Understanding Muslim Society and Culture, not just Islamic Theology, Is Crucial for Missions

In the latest addition to IVP Academic’s Missiological Engagements series, ten prominent Christian scholars consider the sociology and anthropology of Islam in a conscious effort to help Christians better understand Islam as a whole. This collection of lectures from the 2016 Fuller Theological Seminary Missiology Lectures focuses on the culture, economics, politics, religion, social factors, gender, and more of the Muslim world and why Christians need to understand these unique aspects of Muslim societies to effectively engage theologically and missiologically with Muslims.

“The book addresses the current confusion that exists today in the minds of many Christians about the nature of Islam and Muslim societies,” writes Evelyne A. Reisacher, the volume editor. “I chose the theme ‘Dynamics of Contemporary Muslim Societies: Christian Theological and Missiological Implications’ for the 2016 Fuller Theological Seminary Missiology Lectures to help Christians reflect on the various expressions of Islam in the world today and how one cannot have a monolithic view of Islam if one wants to better understand current events and missiological contexts.”

Contributors include the following:

- Martin Accad, “Mission in a World Gone Wild and Violent: Challenging the Monochromatic View of Islam from a ‘Silent Majority’”
- Nimi Wariboko, “Christian-Muslim Relations and Ethos of State Formation in West Africa”
- David Emmanuel Singh, “Islam in South Asia: Dynamics of Contemporary Muslim Societies in Hyderabad Deccan”
- Cathy Hine, “Negotiating from the Margins: Women’s Voices (Re)Imagining Islam”
- Gordon Nickel, “The Islamic Punishment for Blasphemy: Diversity in Sources and Societies”
- David L. Johnston, “Shari’a in a Globalized World: Historical Overview, Regional Contrasts, and the Challenge of Pluralism”
- John Jay Travis, “Diversity and Change in Contemporary Muslim Societies and New Emphases in Missional Approaches”
- Rick Love, “Peacemaking Initiatives Among Muslims”
• Evelyne A. Reisacher, “Defining Islam and Muslim Societies in Missiological Discourse”

“Dynamics of Muslim Worlds develops a vigorous missiology through its thoughtful engagement with anthropological and sociological perspectives,” writes Paul Martindale, ranked adjunct assistant professor of Islamic studies and crosscultural ministry at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. “The missiological assessments offered are from multiple perspectives that are helpful, constructive, and thoroughly biblical. New analytical frameworks are proposed for understanding and defining the diversity of ever-changing Islamic societies. The reader will be enabled to reflect upon the implications for gospel proclamation among Muslims in the twenty-first century. An excellent resource for practitioners and scholars.”

The Missiological Engagements series charts interdisciplinary and innovative trajectories in the history, theology, and practice of Christian mission at the beginning of the third millennium. The series reflects cutting-edge trends, research, and innovations in the field that will be of relevance to theorists and practitioners in churches, academic domains, mission organizations, and NGOs, among other arenas.