GENDER AND THE POLITICS OF “TRADITIONAL” MUSLIM PRACTICES

Friday, March 7, 2008
Crystal Room, Alumnae Hall

In cases where Muslim women and girls are seen as needing to be rescued and advocacy seems imperative—as with honor crimes, female circumcision, early marriage—structural analyses of issues apart from gender can fall away, thus producing little new knowledge and reinforcing stereotypes of Muslim backwardness versus Western modernity. The participants in this conference will look at alternative ways to view so-called “traditional” Muslim practices. They will look at instances where everything from local politics to transnational economics might contribute to a given practice, and where the political, the socio-economic, or the cultural might be the most important factors to consider.