

York University  
International Conference on

***The Making of the Islamic Diaspora***  
May, 7-9, 2004, Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto

**Sponsored by: SSHRCC, MCRI, Diaspora, Islam, and Gender Project, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal And Professional Studies, York University; The Ford Foundation Educational Project for Palestinians; York Centre for Refugee Studies; York Center for Feminist Research**

**Schedule:**

**Friday, May 7**

**Location: All Panels at The Rossetti Room**

**8:30-9:00 AM: Registration**

**9:00-9:30 AM: Welcoming Remarks**

**9:30-11:15 AM: Panel 1: Memory and Identity in the Diaspora**

Chair: Carla Cassidy, Ryerson University, Canada

- ❖ Mary Ann Tétreault, Trinity University, USA, *Divided Communities of Memory: Diasporas Come Home.*
- ❖ Razmik Panossian, Rights and Democracy, Montreal, *Non-Muslim Diasporas in and from Islamic States: The Construction of Armenian Identity in the Middle East and North America.*
- ❖ Nergis Canefe, York University, Canada, *Tradition, National Belonging and Religious Identity in the Diaspora.*
- ❖ Mark Goodman, York University, Canada, *Diaspora, Violence and Identity: Dislocation and the African-American Experience.*

**11:15-11:30 AM: Coffee Break**

**11:30-1:15: Panel 2: Contested Terrains: Cultural Differences and Differentiations**

Chair: Malcolm Blincow, York University, Canada

- ❖ Mohammad Qadeer, Queen's University, Canada, *Social Construction of Islam in Pakistan: The Invention of Tradition.*
- ❖ Omar Zakhilwal, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Kabul, Afghanistan, *Afghan Diaspora in Afghanistan State Building.*
- ❖ Hamed Shahidian, University of Illinois at Springfield, USA, *The Diasporic Coma: Cultural Politics, Gender and the representation of the Iranian Diaspora in the Islamic Republic.*
- ❖ Aylin Akpınar, Bahcesehir University, Istanbul, Turkey, *Discourses of Islam/Secularism and Identity Building Processes Among Turkish University Youth. Was third in panel – moved to last in panel to match 3 fold program.*

**1:15-2:30 PM: Lunch**

**2:30-4:15 PM: Panel 3: Gender in Diaspora**

Chair: Roberta Hamilton, Queen's University, Canada

- ❖ Rosemary Sayigh, Anthropologist and Oral historian, Beirut, Lebanon, *Islamic "by default" Lebanon, A frame of Gender Ideology and Practice in Palestinian Refugee Camps.*
- ❖ Haleh Afshar, University of York, England, *Ascribed and Adopted Identities; Women of Pakistani Descent in Bradford.*
- ❖ Shahrzad Mojab, University of Toronto, Canada *Gender Nation and Diaspora; Kurdish Women in Transnational Struggles.*
- ❖ May Seikaly, Wayne State University, USA, *Expanding the Boundaries of Identity and Assimilation.*

**Saturday, May 8**

**Location: All panels at The Rossetti Room**

**9-10:45 AM: Panel 4: Cultural Continuities and Contradictions**

Chair: Tania Das Gupta, York University

- ❖ Ada Lonni, University of Turin, Italy, *Mediterranean Diasporas, Yesterday and Today; Reality and Perception.*
- ❖ Mary Hegland, Santa Clara University, California, USA, *Finding Meaning in a Transforming World; Iranian Diasporic Elderly.*
- ❖ Niloufar Pourzand, UNICEF, Tajikistan, *The Near-Abroad Diaspora: Lives of Afghan Educated Women in Pakistan.*
- ❖ Shahnaz Khan, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada, *Reconfiguring Native Informing: Reading the Zina Ordinance.*

**10:45-11:00 AM: Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:45 PM: Panel 5: Islam, Fundamentalism, & Human Rights**

Chair: Ted Lawson, University of Toronto, Canada

- ❖ Ann Elizabeth Meyer, University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School, USA, *International Human Rights and the Diaspora: What Can the Shirin Ebadi Case Tell Us?*
- ❖ Riffat Hassan, University of Louisville, USA, *Human Rights in Islam.*
- ❖ Ezat Mossalanejad, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Toronto, Canada, *Islam and Consecrated Torture.*
- ❖ Saeed Rahnema, York University, Canada, *Islamic Fundamentalism and Mass Political Mobilization.*

**12:45-2:00 PM: Lunch**

**2:00-3:45 PM: Panel 6: The Second Generation in the Diaspora; Challenges and Responses**

Chair: Wenona Giles, York University, Canada

- ❖ Marie McAndrew, University of Montreal, Canada, *The Hijab Controversies in Western Public Schools: Contrasting Conceptions of Ethnicity and Ethnic Relations.*
- ❖ Khalida Zaki, Michigan State University, USA, *Muslim Youth, Schools, and Parents' Concerns; Muslim Community of Greater Lansing Area, Michigan. Co-researchers, Deborah Johnson, and Janine Sinno.*
- ❖ Denise Helly, University of Quebec, Canada, *How to define a diaspora: History of a Concept.*
- ❖ Azizeh Arshadi, Lawyer, Paris, France, *New Controversies over the Hijab in France.*

**7-10 PM: Dinner Reception,**

**Location: Scott Room Hall, Delta Chelsea Hotel,**

Guest of Honour, The Honourable Zahira Kamal, Minister of Women's Affairs, Palestinian National Authority, Ramallah.

**Sunday, May 9**

**Location: All panels at the Rossetti Room**

**9:00-10:45 AM: Panel 7: Media and Representation**

Chair: Colin Mooers, Ryerson University, Canada

- ❖ Reza Baraheni, University of Toronto, Canada, *Exilic Reading of Three Texts; The Torah, The New Testament, and the Quran.*
- ❖ Samir Ayoub, Beirut Arab University, *The Identity Process and Palestinian Family; Comparing those in Palestine and in Diaspora.*
- ❖ Amir Hassanpour, University of Toronto, Canada, *Western Mainstream Media, the Middle East, and Its North American Diaspora.*
- ❖ Najib Manalai, Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, Paris, France, *Afghans in the Diaspora.*

**10-45-11:00: Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30 PM: Panel 8: Diaspora, Islam, and Gender Project**

Chair: Vigay Agnew, York University

- ❖ Haideh Moghissi, York University, Canada, *Conceptual Framework and Challenges of the Diaspora project.*
- ❖ Susan Babbitt, Queen's University, Canada, *Meta-Ethical Issues in the Study of Diaspora.*
- ❖ Afsaneh Ashrafi, UNHCR, Iran, *Afghans in Iran.*

- ❖ Michelle Lowry, Behzad Ghotb, Marianne Vardalos, York University, *Afghans, Iranians, Pakistanis, and Palestinians in Canada: A Comparative Analysis*.

**12:30 PM: Concluding Remarks**

Haideh Moghissi, York University, Canada.