

***“There’s nothing like that first
Saturday morning when college
football starts”***

**Football Fandom Among
Muslim American Women in Wayne County, MI**

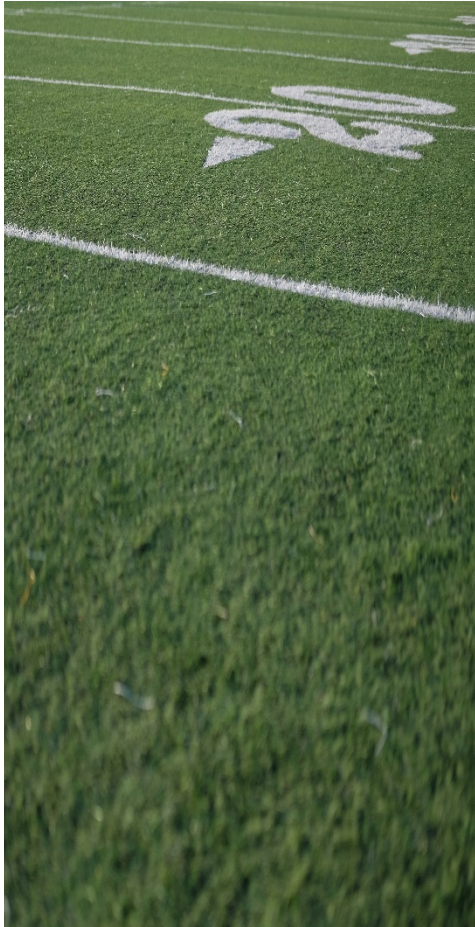
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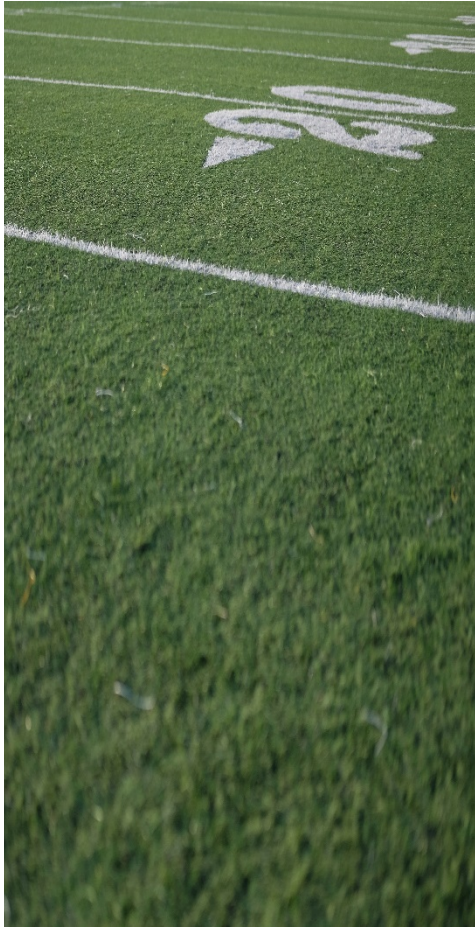
Research Questions



- Do Muslim American women in Wayne County, MI participate in local football culture?
- How do they participate in local football culture?
- How do they negotiate the creation of social identity through football fandom?



Methods



- From July-September 2018, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 6 women from Wayne County, MI who self-identified as Muslim and fans of American football.
- Interviews explored sport fandom, gender and sport, and religion and sport.
- Content analysis using grounded theory (Corbin and Strauss 2008) revealed key themes.



Key Theme 1

**Fandom Involves
Several Types of
Participation**



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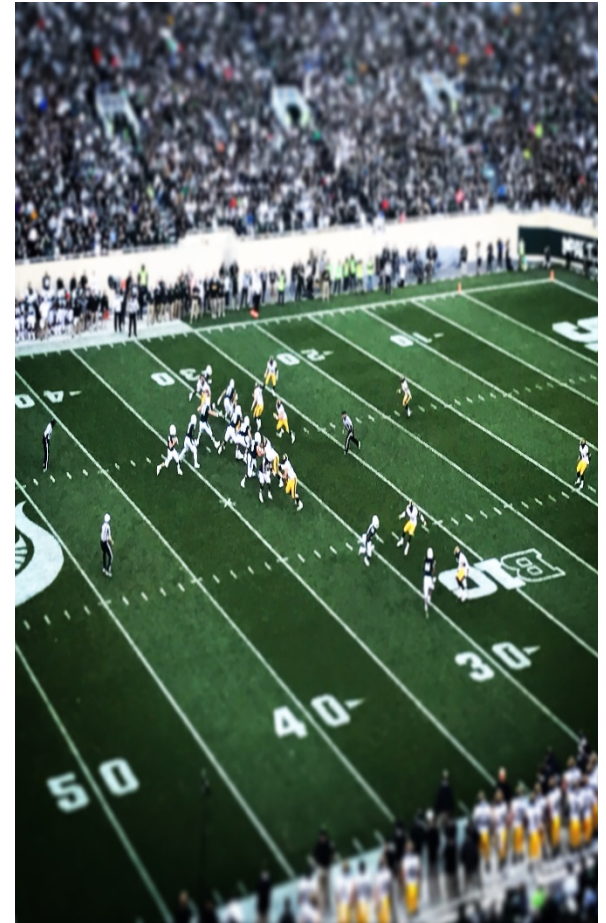
Key Theme 2

Religion Not Considered Influential to Sports Fandom



Key Theme 3

Gender as a Perceived Barrier to Authentic Fandom



Conclusions

- **For the Muslim American women in my study, football fandom was a major part of their identities.**
- **Gender shapes how female sports fans feel they are perceived and the extent to which they feel included in sports communities.**
- **Methodological Considerations:**
 - Limitations of Giulianotti's (2002) taxonomy of spectator identities.
 - Studying Muslim women sports fans requires broader approaches.
 - Transnational feminist framework advocated by Toffoletti and Palmer (2017)



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SPORTS AND SOCIETY



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Thank you for your time.



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