

SUAD JOSEPH LAB: Media Project  
Representing Muslims and Islam in *The New York Times*: 1851 – 2020.  
University of California, Davis  
Undergraduate Research Conference &  
Middle East/South Asia Studies Student Research Symposium

Nancy Juarez 2020  
Agricultural Economics, Middle East & Asia Studies, Chicana/o Studies

An Early 20th Century View of Syria: Via the glass stained lens of Ecumenical Missionaries, an analysis of the Term “Syria” in *The New York Times* (1900-1909)

How does *The New York Times* depict Syria and Syrians during the decade 1900-1909? A notable trend that has revealed itself is the NYT’s representation of Ecumenical Missionary Conferences as the savers of Syria. I argue that this trend in reporting perpetuates the colonial idea that Middle Eastern Peoples have no cohesion or legitimate claims to identity nor land, and therefore need Missionaries to save them from themselves. This representation justifies the encroachment of missionaries during a crucial period in which European and Western powers have competing imperial interests over a crumbling Ottoman Empire. *The New York Times* is a world renowned newspaper, it’s reporting often is what leads readers to develop an understanding of the world, or in many cases misunderstandings. This research is a part of a larger project under Dr. Suad Joseph’s lab that traces the genealogical representation of the Middle East through a 150 year analysis of *The New York Times*.