

Sarah Lawrence College Women's History Graduate Program Presents:
11th Annual Women's History Conference
Gender and Power in the Muslim World
Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7, 2009
Free and Open to the Public
On the Campus of Sarah Lawrence College
(15 minutes north of Manhattan)

Register here: www.slac.edu/womens-history/conference

Gender and Power in the Muslim World

Western discourse on Muslims overflows with images of dangerous men and downtrodden women locked into monolithic traditions sharply at odds with life in the "modern" and "tolerant" West. We aim to dismantle such stereotypes by analyzing their construction, assessing their political valence, and exploring the realities they obscure. Within this context we especially seek to challenge essentialist understandings of masculinity, femininity, and Muslim communities, societies and cultures.

Preliminary Schedule

(subject to change)

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in the
Monika A. and Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Visual Arts Center.

Friday, March 6, 2009

4 – 8 p.m., Heimbold Lobby

Registration

6 – 8 p.m., Heimbold 202

Opening Plenary Session

Welcome: Tara James, Associate Director,
Graduate Program in Women's History, Sarah Lawrence College

Keynote Address: Mona Eltahawy

Award-Winning Syndicated Columnist and International Public Speaker

8 – 9:30 p.m., Slonim Living Room

Opening Reception, Sponsored by the Student Life Diversity Sub-Committee

Saturday, March 7, 2009

8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Heibold Lobby

Registration

8 – 9 a.m., Heibold Lobby

Breakfast Reception

9 – 10:15 a.m., Heibold 202

Plenary Session

Opening Remarks: Priscilla Murolo, Director,
Graduate Program in Women's History, Sarah Lawrence College

Plenary Panel

*Sensationalizing "Honor Killings":
Western Representations of Violence Against Muslim Women*

Naazneen Diwan, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
*The French Penal Code in Syria and Lebanon:
Reduced Penalties for Male Perpetrators of Domestic Violence*

Leila Pazargadi, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
*Marketing "Honor Killing" Memoirs: Confronting Western Depictions of Muslim
Women*

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Breakout Session I

Panel

The Politics of Marriage in Egypt

Hanan Kholoussy, The American University in Cairo
The Marriage Crisis and the Making of Modern Egypt

Lisa Pollard, University of North Carolina
Manly Men and Marital Politics in Egypt's Inter-Revolutionary Era

Joel Gordon, University of Arkansas
Bad Girls, Good Wives? Love and Marriage in Nasser's Egypt

Diane Singerman, American University
Silences, Statistics, and Policy Analysis: The Costs of Marriage in Egypt

Workshop

What Does the Veil Mean to Me?

Presenter: Jennifer Heath, Independent Scholar, Author, and Journalist

Panel

Race, Class, and Sexuality

Max Kramer, Sarah Lawrence College
The Globalization of Gay Identity: The Question of Gender and Power in Male-Male Sexuality in Muslim-Majority Societies

Vika Gardner, Allegheny College
Constructions of Gender and Sexuality in the Bahāristān of Jāmī

Rodney Collins, Columbia University
From Coffee to Manhood: Grounds for Exchange in the Tunisian Coffeehouse, ca. 1898–2008

Gabeba Baderoon, Pennsylvania State University
Passive Men and Compliant Women: Slavery, Islam, and the Making of Race and Sex in South Africa

Panel

Women's Bodies and the Law

Karen Kern, Hunter College
Gender, the Law, and Milk Marriage in Late Ottoman Birecik

Mary Ann Maslak, St. John's University
The Politics and Practice of Women's Rights in Turkey

Mario Ruiz, Hofstra University
Egyptian Narratives of Miscarriage and Loss

Anissa Helie, John Jay College
Sexualities, Rights, and Responses in Muslim Contexts

Panel

Reform, Renewal, and Diversity in Islam

Nerina Rustomji, St. John's University
Feminine Rewards: Contrasting Medieval and Contemporary Interpretations of Women's Lives in Islamic Paradise

Fatma Tütüncü, Harvard University (visiting scholar)
The Politics of Preaching at the Intersection of Gender and Ethnicity in a Secular State: Assessing the Role of Official Women Preachers in Turkey

Juliane Hammer, University of North Carolina
A Woman Leading Prayer: Muslim Discourses on Ritual Leadership, Mosque Space, and Scriptural Interpretation

12:30 – 1:15 p.m., Heimbald Lobby

Lunch Break

1:30 – 3 p.m., Breakout Session II

Workshop
Assessing the Impact of the 2004 Moudawana on Women's Rights in Morocco

Presenter: Beth Malchiodi, Brooklyn Technical High School

Panel
Religious Education

Fida Adely, Georgetown University
Teacher, Text, and Television: Making Proper Faith in a Girls' School

Svetlana Peshkova, Syracuse University
Muslim Women Leaders in the Ferghana Valley: Whose Leadership Is It, Anyway?

