

## Conference Speakers

**Cassandra Balchin** is a freelance researcher, writer and trainer specialising in gender, law and culture. She is currently Chair of the Muslim Women's Network-UK, has been part of the network Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) for some 15 years, and is on the international advisory group for Musawah: a global initiative for equality and justice in the Muslim family. Her most recent publications include 'Emergence of a transnational Muslim feminist consciousness among women in the WENAAZ (Western Europe, North America, Australia & New Zealand) context', in Haideh Moghissi and Halleh Ghorashi (eds.), *Muslim Diaspora in the West*, Ashgate publishing, UK (forthcoming December 2010); and *When Legal Worlds Overlap: Human Rights, State and Non-State Law*, International Council on Human Rights Policy, Geneva, 2009 ([http://www.ichrp.org/en/zoomin/when\\_legal\\_worlds\\_overlap](http://www.ichrp.org/en/zoomin/when_legal_worlds_overlap)).

**Katherine E. Brown** is a lecturer in the Defence Studies Department, at King's College London. Her work draws on three intellectual heritages: feminism, human rights, and critical war/security studies. She currently researches the role of Muslim women in security politics, with a focus on the UK, as well as Muslim women's participation in political violence. Her work has been generously funded by the ESRC, British Academy, and King's College London, and she has published and presented her findings widely. More details can be found at <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/defence/staff/acad/kbrown.html>.

**Amel Boubekeur** was, until recently, a resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. She is a regular consultant for various United Nations agencies, the European Commission and the Open Society Institute. Currently, she is Research Fellow at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Her research focuses on Maghreb country politics, Euro–Arab relations, and Islam in Europe. Her most recent publications are: *Le voile de la mariée : Jeunes musulmanes, voile et projet matrimonial en France* (edited with Farhad Khosrokhovar, 2004); *European Islam: the Challenges for Society and Policy* (edited with Samir Amghar and Michael Emerson, 2007); *Whatever Happened to the Islamists? Salafis, Heavy Metal Muslims and the Lure of Consumerist Islam* (edited with Olivier Roy, 2008). For more information see <http://amelboubekeur.com/>.

**Rokhaya Diallo** is the founder-director of Les Indivisibles, a Paris-based organisation which brings together activists whose aim is to shatter ethno-'racial'/ethno-religious stereotypes and to combat racism and discrimination in French society through various audio-visual media. She has been involved in grass-roots politics over many years and was previously an activist-member of the feminist organisation Mix-Cité and later ATTAC (an anti-capitalist/anti-globalisation movement). She has made several radio and TV appearances and in March 2010 was selected to be part of the US government's International Visitor Leadership Program which has focused on the inclusion and effective participation of ethnic minorities in the political sphere since Obama's election as president. For further details see <http://www.lesindivisibles.fr/>.

**Giulia Fabbiano** is Associate Research Fellow in the Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques, at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. She has lectured at the University of Bretagne and Paris 13 and has also worked on a project on diversity funded by the French government's Department of Education. Her current research centres on Algerian migration to France; the social usage of concepts of 'diversity' in France; processes of identity formation and agency among women from Muslim backgrounds. She has published a number of short works including scholarly articles for the journals *Migrations Société* and the *Revue de Civilisation Contemporaine*. For more details, see <http://dyonisos.ehess.fr/centres/cadis/francais/pages/chercheurs/pres-fabbiano.html>.

**Nadia Falfoul**

To be added

**Shaista Gohir** is Executive Director of Muslim Women's Network UK as well as founder and Director of Muslim Voice UK, an online polling organisation which aims to advance Muslim participation in decision making. She is also founder of Big Sister, a website highlighting Muslim female role models. She is an accredited specialist peer for the Improvement and Development Agency – a role which involves developing and sharing best practice with local authorities to prevent violent extremism. Shaista is a former member of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (NMWAG) – an independent group set up to advise government on how to empower Muslim women and increase their participation in civic, economic and social life. She contributes regular opinion pieces and comments on Muslim community issues in the media and speaks at events in the UK and elsewhere. In 2008, she was awarded the MBE and in 2009, was included in the Muslim Women Power list which named the most influential Muslim women in Britain. For more details see <http://shaistagohir.com/about/>.

**Danièle Joly** is Professor in Ethnic Relations, at the University of Warwick and Director of the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations (CRER). She has published on Muslim populations in Britain, on ethnic relations and on refugees in Europe. She is author of *L'Émeute* (2007), *Muslims in Prison* (2005), *Blacks and Britannia* (2001), *Haven or Hell: Asylum Policy and Refugees in Europe* (1996), *Britannia's Crescent: Making a Place for Muslims in British Society* (1995), *Refugees: Asylum in Europe* (1992) and *The French Communist Party and the Algerian War* (1991). She is editor of *International Migration in the new Millennium* (2004), *Global Convergence in Asylum Regimes* (2001), *Scapegoats and Social Actors* (1998), and co-editor of *Immigrant Associations in Europe* (1987) and of *Reluctant Hosts: Europe and its Refugees* (1989). She is an active member of various European networks of researchers on refugees and asylum. More details can be found at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/shss/expertise/joly..>

