

# SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS OF MUSLIM-LED NETWORKS IN THE TRIANGLE



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CONNECTIONS

**Graduate Team Researcher:** Lela Ali (MA'19, GLS, MIDP, Middle East Studies)  
**Faculty Advisors:** Abdeslam Maghraoui (Arts & Sciences- Political Science), Barak Richman (Fuqua School of Business), David Schanzer (Sanford School of Public Policy), David Siegal (Arts & Sciences- Political Science), and Giovanni Zanalda (Social Science Research Institute)

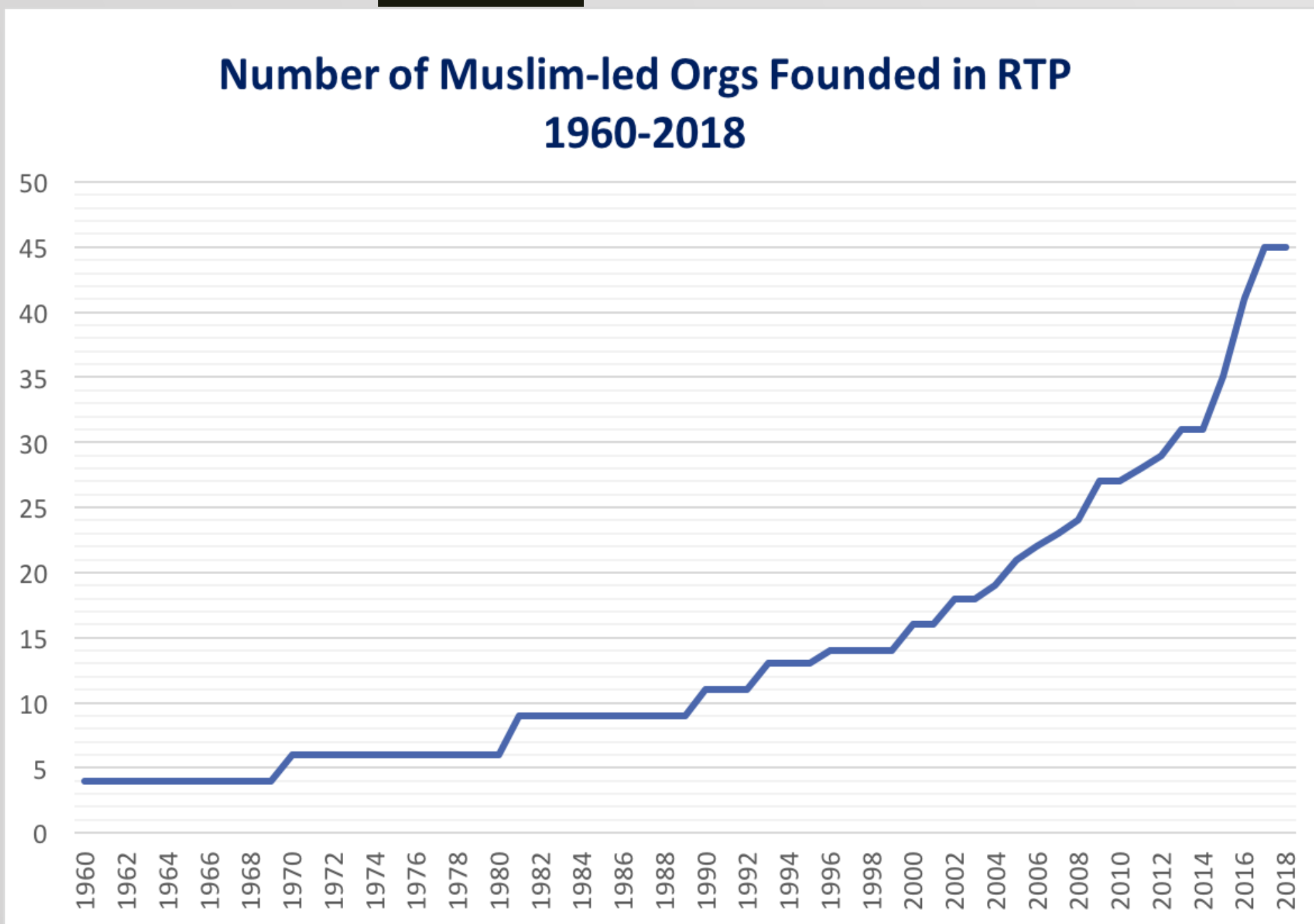
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## Overview

Local American-Muslim communities are mobilizing and organizing into networks to ensure their security and mobility, in the face of discrimination and the continued institutionalization of Islamophobia. The Research Triangle Park (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill) area in North Carolina is a great example of a community where there is an increasingly active network of Muslim-led organizations and institutions that are linking local Muslims with resources, services, and support.