Riham Bahi, Cairo University, Egypt, and Bryant University
Lost in Interpretation: Recovering the Egalitarian Voice of Islam

Panel
Through Western Eyes

Aidan Smith, University of Hawaii
The Suppressive and the Submissive: Representations of Muslim Gender Roles in U.S. Presidential Oratory and Broadcast Television

Sarah Carnahan, The Ohio State University
Precarious Writing: Locating Shared Vulnerability in the Writing of Suheir Hammad

Bergita Nokaj, Sarah Lawrence College
Claiming Modernity: Kosovar Albanians in the Diaspora

Panel

Veiled Politics in Western Europe

Habiba Boumlik, Sarah Lawrence College
The Headscarf Affairs in France: From Islam in France to Islam of France

Nagihan Haliloglu, University of Heidelberg, Germany
Irreducible Difference? The Islamic Veil in Europe

Nadeen M. Thomas, City University of New York (CUNY) and Sarah Lawrence College
Fadela Amara and the Politics of Anti-Identity in France

Panel

Women's Community Activism

Lisa Worthington, University of Sydney, Australia
Citizenship and Sydney Muslim Women

Sarah Lockridge, University of Southern Maine
*Gift-Giving as Strategies for Economic Empowerment:
Muslim Mothers and Daughters Networking and Community Organizing*

Beverly Mack, University of Kansas
*American 'Yan Taru: A 19th Century Model for 21st Century Muslimahs:
How Historical Women's Roles Are Shaping Modern Islam*

Anna C. Oldfield, Hamilton College
Music, Power, and the Voice of Tradition: The Women Ashiqs of Azerbaijan

3:15–5 p.m., Breakout Session III

Panel

Women and/in Power

Elena Kim, American University (Central Asia) Bishkek
*Women's Activism in Religious Fundamentalism:
Case Study of Hizb Ut-Tahrir, Kyrgyzstan*

Nahla Yassine-Hamdan, Wayne State University

Civil Conflict and Women's Political Participation: A Case Study of Lebanon

Gregorio Rodriguez-Arbolay, Sarah Lawrence College
*Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Contemporary Political Discourse on
Islam and Multiculturalism in the Netherlands: 2002-2006*

Panel

Diaspora

Dr. Mahjabeen Hassan, Phelps Memorial, Sleepy Hollow, St John's Riverside, and
Dobbs Ferry Hospitals
My American Journey

Sabah Firoz Uddin, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
*The Deployment of Muslim Women-Only Spaces in the British Landscape:
Is It a Move from the Margins?*

Kumru Toktamis, Pratt Institute and Brooklyn College
Diversity and Change among Young Muslim Women in Brooklyn College, CUNY

Panel

Reflexive Embodiment and the Muslim Woman of Singapore

Nurhaizatul Jamila Jamil, National University of Singapore
*Searching for Heaven beneath My Mother's Feet:
Adat, Islam, and the Female Body in Contemporary Singapore*

Adlina Maulod, National University of Singapore
*"Because Allah Said So": Female Masculinity in the
Malay Muslim Community of Singapore*

Panel

Encounters: Feminism and Islam

Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Brandeis University
Black Feminism and Literary Islam

Ghazala Hashmi, J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College
Privileged Spaces and Public Faces: American Universities and Muslim Women Scholars

Megan Sibbett, University of Texas at San Antonio
The Terror That Is Us: Traditions of Resistance from the Adversary Stance

Panel

Representation and/as Resistance

Richard Gabri, Northwestern University
Iranian Masculinity in Iranian Film

Trudy Anderson, United Arab Emirates University
*Filmmaking in the Middle East/North Africa:
The Image of Arab Women in Resistance to American Media Imperialism*

Mary Ann Fay, Morgan State University
*Reimagining the Harem: From Orientalist Representations to
Historical Reconstruction through the Lives of Two Egyptian Women*

5–5:30 p.m., Heimbold Lobby

Networking Reception

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For questions or additional information, contact:
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www.slc.edu/womens-history/conference