



The Swope Endowed
Lectureship
on
Ethics, Religion, Faith, and Values

presents

POSTMODERN MUSLIM FEMINISM

SISTER TAHERA AHMAD

Monday, Feb. 9, 2015
7:30 p.m.
Schneebeck Concert Hall
University of Puget Sound

Sister Tahera Ahmad

Sister Tahera Ahmad is a dynamic Muslim scholar. She has been featured on NPR and Chicago Public Radio, in *Chicago Sun Times* and *USA Today*, and was recently featured in the PBS documentary *The Calling*, which explores the unique struggles and



uncertainties faced by a new generation of men and women becoming leaders in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. Ahmad is a renowned speaker and has worked closely with the U.S. Department of State, leading international workshops on cultural awareness and religious diversity. Recently she was recognized by President Obama for her interfaith work and collaborative initiatives.

Ahmad serves on the board of ACURA (Association of College and University Religious Affairs) and is the co-president of ACMC (Association of College Muslim Chaplains). She has worked with Clergy Beyond Borders and supported leadership for premier Muslim organizations, including the Islamic Society of North America, Inner-City Muslim Action Network, and Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, and she

served as the department head of Islamic studies at the nation's largest Muslim school, Islamic Foundation School, in Villa Park, Ill. Ahmad is a passionate advocate for social justice and works with young adults in the interfaith movement on artistic and athletic projects to help develop a balanced faith identity in a diverse global world. She leads women's basketball tournaments and was featured by *Chicago Tribune* as the first woman to play varsity basketball in the state of Illinois with a hijab (the headscarf worn by some Muslim women).

Ahmad studied classical and traditional Islamic sciences in the Alimiyah/Shariah program at the Institute of Islamic Education. Following traditional madrasa studies, she continued graduate studies in Arabic at Al-Diwan and Al-Azhar in Cairo, Egypt, and in Islamic chaplaincy and Islamic studies and Christian-Muslim relations at Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut. Ahmad has received graduate certification in various religious fields, including applied spirituality in women's leadership from the Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary and Ijaazaat, or classical certification, in Quranic recitation, Arabic language, and Islamic sciences from Al-Diwan in Cairo, Egypt. During her graduate studies at Hartford, she served as the Muslim chaplain at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. Currently Ahmad serves as director of Interfaith Engagement and associate university chaplain at Northwestern University, where she is an advisor to the campus and Evanston community.

In her lecture Ahmad will discuss current trends and Muslim perspectives on feminism. Within Islam and in pluralistic contexts, how do commitments to feminism, personal religious practice, and pluralism work together? How are they in tension? How do Muslim women approach traditional interpretations of their roles? Can a Muslim woman remain faithful to her tradition while embracing a feminist worldview? Ahmad will explore these questions and more in tonight's lecture, "Postmodern Muslim Feminism."

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Welcome and Introduction by
Rev. Dave Wright
University Chaplain
Swope Committee Chair

Questions and Answers

(Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
No photo or recording devices allowed.)

The Swope Endowed Lectureship was established at University of Puget Sound through a gift from Major Ianthe Swope in honor of her mother, Jane Hammer Swope. In keeping with her mother's vision, and recognizing their deeply held religious values as Methodists, Major Swope chose to establish an endowed lectureship at University of Puget Sound to bring guest lecturers on the subjects of faith, ethics, values, or religion. The Jane Hammer Swope Lectureship is intended to promote broad discussions, critical thinking, and ethical inquiry to nurture the mind and heart about matters of religion, such as its role in public life, issues in contemporary spirituality, ethics, and world religions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

University Chaplain
Swope Committee Chair
Rev. Dave Wright '96
253.879.2751

Email: dwright@pugetsound.edu

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