



AMED Spring, '09 Colloquia Series

Khanum Shaikh
Doctoral Candidate, Women Studies, UCLA

The Production & Reception of New Religiosities: *Al-Huda* International & the Limits of Multicultural Tolerance

Thursday, February 19th, 2009.
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
EP 116

Abstract

Muslim women are intervening in the production and dissemination of Islamic knowledge from diverse geographical locations in unprecedented ways. This talk arises out of a transnational feminist study of *Al-Huda* International - the most prominent women's organization for societal reform through religious education based in urban Pakistan. Over the last 14 years, leaders of this group have employed innovative technological and pedagogical approaches to forge both physical and virtual communities of religious study that transgress national boundaries. Based on fieldwork conducted in Pakistan and Canada my talk will shed light on the new expressions of religiosity generated through participation in this movement, as well as the various ways that these expressions are being racialized and gendered as they are interpreted within contemporary discourses on citizenship, national security, and liberal multiculturalism in Canada.

About the Speaker:

Khanum Shaikh is a Doctoral Candidate in the Women's Studies Program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Her work is located at the intersections of transnational feminist and post-colonial studies with an emphasis on gender and Islam in transnationality. She has over 6 years of teaching experience in Women's Studies Programs in the California State University system. She was awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for 2006-2007, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Grant for 2007-8, and the Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship for 2007. Shaikh is also a recipient of the Constance Coiner Graduate Award for Activism and Research in 2006.