



Richard Herrmann (left), director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, introduces panelists at "Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World." Panelists included (seated left to right) Rob Fersh, Dalia Mogahed, Thomas Dine, and Paula Gutlove. They presented the U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project report on Friday, February 20, at Saxbe Auditorium in the Moritz College of Law. This event, sponsored by the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, drew an audience of over 200 people.



Robert Fersh, executive director of Search for Common Ground-USA, moderated the event "Changing Course: A New Direction for U.S. Relations with the Muslim World." He fielded questions from the audience about working through issues of conflict between Americans and Muslims.



Dalia Mogahed (left), executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, Thomas Dine (center), director of the Syria Project with Search for Common Ground and previous executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and Paula Gutlove (right), project manager for the U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project, spoke on February 20 about how the United States can improve relations with the Muslim world.



A mosque leader in the Columbus area poses a question to the panelists: "What are the first practical steps we can take to improve U.S.-Muslim relations?" Panelists offered suggestions of engaging in community dialogue and writing your political representatives about U.S.-Muslim relations.



Dalia Mogahed (right), executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, explains the methodology her center uses to gather and analyze data from the Muslim world. Mershon affiliated faculty members Carole Fink (left) and Irfan Nooruddin listen.



Thomas Dine (right), director of the Syria Project with Search for Common Ground, shared information about diplomatic initiatives to improve U.S.-Syrian relations. Rob Fersh (left), Herb Weisberg (center left), chair of the Political Science Department at Ohio State, and Paula Gutlove discussed Dine's experiences.



Dalia Mogahed (far right) discussed her research in the Muslim world with a small group of Mershon affiliated faculty. Pictured (left to right) are Erik Nisbet, Assistant Professor of Communication at Ohio State; Daniel Corstange, Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at University of Maryland; Carole Fink, Humanities Distinguished Professor of History at Ohio State; and Irfan Nooruddin, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Ohio State.



Paula Gutlove (standing), project manager of the U.S. Muslim Engagement Project, provides direction during a community dialogue session held at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies on February 19.



Members of Columbus business, academic, religious, and civic engagement communities gathered to participate in citizen dialogue about U.S. relations with the Muslim World.



Participants in the citizen dialogue share insights they gained from small group discussions about increasing mutual respect and understanding between Americans and Muslims.



Citizen dialogue leaders, Paula Gutlove (far left), project manager of the U.S. Muslim Engagement Project, and Maggie Lewis (center left), of the Ohio Commission on Conflict Resolution, listen to dialogue participants share ideas for continuing community discussion about U.S.-Muslim relations.