



Global Awareness Lecture Winter 2006

Islam in France and Italy

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NOON

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Challenge of Integrating Muslims in Italy

James A. Toronto

Associate professor of Arabic and Islamic studies

James A. Toronto, associate professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at BYU, was formerly a faculty member in the Department of Church History and Doctrine for eight years, teaching courses in comparative world religions. Toronto teaches courses in Arabic language and Islamic religion and humanities. His research and publications are in Islamic education, immigration and integration of Muslim minorities, and the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Italy and the Middle East. Most recently, they include "The Role of Islamic Education Textbooks in the National Debate over Religious Discourse and Identity Construction in Egypt," in *Religion and Identity-Formation in Middle Eastern School Curricula* (2004), *Mormon Missionary in the Middle East: The Journals of Joseph Wilford Booth* (2004), and "A Continual War, Not of Arguments, but of Bread and Cheese: Opening the First LDS Mission in Italy, 1849–1867," in *Journal of Mormon History* (2004). He lived for two years in Italy and worked and studied for ten years in the Middle East: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan. For four years, he served as assistant director of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU and filled a three-year assignment as director of BYU's Center for Cultural and Educational Affairs in Amman, Jordan. Toronto received a BA in English with minors in history and Italian from Brigham Young University and an MA and PhD in Islamic and Arabic studies from Harvard University.

Kicking the Anthill: The Securitization of French Islam

R. John Matthies

Assistant professor of French and Italian

R. John Matthies, assistant professor of French and Italian at BYU, has studied classical Arabic and Islamic law, and his research interests are twentieth-century French and Francophone literature, Harlem Renaissance and negritude, immigrant and "suburban" literature, Jewish France, French Islam, Colonial Algeria, and the police and the secret services. Matthies taught in a suburban Paris *lycée* (2001–02) to complete his doctoral research, with particular attention to the evolution of "Islam de France," the French Muslim Council (CFCM), and the orientation of the *régime laïc*. His dissertation, "Fort Apache: The Literary Lives of the Parisian *banlieue* Savage," describes the origin and transmission of the suburban "Redskin" narrative, from the Belle Époque down to the present day, and describes the growth of North African and banlieue fiction in the last decade. Matthies received a BA in French (1995), an MA in romance languages and literature (1998), and a PhD in French literature (2005) from the University of Washington.