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Faith and Forced Migration: Muslim
Humanitarianism in the Age of ISIS

Thursday, April 20, 2017
1:00pm—2:15pm
White Hall 112
Emory University

Prolonged conflict in the Middle East stemming from political instability and the rise of extremist violence has positioned Muslim aid and development organizations at the nexus of a number of key elements related to conflict resolution and post-conflict stabilization in the short, medium and long terms. As first-responders with broad and deep grass-roots networks, Muslim humanitarian groups are often gatekeepers for a range of transnational actors operating in and around conflict zones and are uniquely situated to provide relief to the most vulnerable victims of war and forced migration. Unfortunately, there is a deep mistrust between Muslim NGOs and those based in Western contexts which has resulted in little to no cooperation between agencies that might otherwise have tremendous impact if they worked together. In partnership with the British Council and The European Commission and through field research, policy dialogues, and organizational research, Dr. Barzegar has explored the reasons behind this impasse and trajectories for resolution over the last two years. In this public talk and discussion, he will share his findings and insights on how Muslim humanitarian and development agencies are operating in the current political climate of mutual fear and suspicion.

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