

[The Centre for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies presents:](#)

Islamic Piety Against the Family: From 'Traditional' to 'Pure' Islam

Dr Santi Rozario, Cardiff Univeristy

Date: Tuesday 21 September 2010

Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Venue: [Bankstown Campus](#) Building 1.1.117

ABSTRACT

One might suppose that a foundational element of proper Muslim behaviour is respect for one's parents. However, it is not unusual in the contemporary Islamic world, both in Muslim-majority countries and in the diaspora, for young people to be much more 'Islamic' in behaviour, dress and lifestyle than their parents. As this may suggest, modernist Islamic piety is not infrequently directed by young people against their parents, as a mode of resistance to parental authority. However, wearing the hijab, becoming a follower of a Sufi shaykh, or marrying a 'good' Muslim spouse from another ethnic group to one's own, are different kinds of resistance from, for example, joining an inner-city youth gang, or rejecting one's parents' Asian cultural background for a more globalised identity.

Dr Rozario will discuss some of the ways in which Islamic piety can be deployed in resistance to parental authority through case-studies from her ESRC-funded field research in Bangladesh and the UK, and consider in what ways these forms of behaviour resemble, and differ from, more familiar forms of resistance.

SPEAKER

Dr Santi Rozario is a social anthropologist and a Reader in the School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University, UK. She has conducted extensive anthropological research with rural Bangladeshi women and in recent years has also carried out research with British Bangladeshis in the UK, including a project on genetics, religion and identity (2005-7). Dr Rozario's current ESRC-funded project (2008 onwards) is on Islam and young Bangladeshis in the UK and Bangladesh. Her published works include *Purity and Communal Boundaries: Women and Social Change in a Bangladeshi Village* (Zed Books, 1992; 2nd edn UPL Dhaka 2001); *Daughters of Hariti: Childbirth and Female Healers in South and Southeast Asia* (Routledge, 2002; co-edited with Geoffrey Samuel); *Return Migration In the Asia Pacific*, edited jointly with Robyn Iredale and Fei Guo (2003); as well as numerous articles and book chapters, including two edited special journal issues, one on 'Islam, Gender and Human Rights' (*Women's Studies International Forum*, 29/4, 2006) and one on 'From Village Religion to Global Networks: Women, Religious Nationalism and Sustainability in and beyond South Asia' (*Women's Studies International Forum*, 33/3, 2010).

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to E.Garcia@uws.edu.au by Friday 17 September.