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10-1-2005

Violence Unveiled

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Published version. *Contexts*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (2005): 67. DOI.
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violence unveiled

Arab Muslim women were nearly twice as likely as Arab Muslim men to face verbal assaults in the three years following the 9/11 attacks. When these assaults occurred in public space, a woman wearing *hijab* (Muslim head scarf) was present more than 90 percent of the time. Women wearing *hijab* have been spit at, threatened, hit, and told to "go home," even though many of these women were born in the United States. The *hijab* has become the symbol of the "clash of civilizations," a discourse that frames Arabs and Muslims as essentially at odds with others in the civilized West. While different than the concept of race, the civilizational difference discourse shares many features of racialization in its representations and outcomes: essentialization, stereotypes, discrimination, profiling, exclusion, selective law enforcement, and an attachment to phenotypic traits.

Photo by Louise Cainkar.

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