

Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam

Annual Lecture Series featuring

Dr. Ziba Mir- Hosseini
Professor, London University

Organized and moderated by Dr. Souad T. Ali,
CAIS Founding Chair

September 28, 2023
12:00 PM AZ time, 8:00 PM UK time

<https://asu.zoom.us/j/3813141796>

Free & open to all ASU students, faculty, staff & the public

Since the early 1990s, two questions have been at the centre of my work: Is it possible to argue, from within an Islamic framework, for equality between men and women? If so, how and through what processes? My approach to these questions has involved conversations with both traditionalist and reformist thinkers, and collaboration with Muslim feminist scholars and activists.

In this lecture, I shall talk about the potential of this approach through conversation and collaboration, which I developed as way to challenge patriarchal thinking in the Islamic tradition, and to construct a new and egalitarian gender discourse from within the tradition. I shall refer to my recent book, *Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam* (2022) and my 15-year involvement in Musawah (www.musawah.org), a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family.



Ziba Mir-Hosseini (www.zibamirhosseini.com) is a legal anthropologist, specializing in Islamic law, gender and Islamic feminism, and a founding member of Musawah. She obtained her BA from Tehran University and PhD from Cambridge University, and has held numerous research fellowships and visiting professorships, including Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (2004-5), and Hauser Global Law Visiting Professor at New York University (2002-2019). Currently, she is Professorial Research Associate at the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, SOAS, University of London. She has published books on Islamic family law in Iran and Morocco, Iranian clerical discourses on gender and democracy, Islamic reformist thinkers, and the revival of *zina* laws. Her latest book is *Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam* (2022). She has been lead editor of several books, most recently *Gender and Equality in Muslim Family Law: Justice and Ethics in the Islamic Legal Tradition* (2013), *Men in Charge? Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition* (2015), and *Justice and Beauty in Muslim Marriage: Toward Egalitarian Ethics and Laws* (2022). She also co-directed two award-winning feature-length documentary films on Iran: *Divorce Iranian Style* (1998) and *Runaway* (2001). In 2015, she

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