Kemanusiaan  Open Access
Volume 25, Issue 1, 2018, Pages 43-67

**Negotiating muslim women’s rights and identity in American diaspora space: An islamic feminist study of kahf’s the girl in the tangerine scarf**

Sulaiman, S.* Quayyum, M.A.† Manaf, N.F.A.‡

*Western Languages Department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani, 94000, Thailand
†Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, English Language and Literature Department, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, 53100, Malaysia

**Abstract**

This paper addresses the narrative of a Muslim woman who struggles to negotiate her rights, identity and sense of belonging in an American diaspora space. Despite the difficulties and obstacles of being regarded as an “other” in her adopted homeland, Khadra Shamy, the protagonist in Mohja Kahf’s The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf, chooses to maintain her Islamic identity with a new interpretation of her faith while attempting to build a hybrid identity as an American Muslim. The narrative implies that not all Muslims interpret their religion in the same way and that Muslims identify themselves with Islam to differing degrees. Hence, the media and critics of Islam clearly distort social reality when they depict all Muslims as extremists and all Muslim women as abject

**NEW! SoVal Topic Prominence is now available in Scopus.**

Which Topic is this article related to? View the Topic.

---

**Metrics**

0 Citations in Scopus

0 Field-Weighted Citation Impact

**PlumX Metrics**

Usage, Citations, Mentions, Social Media and Citations beyond Scopus

**Cited by 0 documents**

Inform me when this document is cited in Scopus:
American Muslims: The narrative implies that not all Muslims interpret their religion in the same way and that Muslims identify themselves with Islam to differing degrees. Hence, the media and critics of Islam clearly distort social reality when they depict all Muslims as extremists and all Muslims as abject individuals. In addition, the employment of Islamic feminism in the analysis of the novel is an approach that can help enhance our knowledge concerning problems connected to the patriarchy that are pertinent in many Muslim communities, including ones in the West. The diaspora space in America has become a platform for Muslim women to gain more freedom, particularly the freedom to negotiate their rights and identities and to reinterpret religious teachings in a new light, a freedom that they May not be able to achieve in some Muslim-majority countries. © Penerbit Universiti Sains Malaysia, 2018.

SciVal Topic Prominence

Topic: Lebanon | Beirut | I argue
Prominence percentile: 43.044

Author keywords

American | Muslim | Islamic feminism | Muslim diaspora | Muslim women's identities | Women's rights

ISSN: 13949930
Source Type: Journal
Original language: English

DOI: 10.21315/kaht2018.25.1.3
Document Type: Article
Publisher: Penerbit Universiti Sains Malaysia

References (44)

NEW! SciVal Topic Prominence is now available in Scopus.

Which Topic is this article related to? View the Topic.