

CALL FOR PAPERS

All in the Family? Islam, Women and Human Rights

March 3 - 4, 2006

Emory University School of Law

Atlanta, Georgia

Sponsored by the Feminism and Legal Theory

◇ ◇ ◇ Tentative Issues ◇ ◇ ◇

The relationship between religious mandates and the aspirations for international human rights

The place of family in religion, law, and human rights

Feminist critique of religion and law

Religious placement of women in the family and in society

Conflicts between and among specific religious mandates and human rights aspirations for women

Islamic interpretations in relations to notions of family hierarchy, and an ordering

The idea of "honor" in Islamic thought

Islamic/feminist critiques of international human rights law

Comparisons of the role of Islam in defining the place of women in society with other religions

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS:

Roja Fazaeli, National University of Ireland – Galway;
Visiting Scholar, Emory University School of Law
Martha A. Fineman, Emory University School of Law
Ruby Lal, Emory University Middle Eastern and South
Asian Studies

SUBMISSIONS PROCEDURE:

Please email a paper proposal of several paragraphs
length by December 23rd to:

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Working paper drafts to be duplicated and distributed prior
to the Workshop will be due February 14, 2006.

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

The Workshop begins on Friday afternoon at 4 PM with a
panel discussion to be held in the Law School's Agnor
Room – 3rd floor, Gambrell Hall – 1301 Clifton Road,
Atlanta, GA.

There will be a reception and dinner that evening in the
Atrium on the 3rd floor of the Law School. All interested
participants are welcome.

Saturday there will be two or three panel presentations
convening at 9 AM in the Agnor Room.

Possible paper topics include:

- Comparative considerations of the influence (or lack thereof) of religions and religious mandates on the implementation of human rights and women's rights in democratic societies
- Investigations of how religion, along with culture, ethnicity, race, and class might complicate the internationalization of human rights concepts as applied to women
- The potential for feminist theory to contribute to the acceptance of women's rights as part of basic human rights
- Exploration of areas of intersection and negotiation between human rights and women's positions within Islam
- The contours of Islamic family law
- The meanings of marriage and divorce in Islam
- How Islam addresses women's sexuality
- The impact of "new wave feminism" on Islamic and Muslim feminists
- The limitations of Human Rights discourse, as well as other theoretical discourses, when it comes to women in fundamentalist religious societies