia Council</i> <i>Peter Lyons, Vice Provost &amp; Dean – Georgia State Univ., Perimeter College</i>	
1:15 – 1:45	Overview	<b>The Geographic and Ethnic Landscape of Islam in Asia</b>	<i>Paul Rodell</i> <i>Georgia Southern University</i>
1:45 – 3:00	Session 1	<b>Uyghur Religiosity and the Chinese State</b>	<i>Sandrine Catris</i> <i>Augusta University</i>
3:00 – 3:15	<i>Break</i>		
3:15 – 4:15	Session 2	<b>Origins of Islam: What Does the Koran Say</b>	<i>Jonathan Leightner</i> <i>Augusta University</i>
4:15 – 4:30	<i>Break</i>		
4:30 – 5:45	Session 3	<b>Islam in Island Southeast Asia: Patterns of Conversion, Beliefs and Controversies</b>	<i>Paul Rodell</i> <i>Georgia Southern University</i>
6:00 – 7:00	<i>Dinner – Compliments of USG Asia Council</i>		
7:00 – 8:15	Session 4	<b>Thailand’s Muslim Minority: Issues of Religion and National Integrity</b>	<i>Jonathan Leightner</i> <i>Augusta University</i>

### Saturday, March 24

10:00 - 11:15	Session 5	<b>Islam in South Asia: Critical Regional Issues</b>	<i>Sudha Ratan</i> <i>Augusta University</i>
11:15 - 11:30	<i>Break</i>		
11:30 - 12:45	Roundtable Discussion	<b>The Rohingya of Myanmar/Burma: A Contemporary Religious &amp; Ethnic Tragedy</b>	<i>Workshop Presenters &amp; Audience</i>
12:45	<i>Lunch – Compliments of USG Asia Council</i>		Lunch Boxes distributed; participants can eat on site or take away

*Sponsored by*



**University System of Georgia**  
**Asia Council**



*Hosted by*



## SPEAKERS

### **Sandrine Catris** ▪ [scatris@augusta.edu](mailto:scatris@augusta.edu)

Dr. Sandrine E. Catris is a historian of modern China at Augusta University with interests in cultural history, political history, borderlands history, and historiography. Her current book manuscript, *The Cultural Revolution from the Edge: Violence and Revolutionary Spirit in Xinjiang, 1966-1976*, investigates the cultural history of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (CR) as it played out in this northwestern region of China. She attempts to construct an alternative history of the CR that takes into consideration the individual experiences of both Han Chinese and Uyghurs, a Muslim Turkic people. She is particularly interested in the ways in which the People's Republic of China's official history of the CR has fostered a form of misremembering of the movement among both Han Chinese and Uyghurs.

### **Jonathan Leightner** ▪ [jleightn@augusta.edu](mailto:jleightn@augusta.edu)

Dr. Jonathan E. Leightner teaches economics at Augusta University and at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok (summers). His research specialties are Asian economics and the relationship between religion, ethics, and economics. His most recent book (for which he is seeking a publisher) is *The Purpose of Life and the Problem of Evil: Sacred Texts versus Secularization*. In it, he shows that all the strands of current intellectual secular culture have two traits in common – they deny the existence of objective values and they focus solely upon the individual. The utility maximizing model of economics captures these traits in a formal model. He then compares what the sacred scriptures of Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Theravada Buddhism, and Hinduism say about objective values and self-centeredness in the context of the purpose of life and the problem of evil.

### **Sudha Ratan** ▪ [sratan@augusta.edu](mailto:sratan@augusta.edu)

Dr. Sudha Ratan teaches courses in International Relations at Augusta University including “The Politics of Islam,” which she is teaching this semester. She has served as a consultant since 2013 on the AfPak region doing workshops for JUSTRAC Interagency Training through the Rule of Law Consortium at the University of South Carolina, and from 2010-2014 for the International and Operational Law Division, Office of The Judge Advocate General, U.S. Army at the Pentagon. She is currently at work on projects examining the transformation of customary justice systems in South and Southwest Asia.

### **Paul Rodell** ▪ [rodell@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:rodell@georgiasouthern.edu)

Dr. Paul A. Rodell teaches courses on Southeast Asia at Georgia Southern University, including “The History of Islam in Southeast Asia.” His most recent relevant publication is “How ISIS Has Arrived in the Philippines,” *Oasis: Christians and Muslims in the Global World*, 11 October 2017 (on-line journal). Since 2005, he has published a number of articles and book chapters exploring Islamic linkages that connect actors and movements within island Southeast Asia (the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia) and with the Organization of Islamic Conferences (OIC) based in the Middle East. He has also given a number of presentations about Islam in Southeast Asia before a wide range of audiences in the United States and abroad (Japan, India, The Netherlands and Taiwan) from 2002 to 2015.

## BACKGROUND

*Diverse Asian societies have contributed immeasurably to world civilization over the course of human history. Today, Asia comprises over half of the world's population, and the global economy is increasingly leaning in this direction. With this and more in mind, the USG Asia Council organizes annual “Teaching Asia” workshops to educate college and university faculty – particularly non-specialists – on integrating Asian content into their core curriculum instruction. The first series of five workshops focused on countries or regions: China, India, Southeast Asia, South Korea and Japan. The Council will continue with a new series of workshops with a trans-regional focus examining timely and interdisciplinary topics like religion, gender issues, science and technology, etc. Thank you for joining us for the first in this series exploring “Islam in Asia.”*

## PLANNING TEAM

Dr. Paul Rodell  
[rodell@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:rodell@georgiasouthern.edu)

Dr. Jonathan Leightner  
[jleightn@augusta.edu](mailto:jleightn@augusta.edu)

Dr. Salli Vargis  
[svargis@gsu.edu](mailto:svargis@gsu.edu)

Mr. David Starling  
[dstarling@valdosta.edu](mailto:dstarling@valdosta.edu)

Mr. Eric Kendrick  
[ekendrick@gsu.edu](mailto:ekendrick@gsu.edu)



