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## **The Hijab: Muslim Women's Perspectives on Veiling in the United States**

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Poster Presentation P44

**THE HIJAB: MUSLIM WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON VEILING IN  
THE UNITED STATES**

Christina Salazar and Rebecca Gearhart\*

Sociology and Anthropology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

This poster presentation focuses on the importance of the headscarf, or *hijab* among modern day Muslim (Islamic) women in the United States of America. Through the use of visual and ethnographic research methods, the ideology, motivations, and challenges that accompany wearing the *hijab* are explored. The participants and the ethnographer have worked collaboratively to produce this project by using participant observation, formal and informal interviews among women of the Islamic community, as well as photo documentation and analysis. Through this collaboration, the *hijab* is portrayed as a symbol of uniqueness and cultural pride among contemporary Muslim women in the USA.