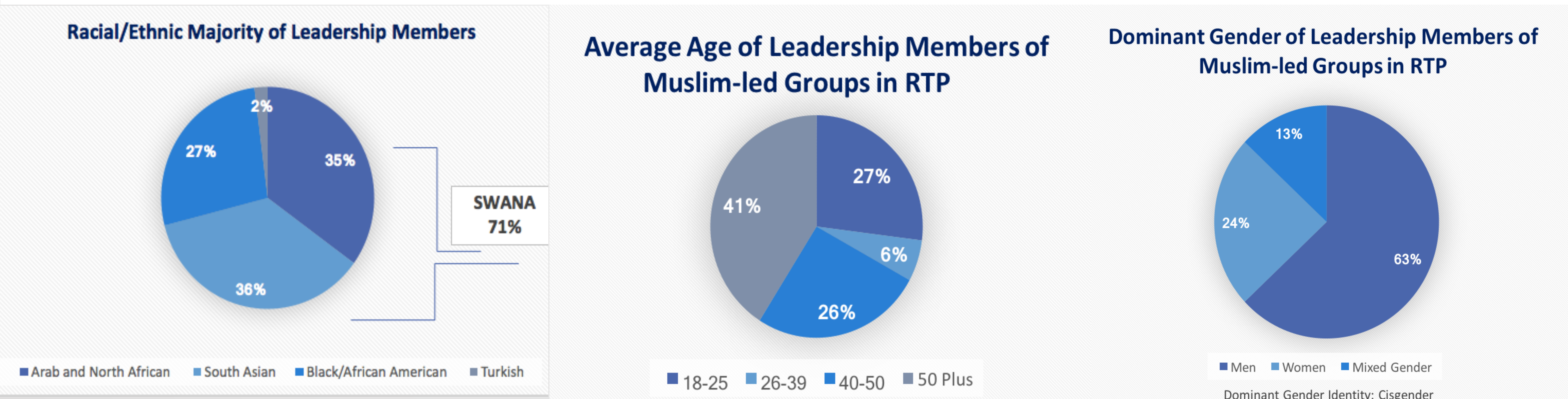
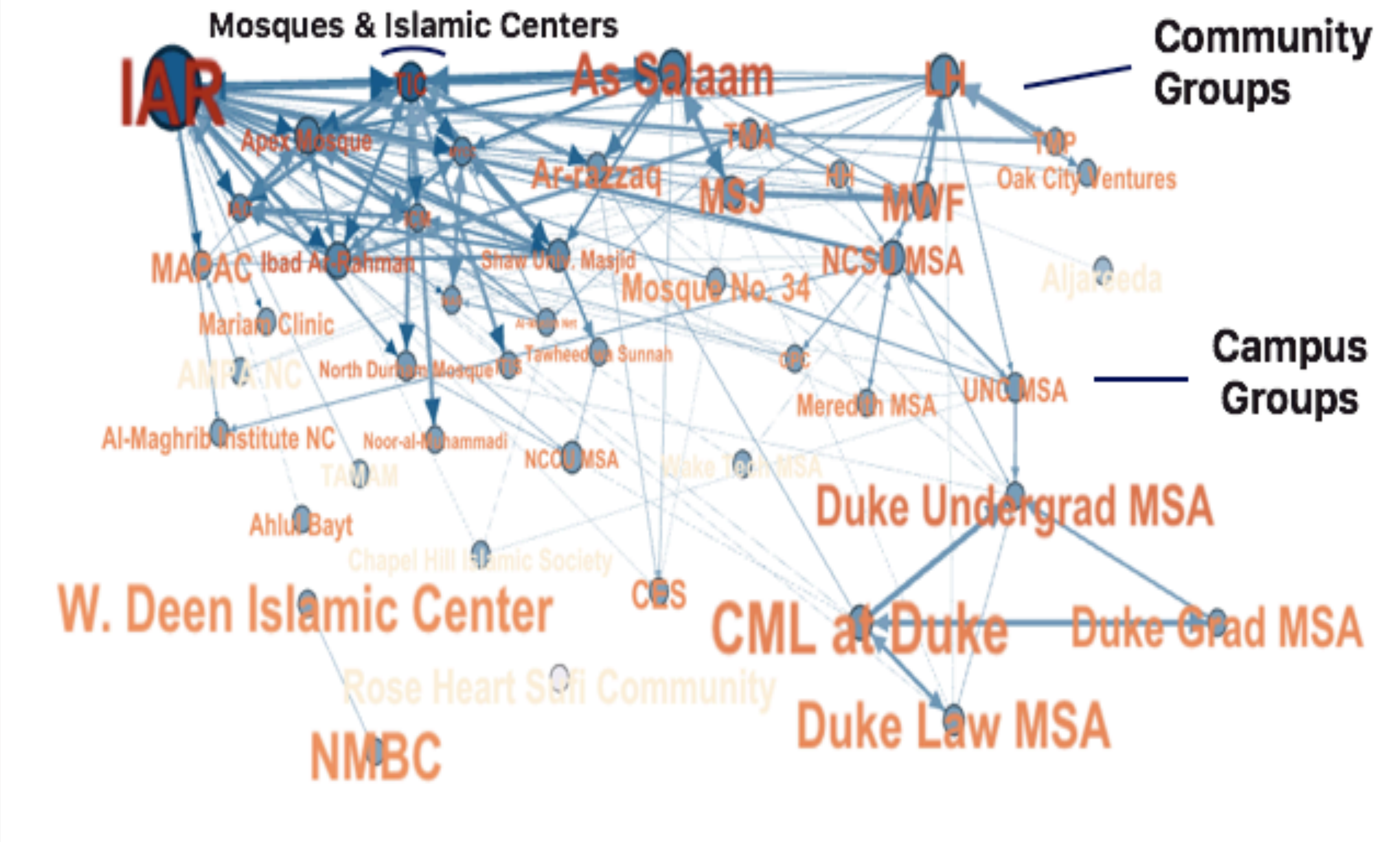
Using social network analysis, the objectives of this project aims to examine (1) whether or not a network exists among Muslim-led groups in RTP, (2) the characteristics and attributes of this network, and (3) the cohesiveness and strength of the network's ties by particularly evaluating the network's density and centrality measures. These objectives will be examined through a social network analysis

