In the post-civil rights movement era, racism is often covert and easily denied. It is in this broad context that Muslims in the U.S. are talked about as a racial group rather than the multiracial religious group that they actually are, which makes for a complex discourse. While 9/11 and consequent policies and government restructuring played a major role in perpetuating this racial discourse, it predates 9/11 and has undergone many shifts. The absence of black and African American Muslims from dominant explanations for this discourse makes room for a closer look. This talk explores the racial element to mainstream media representations of Muslims before and after 9/11 and what that means in our so-called "post-racial" times.

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