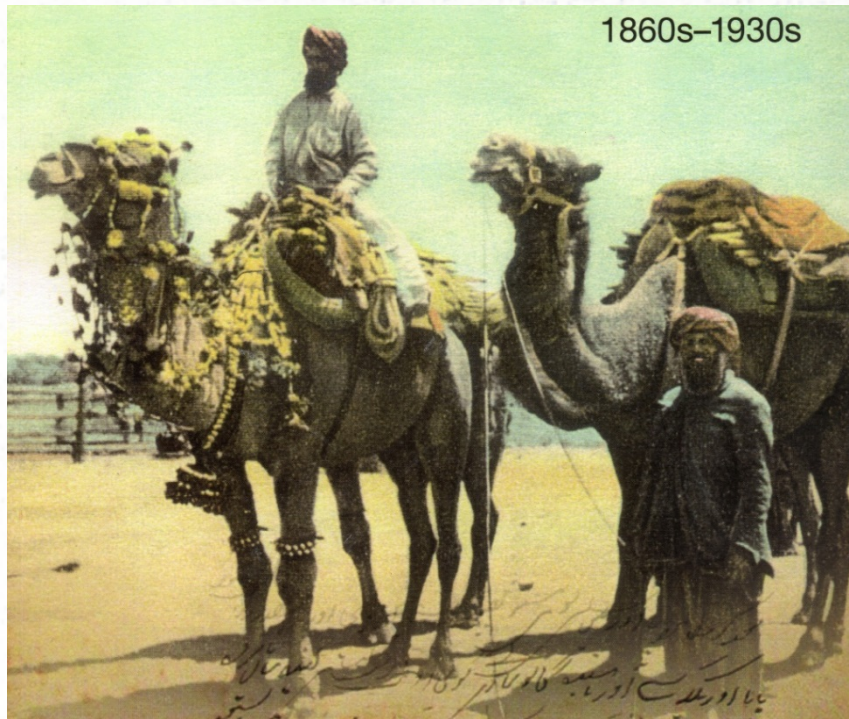


Narrative Non-fiction: Subverting Muslim Stereotypes

The stranger within my gate,
He may be true or kind,
But he does not talk my talk,
I cannot feel his mind.
I see the face and the eyes
and the mouth,
But not the soul behind

Rudyard Kipling *The Stranger* 1908

Past and Present



"These people are not like me."

"I have nothing in common with these people."

"Out of all the groups in Australian society, they
are the least like me."

This is the language of Social Distance Theory.
This is the language of racism.

Earlier Immigration Policies



- Most like us – Brits, N Europeans

- Less like us – Italians, Greeks, Turks

- Least like us

Not US!

