

The Qur'an and Women's Lived Experience: the Huajuexian Women's Mosque in Xi'an, China

[Dr Toni Tidswell, Curtin University](#)

Date: Monday 4 April 2011

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Venue: [Bankstown Campus](#) Building 23.G.41

ABSTRACT

This lecture takes its point of departure from the experience of Muslim women in the city of Xian who are refused access to the central mosque in the Muslim quarter and who have set up their own women's mosque as a result. In contrast to this experience, an overview will be presented of the Qur'anic view of women as believers and an integral part of the umma. Qur'anic reflections will be used to provide a critique of the women's experience in Xian, and both positive and negative ways of understanding the women's mosque will be considered.

SPEAKER

Dr Toni Tidswell, BA (Hons) PhD, GCHE (University of New England, Armidale NSW) lectured in Comparative Religion and Islamic Studies at both undergraduate and graduate level from 2001 at the University of New England in Australia. She remains an Honorary Research Fellow at UNE in Religious Studies. More recently Toni has been lecturing at the University of Otago, New Zealand where she wrote and taught an advanced paper on Women in Islam. Currently she is a sessional academic at Curtin University. She is the immediate past President of the Australian Association for the Study of Religion and last year was invited to give a keynote lecture and do some teaching at Emory University before presenting a research paper at the American Academy of Religion conference.

Toni completed her PhD in 2006, with a thesis on women characters in the Qur'an and Hebrew Scriptures. Her research and supervision areas of interest are women and religion, women in Islam, and women in sacred texts, particularly in the Semitic Religions, and the contemporary application of these ancient stories.

For catering purposes please RSVP to E.Garcia@uws.edu.au by Thursday 31 March.