This study is essential for mapping out and identifying the characteristics and relationships of Muslim-led groups in RTP, and helping the community start to think about how to better navigate information, resources, and power in order to create a more strong and sustainable network.



"A project like this has been long overdue in our community and it has never been more necessary for Muslims to collectively work together to harness power and work towards creating change" ~Sr. Rhonda, Community Leader from As Salaam Islamic Center

## Results



## What's Next?

An open space will be organized for the Muslim community leaders of the 46 different Muslim-led organizations and institutions in the Triangle. This meeting will serve as a community space for revealing this research and data to community leaders and an opportunity for leaders to collectively start thinking about approaches towards better coalition and capacity building within their network.

## Methods

**Directed/Weighted SNA:**

- Nodes (46): Muslim-led groups
- Edges (217): Relationships/Ties

**Factors/Patterns of Edge Strength and Weight:**

- # of Times actors/nodes contact each other monthly
- # of events actors/nodes collaborate on annually
- Number of mutual members shared between actors/nodes
- Whether or not actors/nodes participate in the same coalition groups
- Whether or not actors/nodes are advisors or sponsors of one another

**Sample Identity:** 100 Muslim-identifying community leaders of 46 different Muslim-led organizations and institutions were identified through the reputational approach of SNA sampling selections

**Interviews:** Single one-on-one interviews were conducted with the 100 identified community leaders using survey questionnaires to collect data on:

- Patterns and strength of relationship ties between actor/nodes
- Node/Actor characteristics and attributes including organization size, issue area, leadership profiles (dominant age, gender, racial/ethnic background, professions), funding base, and geographical location

**Analysis:** Qualitative and quantitative data was analyzed through statistical analysis and social network graph theory using Gephi

## Conclusions

**Does a Network Exist? YES!**

**Network Profile Overview:**

- Low-density Network: 0.105**  
A density of 2.93% suggests that the network has a generally low level of cohesiveness and that information and resources are transferred slowly and possibly not to every actor within the network, without the help of central actors serving as bridges
- Clustering Coefficient: 0.347**  
There are 3 main cohesive, homophilous subgroups with strong ties that dominantly link organizations that share a common size and structure and have similar member profiles in terms of age group, racial/ethnic background, and professions of leadership members.

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Contact Information: lsa15@duke.edu