

N.C. State's Society for Collegiate Journalists presents:

# PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY? MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

**SUNDAY, APRIL 22  
6-8 P.M.  
STEWART THEATRE  
FREE EVENT**

This panel discussion aims to encourage a healthy exchange of ideas and perspectives among the N.C. State community on a topic that is defining the world around us.

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Student Media  
OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY



Muslim Student  
Association (MSA)

## Panel of Speakers

### Mohamed Ali, Iraqi native

Mohamed Ali was born in Mosul, Iraq. Originally from the city of Samara, he also lived in Baghdad. He came to North Carolina after high school in 1979 and attended North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University where he studied engineering. He owns and operates Triangle Auto Import. Ali lives in Raleigh with his wife and three children, and has many extended family members in Iraq including one brother and two sisters.

### Jay Price, reporter

Jay Price has covered military affairs for the *News & Observer* since 1996. He was embedded in Iraq twice in 2003, in Afghanistan in 2005 and last fall traveled again to Iraq on loan to the Knight Ridder's Baghdad bureau. Price has won more than a dozen awards, including the Society for Professional Journalist's top prize in 2005 for non-deadline writing.

### Major Jeff Robertson, N.C. State Army ROTC

Major Jeff Robertson is a 1995 distinguished military graduate from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in political science. He served with the 82nd Airborne Division as an assistant operations officer in Afghanistan from July 2002 to December 2002 and a Rifle Company Commander in Iraq from August 2003 to May 2004.

### Melanie Sill, executive editor, *The News & Observer*

Melanie Sill is the executive editor for the *News & Observer*. She joined the *N&O* in 1982 as a feature writer and wrote enterprise stories from across the state until 1988, when she was promoted to assistant metro editor. Later, as deputy metro editor, she assigned and edited newsroom projects including "Children on the Edge," a series on North Carolina's failing juvenile justice system that won a number of state and national awards. She spent the 1993-94 academic year on leave from the paper as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

## Moderator

### Anna Bigelow, philosophy and religion professor, N.C. State

Anna Bigelow joined the faculty in philosophy and religion at N.C. State in fall 2003 as assistant professor. She received her master's from Columbia University and doctorate in religious studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara where her focus was on South Asian Islam. Her research agenda involves further study of contested and cooperatively patronized multiconfessional sacred sites and the inter-religious dynamic which complicate or ameliorate these relations in plural communities. She also has spoken on religious extremism, religion and conflict, and the role of Islam in the modern world.