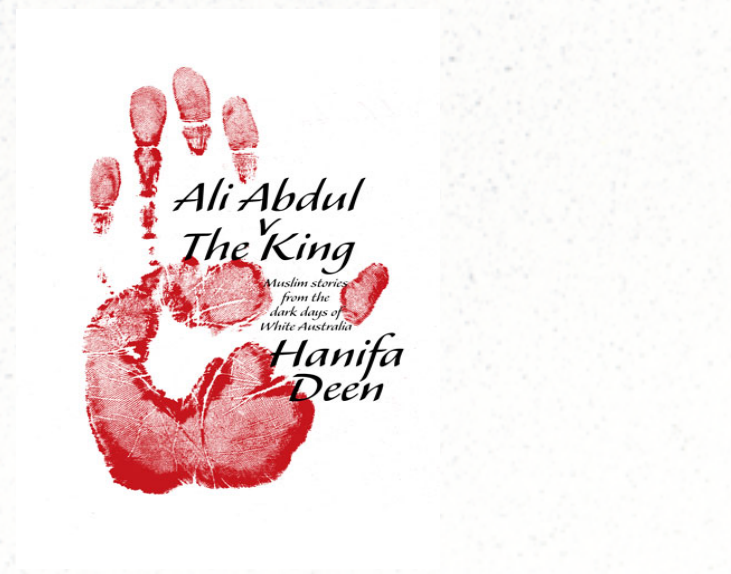
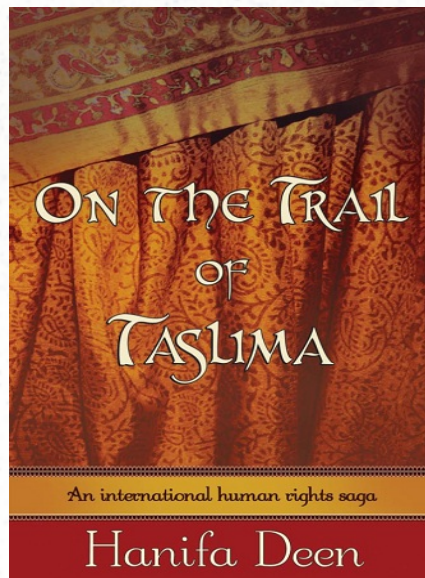
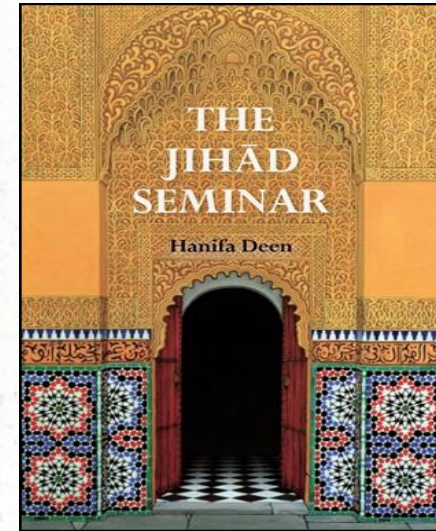
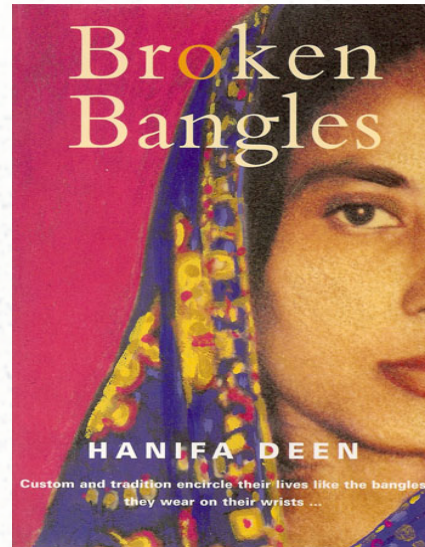
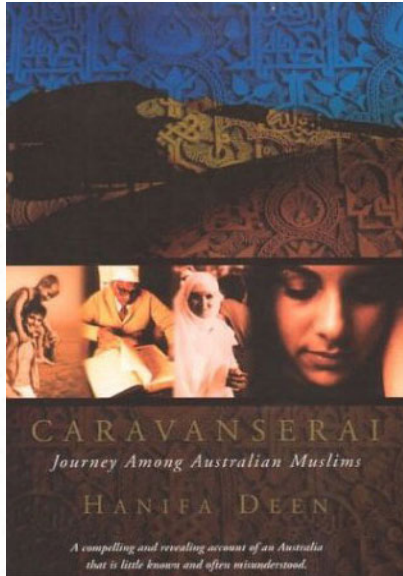
Stereotypes are Universal

Australian Muslims: "frozen in prayer."

Never:

The human face: mowing lawns, worrying about mortgages, losing jobs, falling in and out of love, telling their kids bedtime stories.

And Today...?



'You need a heart big enough to love two countries if you are an immigrant; it shouldn't be a case of choosing one over the other. It's like having two children; your heart must be big enough to love them both.'

Anis Kahil
Lakemba Butcher