

From: Eleanor Levine

Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 4:32 PM

To: Ethnic Studies

Cc: eleanor levine

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for the ESMC, including Arab American studies

I am writing in support of the ESMC including Arab American Studies. If we want to raise and educate our next generation to be tolerant, to reject racist world views and behaviors, to reject xenophobic thinking and behaviors, we need to introduce our youth to the wealth of world views and behaviors that exist. Exposure to different and acceptance of different is essential.

On another note, speaking as an American Jew, I want to make it clear that teaching about and respect for Arab and Muslim points of view and lifestyles is not anti-semitic. As a Jew, I am insulted that others, including Jews, believe they can speak for me when they say that including Arab American studies is anti-semitic. Again, that is a great insult. It is not how I see the issue and I want my Jewish voice to be heard. I welcome "different", I welcome learning and teaching about Arab Americans, I welcome being inclusionary, and I endorse the notion that Justice and Peace will come only when we understand each other and can use that understanding to work together.

Thank you,
Eleanor Levine