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## Amer F. Ahmed

A frequently requested keynote speaker, facilitator, and consultant, Amer F. Ahmed, Ed.D. skillfully interweaves social justice, diversity and inclusion, and intercultural frameworks to cultivate rich and meaningful dialogue with his audiences. He was born in Ohio to Indian Muslim immigrants, and draws on lived experience, deep theoretical analysis, and practical application to guide institutions, leadership, and workplaces on a path to transformative change.

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### In Brief

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### In Full

Born in Springfield, Ohio to Indian Muslim immigrants, Amer is a poet, Hip Hop activist, facilitator, college administrator, and intercultural diversity consultant. His lived experience as an Indian-Muslim-American and his global scholarship in Anthropology and Black Studies inspire him to promote respect and dignity for all people. Amer is especially passionate about empowering youth and communities through engagement in new and social media, arts, and facilitation.

Amer has served as Director of Intercultural Programs at Loras College and Concordia College (MN), Associate Director for Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs at University of Michigan and Dean of Sophomores at Swarthmore College. He is currently Director of Intercultural Teaching and Faculty Development at University of Massachusetts–Amherst, Faculty at the Summer and Winter Institutes for Intercultural Communication and a member of SpeakOut: Institute for Democratic Education.

Amer is also a prominent national speaker. He has been featured on MSNBC's "Melissa Harris Perry" show and in "Cracking the Codes," a documentary film on racism directed by Dr. Shakti Butler. Amer regularly speaks and consults with institutions across the country on Islam, Islamophobia and interfaith issues.

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## IMAGES



Download high resolution image files at <http://bit.ly/2oOTQmX>,  
or contact [pr@amerfahmed.com](mailto:pr@amerfahmed.com).



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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### Faculty Development Workshop on Inclusive Pedagogy: Classroom Teaching Strategies

As educational institutions continue to cultivate strategies for diverse and inclusive climates, there has been increased focus on student experiences in the classroom. This workshop will engage faculty with regards to pedagogy and classrooms methods that can create dynamic learning environments for students.

### Dismantling the 'U.S. versus International' Dichotomy: Creating Synergy between Intercultural and Diversity/Social Justice Approaches

Intercultural approaches are often adopted by those in organizations who engage in international and 'global' efforts while Diversity and Social Justice approaches tend to be viewed as only applicable in U.S. contexts. As the trend of 'Globalizing' Business, Higher Education and other sectors rapidly accelerates, there are many missed opportunities due to the lack of synthesis of the two approaches. This dichotomy often prevents us from understanding the relationship between local and global factors that impact our ability to engage constituencies holistically. For example, by engaging issues related to immigration and more specifically undocumented people in only one of these approaches, it prevents us from understanding the relationship between local and global factors impacting diverse contextual realities around the world. In addition, the integration of these approaches better highlights the historical context and inequities created from power dynamics that must be considered in order to effectively navigate intercultural realities in our world today.

### Addressing Islamophobia: Dispelling Myths to Break Down Barriers

The post-9/11 era in the U.S. has exposed a significant degree of prejudice and bigotry towards Muslim people (and those perceived as Muslims). More recently, as a result of the 2016 presidential election, broad vilification of Muslims has served political agendas resulting in calls for bans, registries and other civil liberty threats to the lives in Muslims in America. This program will benefit participants interested in learning more about Islam and Islamophobia, providing needed context to bridge divides.



## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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### Intercultural Leadership Development

Among the array of perspectives on Leadership, most tend to focus on positional and individual achievement. These approaches to leadership typically reinforce the message that individuals should operate according to dominant cultural norms in order to succeed. What happens when we begin to conceive of leadership in a fundamentally different way that accounts for the need for intercultural skills? This workshop will engage participants in cultivating intercultural skills as necessary for effective leadership in the twenty-first century. In this process, the goal will be to cultivate leadership that emphasizes community development, inclusion and equity rather than individual achievement.

### Hip Hop Education and Activism

Hip Hop is one of the most powerful cultural expressions in the world today. It is often utilized as a voice for marginalized people across numerous cultural contexts. As a result, there is tremendous potential for Hip Hop to playing an integral role in educating, empowering and transforming the lives of diverse and marginalized people around the world. This session will be an introduce participants into the role Hip Hop can play in creating dynamic change.

More topics and custom experiences  
available upon consultation.  
Contact [pr@amerfahmed.com](mailto:pr@amerfahmed.com)





## PRAISE

"Dr. Ahmed is a gifted catalyst for leveraging best practices and resources in the area of diversity and inclusion. Through Dr. Ahmed's work with our faculty, staff, senior leadership team and students, he has helped us leverage significant change."

– Dr. Melissa Morriss-Olson, Provost, Bay Path University

"Islamophobia, one of the most important issues of our time, comes face to face with one of the most precise presenters on the topic. With extensive experience, fierce insight and bold intelligence, Amer F. Ahmed unravels the culture of fear—and misinformation—that too often dominates our national understanding of race, equality, citizenship and American Muslims."

– Bakari Kitwana, author, *The Hip-Hop Generation*

"His is a fresh new vision of a world in which the very concept of culture is changed and we have much to learn from him."

– Patti Digh, Co-founder, The Circle Project and author, *Life is a Verb and Global Literacies*

"Amer Ahmed has a gift of being able to talk about Islamic history, traditions, and values without stimulating defensiveness or stirring up arguments in his listeners. He is wonderful at working with people at any level of sophistication; he widens our knowledge bases without making us feel like dunces. This takes great emotional and intellectual skill. Students identify with Amer's hip hop life as well, and feel inspired by having an Islamic hip hop brother."

– Peggy McIntosh, Ph.D., Founder and Senior Associate, National SEED Project, author of "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack"

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## CONNECT



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