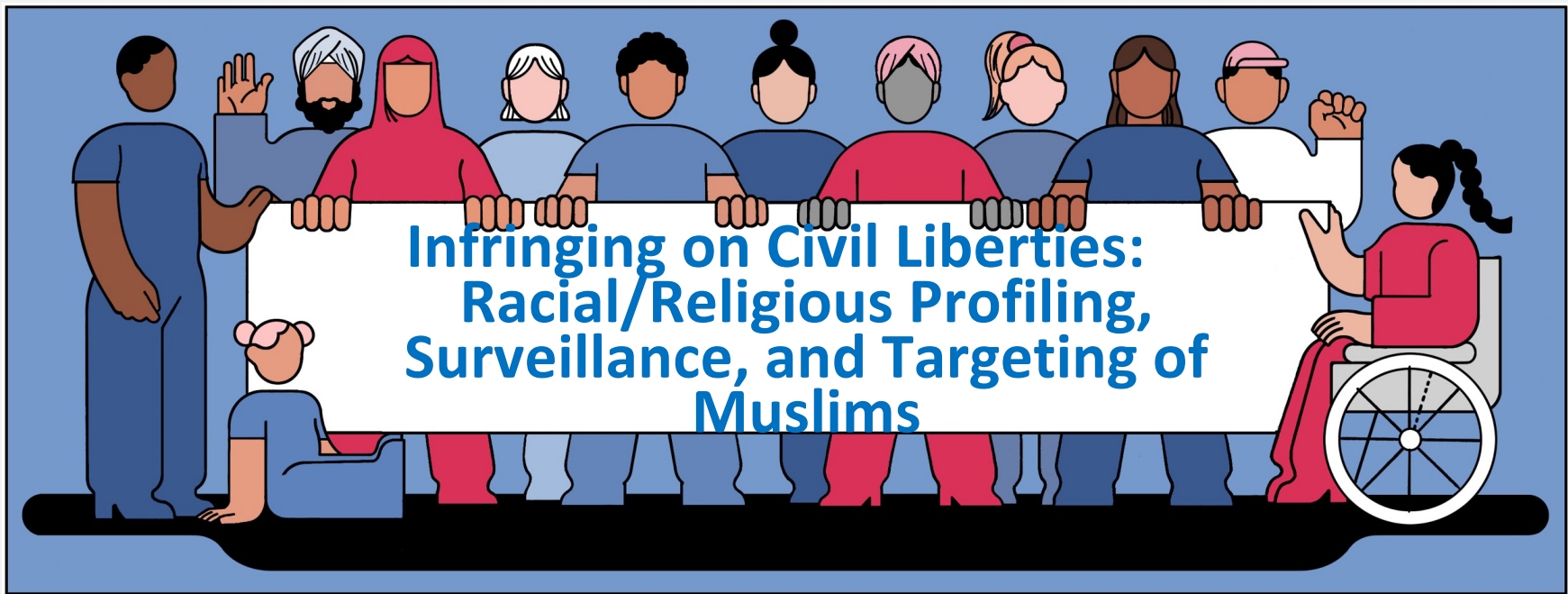


Teaching Beyond September 11th

Module 2



Domestic Policies Policing Muslims

Module 2, Lesson 1

Questions to consider

What does this cartoon make you **think about**?

What does it make you **wonder**?

What do you want to **know** more about?

How can you **find it out**?



Cartoon by Matt Davies

NSEERS

The **National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS)** program began in 2002

Male noncitizens from **24 Muslim-majority countries** and North Korea were required to comply with **special registry**

84,000 (largely Muslim) boys and men between the ages of 16 and 45 were impacted

Over **13,000** people were put into **deportation proceedings** based on civil immigration violations

2,800 people were **detained**, often related to minor visa violations

Not a single known terrorism-related conviction resulted from NSEERS

The program **cost \$10 million annually to run**, leaving the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General to conclude that the program was ineffective and a waste of taxpayer resources

Key Terms

Civil Liberties: Refer to personal freedoms that in the United States are included in the Bill of Rights. E.g. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are civil liberties. These are different from Civil Rights, which are protected by law, e.g. the right to vote.

