In his lecture, Professor Curtis will address issues of global anti-black racism in the African Diaspora, with a focus on Islamic ritual practices that utilize ideas of Black/African identity. He will compare the practices of African American Muslims in the United States to those of the Ghawarna of Jordan, the Stambeli of Tunis, and the Siddis of Gujarat. An association between black identity and healing can be a powerful antidote to racism. Curtis argues, however, that if modern and reformist versions of Islam deny the Islamic authenticity of such practices, this may get in the way of racial healing.

EDWARD E. CURTIS IV, Millennium Chair of the Liberal Arts and professor of Religious Studies at the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts in Indianapolis, is author or editor of 10 books about Muslim American and African American studies, including Muslim Americans in the Military: Centuries of Service and Muslims in America: A Short History. He is the recipient of Carnegie, Fulbright, Mellon, and National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships and grants.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017
5:30 to 7:30 PM
JAMES R. COX AUDITORIUM, UT ALUMNI MEMORIAL BUILDING

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