

# UNIVERSITY LECTURE SEASON 2024-2025



SAGINAW VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY

In partnership with the  
**Dow Visiting Scholars Lecture Series**

## **THE DR. RAANA AKBAR LECTURE SERIES ON ISLAM & CULTURE PRESENTS**

**“The Beauty and the Horror!”  
Sensing the Muslim as Enemy  
and as (Super)Hero in Post-9/11 Film**

Guest speaker **Fareed Ben-Youssef**

Where is our Western cinematic mythology about Muslims taking us? In his book “No Jurisdiction,” Dr. Fareed Ben-Youssef examines Hollywood post-9/11 genre films as the key to grasping a crisis-filled world shaped by the global War on Terror. Hollywood adapts tales of the cowboy, the femme fatale and the superhero for its chief enemy – the Muslim and Arab other. More recently, these maligned figures have given way to some positive depictions, even the Muslim as hero or superhero. Yet these more positive efforts are not without their flaws according to Ben-Youssef. His lecture will draw upon influential post-9/11 films, up to very recent examples like “The Marvels” and “Dune.”

Dr. Ben-Youssef is assistant professor in film & media at Texas Tech University. He has a Ph.D. in film and media from the University of California, Berkeley. His book, “No Jurisdiction: The Law and Post-9/11 Genre Film,” explores issues of state violence and human rights abuse in post-9/11 cinema. His journal publications on global cinema are extensive. Ben-Youssef has also organized many university film series and hosted master classes with award-winning directors such as Ari Folman and Ryūsuke Hamaguchi.

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**WED. | SEPT. 18  
6:30 P.M.**

**MALCOLM FIELD  
THEATRE FOR  
PERFORMING ARTS**

Entrance inside Curtiss Hall

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