

# THE MUSLIM PROTAGONIST

*a synthesis of journeys*

Columbia University's second annual symposium of Muslim and minority writers, artists and scholars on literature and art as agents of social, intellectual, and spiritual change — hosted by the Columbia Muslim Students Association and its student allies in the pursuit of challenging and reimagining protagonists and their narratives.



Fri  
2.21

## Story Slam

*304 Held Auditorium, Barnard | 7 – 9 PM*

**7:00 PM DOORS OPEN**

7:30 **“Native Tongue” Story Slam**

hosted by **Aman Ali** and featuring **Cyrus McGoldrick, Linda Sarsour, Aizzah Fatima, Sameer Naseem & more**

9:30 **DOORS CLOSE**

Sat  
2.22

## Symposium

*IAB 417, Altschul Auditorium, SIPA | 8:30 AM – 7 PM*

*Prayer in Wien Hall | 1 – 7 PM*

**8:30 AM DOORS OPEN**  
*Breakfast*

9:30 **Introductory Remarks**

Qur'an recitation by **Abdul Rafay Hanif**

Remarks by Co-Chairs **Haris Durrani & Mariam Elnozahy**

**Keynote**

**Wajahat Ali**

10:15 **Sufism and Storytelling**

**Joseph Lombard & Sahar Ullah**

11:00 **Exclusive Video**

**HM Naqvi**

- 11:15 **American and “Othered”?**  
Nsenga Knight, Sofia Quintero & Alex Rivera
- 12:30 **BREAK**  
PM *Noon prayer, lunch, book signings begin (books sold by McNally Jackson)*
- 2:00 **Exclusive Video**  
Mira Nair
- 2:15 **Science Fiction, Fantasy and the Social Power of Imagination**  
Ibrahim Abdul-Matin moderates Saladin Ahmed, G. Willow Wilson & Alex Rivera
- 3:30 **BREAK**  
*Afternoon prayer, snacks, signings continue (books sold by McNally Jackson)*
- 4:00 **The American Muslim Protagonist**  
Wajahat Ali & Zareena Grewal in conversation
- 4:45 **Concluding Remarks**  
Mirzya Syed
- A Synthesis of Journeys**  
Wajahat Ali moderates Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, Michael Muhammad Knight & G. Willow Wilson in conversation
- 6:10 **BREAK**  
*Evening prayer, signings continue (books sold by McNally Jackson)*
- 7:00 **DOORS CLOSE**

Sun  
2.23

## Workshops & Seminars

Milbank Hall | 10:30 AM – 3 PM (Workshop times TBA)

**From Manuscript to Bookshelf:** Refining a pitch, finding an agent and publishing your novel  
G. Willow Wilson

**Q&A on Science Fiction and Fantasy**  
Saladin Ahmed

**The Female Protagonist**  
Dina Nayeri & Jennifer Zobair in conversation, moderated by Jafreen Uddin

**Workshop on Creative Non-Fiction**  
Michael Muhammad Knight