

Louis Cristillo

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“The Muslim youth of today are the Muslim Americans of tomorrow, and it’s important to understand the challenges they are facing in their schools and neighborhoods... There are an estimated 90,000 Muslim kids in the New York City schools. That means one in ten kids on the lunch line is Muslim, wondering if the school food is Halal.”

Areas of expertise

- Muslims in New York City
- Formal and non-formal religious education among Muslim diaspora communities in America
- The sociology of religious and secular education in the Middle East and the Muslim world
- Education and development in the Muslim world

Topics in the News

- The relationship between the U.S. and the Muslim world
- Desecration of the Koran

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Biography


Louis Cristillo is the principal investigator for the Muslim Youth in NYC Public School Project at Columbia University's Teachers College. Research for this three-year study sponsored by the Ford Foundation will examine what role religiosity plays in shaping

the civic and religious identities, attitudes and behavior of Muslim youth in public schools, especially in the post-9/11 environment. In addition, Dr. Cristillo is the project coordinator for Columbia University's Muslims in NYC Project, a groundbreaking multidisciplinary study, also sponsored by the Ford Foundation, exploring the complex issues of Muslim identity and community building in New York City.

Resources by this expert

- "The Changing Arab New York Community" in *A Community of Many Worlds: Arab Americans in New York City* (Syracuse University, 2002)
- "Knowledge and Power at a Muslim School in New York City," paper presented at the annual convocation of the Council of Anthropology and Education, and at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association, San Francisco, California
- "Transcendent Transnationalism: Religiosity and Ethnicity at a Private Muslim Day School in New York City," paper presented at the Middle East Studies Association annual conference, San Francisco, California
- "The Religious Self: Individual and Collective Identity Among Muslim New Yorkers," paper presented at the Muslim Communities in NYC Project Conference, Columbia University

Recent Interviews & Articles

- *The New York Times*, March 5 by Andrea Elliot, "[A Muslim Leader in Brooklyn, Reconciling Two Worlds](#)" 
- *MSNBC*, September 30, 2005 by Carmen Sesin, "Latino women finding a place in Islam"
- *Newsday*, July 31, 2005, by Martin C. Evans, "[Muslims try to find a common ground; There are more than 70,000 Muslims in both Nassau and Suffolk counties](#)"
- *Christian Science Monitor*, June 28, 2005 "[Muslim-US diplomacy - one teen at a time](#)"
- *New York Times*, October 5, 2004 "Study Finds City's Muslims Growing Closer Since 9/11."

Organizational links for this expert

- [Muslims In New York City](#)

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