



Women's Quests for Rights in the Middle East and North Africa:

Contestations, Complexities, Contradiction

Conference Agenda

Friday, April 5th

9:30am – 10:00am Registration and Reception

10:00am-10:30am Welcome

Enakshi Dua (Director of Centre for Feminist Research)

Haideh Moghissi (York University, Trudeau Fellow)

Martin Singer (Dean of Arts and Liberal Studies)

10:30am-12:30pm Plenary Panel: *Transition to Democracy, Placing Gender Justice at the Heart of the Revolutionary Discourse.*

Chair: Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, York University

“Women’s Solidarity in Post-Revolution Tunisia” by Amel Grami (University of Manouba/Tunisia)

“Between Racialized Stereotypes and Ideological Pedestals: Egyptian Women following the Uprising” by Nadia Habib (York University)

“A Shift in Consciousness and Practice is More Urgent than Ever: Women’s Rights in the Post-Revolutionary Arab Region” by Zeina Zaatari (University of California, Davis)

“Islamizing the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: The ‘Democratic’ Agenda of Islamists and its Consequences for Women” by Afiya Zia (Feminist Activist and Researcher, Pakistan)

12:30pm – 2:00pm Lunch

2:00pm – 3:30pm Panel 1: *Case Studies of Iran*

Chair: Donya Ziaee, PhD Candidate, Gender, Feminist, and Women’s Studies, York University

“(Re)Fashioning the Iranian Woman: Dress and Resistance in Iran” by Shirin Abdmolaei (Concordia University)

“Mixed Marriage and the Restricted Right of Iranian Mother to Pass the Iranian Nationality to her Child” by Safinaz Jadali (UQAM University) and Farshi Farzin (Independent Scholar)

“Political Transnational Engagements among the Iranian Diaspora and the Shifts in the Diasporic Identities of Iranians through Time” by Bahar Hashemi (York University)

3:30pm – 3:45pm Health Break

3:45pm – 5:00pm Panel 2: *Case Studies of Egypt*

Chair: TBD

“Negotiating Social Geographies: A Visual Culture Analysis of Women’s Artist Graffiti During the Egyptian Spring” by alma khasawnih (University of Washington)

“Silencing Women in Tahrir Square” by Fidaa Shehada (Rutgers, State University of New Jersey)

“The Three Waves of Plato’s Republic: An Examination of the Role of Women Outlined by the New Egyptian Constitution” by Jessica Jones (Carleton University)

Saturday, April 6th

10:00am – 12:30pm **Plenary Panel: *Contemporary Challenges Faced by Feminist Activists in MENA***

Chair: Shahrzad Mojab, Professor, Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, OISE, University of Toronto

“Sidi Bouzid Blues and the Green Wave: Journeys through the Arab Spring and Fall” by Karima Bennouna (University of California, Davis)

“Changes in Women’s Literature During the Arab Revolutions” by Hanadi Zarka (Al Adiat Association)

“Voices unveiled: “I Act, Therefore I Am”” by Minoo Derayeh (York University)

12:30 – 2:00pm **Lunch**

2:00pm – 3:30pm **Panel 3: *Case Studies of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain***

Chair: Saba Abbas, PhD Candidate, Gender, Feminist, and Women’s Studies, York University

“Bodily Formations of the ‘Secular’ and the ‘Religious’: A Case Study of Women in Turkish Military Families” by Hulya Arik (York University)

“Women in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia: Before and After the ‘Arab Spring’” by Gunmeen Singh (Independent Scholar)

3:30pm – 3:45pm **Health Break**

3:45pm – 4:15pm **Closing comments with Haideh Moghissi (York University)**