Too often the Middle East is seen as a place of religious extremism filled with "covered up women," and stereotypical generalizations that have taken center stage both politically and socially. This workshop will provide an overview of the diversity of Muslims and Muslim culture, and address the "other-ness" and politicization that surrounds Muslim identity and how that experience can manifest in the classroom.

The session will:
1. Present a brief historical context of the relationship between the United States and the Middle East.
2. Familiarize teachers with the diversity of gender identity and expression among Muslim youth in the diaspora.
3. Share concrete strategies and multicultural literature that supports teacher's efforts to examine issues intersectionally in a way that accounts for the complicated identities of students.
4. Provide scenario-based activities in which participants will explore how to improve their daily classroom practices supporting Middle Eastern students.