Racial Profiling: Refers to the discriminatory practice by law enforcement officials of targeting individuals for suspicion of crime based on the individual's race, ethnicity, religion or national origin. An example of racial profiling is the targeting of Arabs, Muslims and South Asians for detention on minor immigrant violations in the absence of any connection to the attacks on the World Trade Center or the Pentagon.

Xenophobia: Comes from the Ancient Greek words *xénos*, meaning "stranger" or "foreigner", and *phóbos*, meaning "fear". Put together, it means fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. In contemporary times, it has come to mean fear, distrust, prejudice or hatred against people from other countries or those "appearing to be foreign" due to race, clothing, religious identity, language, etc.

NSEERS

Rising Up: The Alams

DRUM was founded in 2000 to build the power of South Asian and Indo-Caribbean low wage immigrant workers, youth, and families in New York City to win economic and educational justice, and civil and immigrant rights



This 2005 video focuses on the Alam family, who immigrated from Bangladesh to New York in 1994.

The Alams were subjected to policing under NSEERS, the special registry for Muslims after 9/11, and faced deportation threats

Small Group Discussion Questions

How did NSEERS play a role in institutionalizing and exacerbating xenophobia, anti-Muslim racism, and racial profiling?

What communities are represented among the organizations who challenged Muslim registration? What is significant about these different organizations coming together to challenge NSEERS?

What do you think is the purpose of Desis Rising Up and Moving in writing the article? How does this article present Muslim communities differently than the mainstream media usually does?

The NYPD Surveillance Scandal

Module 2, Lesson 2

Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Bahrain	Bangladesh
Black American Muslims	Chechnya	Egypt	Guyana	India
Indonesia	Iran	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon
Libya	Morocco	Pakistan	Palestine	Saudi Arabia
Somalia	Sudan	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey
U.A.E. (United Arab Emirates)	Uzbekistan	Yemen	Yugoslavia	

NYPD Watchlist “Ancestries of Interest”

The NYPD Spying Program: A brief overview

The NYPD spying program included a “Demographics Unit” that employed undercover officers to report on the daily activities of people from 28 “ancestries of interest”, representing almost every Muslim majority country and American Black Muslims.

The spying program surveilled over 250 mosques in New York and New Jersey. Informants, known as “mosque crawlers” were sent to take pictures inside mosques and report on sermons and even the license plates of congregants.

The NYPD sent “rakers” into these communities to spy on community members in 263 so-called “hot spots” which included hookah bars, restaurants, and bookstores.

The NYPD reported on 31 Muslim Student Associations, which are university sponsored clubs on various campuses.

The program also worked with the CIA to carry out its operations despite it being illegal for the CIA to collect any information on US citizens unless they are committing espionage or engaging in international terrorist activities.

The NYPD spying program never led to one terrorist lead or terrorist investigation.

The NYPD Spying Program: Key Term

Structural Islamophobia: *Islamophobic or anti-Muslim policies created and maintained by institutions or the state. Structural Islamophobia is noted in legislation such as the the Muslim and Africa Ban or the US PATRIOT Act. Surveillance or policing of Muslim Americans in mosques is another form of structural Islamophobia.*

Questions to consider:

- How is a state or an institution like and not like an individual person?
- What do we mean by “state” or “structural” or “institutional” Islamophobia/anti-Muslim racism?
- What is the difference between Islamophobia/anti-Muslim racism expressed by an individual versus a country or state or city policy or law?



Spying On Campus:

*NYPD Caught Monitoring
Muslim Student Groups
Throughout Northeast*

<https://youtu.be/znbj8edzd0E>



Discussion Questions

How does focusing on the ancestry of people (as the NYPD did with its “ancestries of interest” list) reinscribe stereotypes and legitimate racial profiling?

How did the spying impact Muslim students in particular?

How can the actions of an institution, in this case the police department, be held accountable for the harms created by illegal spying and illegitimate intrusion into these communities?