**Maleiha Malik** is Professor in Law at Kings College London. She is a barrister and a member and fellow of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. She has written extensively on discrimination law, minority protection and feminist theory. She is the co-author of a leading text titled *Discrimination Law: Theory and Practice* (2008). She is, along with Dr Jon Wilson (Department of History, KCL), the co-ordinator of the AHRC project on 'Traditions in the Present' which explores the relevance of 'tradition' in contemporary societies. Maleiha Malik's current research focuses on the intersection between sexual and cultural equality, and it explores the adjustments that may need to be made to feminist theory to accommodate increasing cultural pluralism. She has published numerous scholarly articles, chapters and essays on legal and policy issues in this area and has contributed opinion pieces in the media, in UK and elsewhere. For further details see <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/law/about/people/academic/malik/>.

**Laura McDonald** is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences, at the University of Birmingham. Her research interests include Islam, gender and activism, Muslim experiences and critical perspectives of 'New Terror', and the politics of diversity and identity. She is keen to develop the links between academic research, grassroots activism and public policy, particularly with regards to the impact on minority groups in Britain. Laura McDonald is currently working with the inter-disciplinary Securities, Communities & Global Justice Grouping, on research funded by the AHRC Religion and Society Programme to explore engagement and partnership between police and Muslim communities in relation to counter-terrorism, including the role of Muslim women and young people in this area. Laura has published articles and short works on European Islamic feminism and on Muslim youth work and security issues. More details can be found at <http://www.iass.bham.ac.uk/staff/mcdonald.shtml>.

**Nicola Pratt** is Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and International Studies, at the University of Warwick. Her research and teaching interests are located in the intersections between the politics of the Middle East and feminist international relations theory. She is particularly interested in the

ways in which 'ordinary people' are shaped by and also influence national and international politics - particularly, democratization, conflict and conflict resolution. She has researched and written on democratization, human rights and conflict in a number of Middle Eastern countries and was also Associate Editor of the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* for 6 years. Her research interests link to her activism in the international peace/anti-war movement and she is a regular speaker at various meetings of social movement/voluntary groups as well as contributing regularly to the One World Column (for peace, environment, sustainability and anti-war voices in the UK eastern region) Before entering the world of academia, she lived and worked in Egypt for several years on projects concerning human rights and democratisation. More details can be found at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/staff/pratt..>

**Naçira Guénif-Souilamas** is Associate Professor at the University of Paris 13. She has researched into and written widely in the areas of gender and ethnicity; immigration and integration in post-colonial societies; racism and discrimination and more recently on family and inter-generational relations in multi-ethnic, urban communities. She is author of several books including *Des « Beurettes » aux descendants d'immigrants nord-africains* (2004) and *Les féministes et le garçon arabe* (2004), of edited collections and scholarly articles published in a wide range of journals. For more details, see <http://www.smi.uib.no/seminars/genif.pdf>.

**Sara Silvestri** is Senior Lecturer in International Politics. Her research and publications focus on Muslim-Government relations and Islamic institutions in Europe; the debate between "radical" and "moderate" Islam; the impact of counter-terrorism; inter-cultural dialogue, faith-based lobbying groups in the EU. She is the author of the first comparative study on Muslim Women in Europe (forthcoming with Hurst publishers). Her interdisciplinary approach stems from her international education which includes training in Cambridge (St John's College & Centre of International Studies), University of Paris (as a Marie Curie Fellow), Brussels (ULB & European Commission), University of York, Rome (La Sapienza). More details can be found at <http://www.city.ac.uk/intpol/Staff/Silvestri.html>.

**Khursheed Wadia** is Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, at the University of Warwick. She has written and researched on different aspects of gender, ethnicity, politics and policy. With Daniele Joly, she is nearing the end of a three-year investigation of Muslim women and politics in Britain and France, funded by the ESRC (RES-062-23-0380). She has also researched on migration processes and policy and the integration of migrants in EU destination countries and has written a number of reports for the EU Commission's DG Freedom, Security & Justice and DG Employment & Social affairs. Co-authored books include *Women and Politics in France: 1958 – 2000* (with Gill Allwood, Routledge, 2000), *Refugee Women: Hoping for a Better Future* (with Nathalie Schlenzka, Luigia Sommo, Giovanna Campani, Edition Parabolis, 2004), *Gender and Policy in France* (with Gill Allwood, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009) and *Refugee Women in Britain and France* (with Gill Allwood, Manchester University Press, 2010). For more details see <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/crer/staff/>.

**Afiya S. Zia** is a feminist activist based in Pakistan. She is the author of *Sex Crime in the Islamic Context; Rape, Class and Gender in Pakistan* (1994). She lectures in Sociology, works in the development sector and has edited a series of books on women's issues including *Unveiling the Issues; Locating the Self* and her own study of women and the media, *Watching Them Watching Us* (1997). Her more recent publications include an analysis of the challenges to secular feminism in Pakistan as the women's movement confronts growing conservatism and Islamic militancy. She has also worked and written on democracy, civil society and dictatorship.