**Trudeau Lecture at UQAM**

**Women, Islamism, and progress as per an Iranian-Canadian, Professor Haideh Moghissi, from York University**

Montréal, Quebec, 1 October 2012 – The [Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation](http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca) and [UQAM](http://www.uqam.ca)’s Institute for Feminist Research and Studies ([IREF](http://www.iref.uqam.ca/)) invite the public to a prestigious conference by an international authority on women’s status in the Middle East, Professor Haideh Moghissi, from York University in Toronto. The conference is part of the Trudeau Lecture series, for which UQAM is the only stop in Quebec this year.

WHAT [Trudeau Lecture](http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca/en/themes/events/trudeau-lecture-2011-fellow-haideh-moghissi): “The return of the sacred and politics of cultural differences”

WHO [Haideh Moghissi](http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca/en/community/haideh-moghissi) is a Trudeau fellow and a professor of sociology and women's studies at York University in Toronto. She was one of the founders of the Iranian National Union of Women and a member of its first executive and editorial boards before leaving Iran in 1984.

WHEN Wednesday, 3 October, at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE Amphithéâtre du Cœur des sciences (SH-2800), UQAM  
200 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal

**The Conference**

A mentally ill girl is incarcerated in Pakistan because she is accused of having burned pages from the Koran. France introduces a ban on the burqa and Canada insists that immigrants uncover their faces for their citizenship ceremony. The US upholds the right to free speech, even after US embassy staff is killed in Libya when a video mocking Islam goes viral.

Are these incidents the evidence of a clash of civilizations, as journalists around the world proclaim? Or are people’s values more similar than they are different? Haideh Moghissi, herself a refugee from radical Islamism, argues that in their efforts to protect cultural differences, Western feminists and liberal intellectuals are facilitating the oppression of women and other groups that oppose repression in the Middle East. She discusses where Canada and the international community stand in the tug-of-war between cultural relativism and universal human rights, and makes an impassioned plea that resistance to Western hegemony not condemn movements for democracy and equality in the developing world.

The conference is free and open to the public. Professor Moghissi will deliver her conference in English and simultaneous interpretation will be available.

**About the Trudeau Lectures**

To promote its Trudeau Fellowships across Canada and disseminate the key ideas of Trudeau fellows, the Foundation holds an annual lecture series called the [Trudeau Lectures](http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca/en/programs/public-interaction/events), given by the Trudeau fellows during the second year of their Trudeau fellowship. The lectures are an opportunity for the Trudeau fellows to reflect on their

intellectual career and on the institutional framework within which they have developed their ideas and become the intellectual leaders they are today. Every year the Foundation publishes the text of these lectures in [*The Trudeau Foundation Papers*](http://www.fondationtrudeau.ca/en/trudeau-foundation/publications/trudeau-foundation-papers).

**About the Foundation**

A Canadian institution with a national purpose, the [Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation](http://www.trudeaufoundation.ca) is an independent and non-partisan charity. It was established in 2001 as a living memorial to the former prime minister by his family, friends, and colleagues. Through its Scholarship, Fellowship, Mentorship, and Public Interaction Programs, the Foundation supports outstanding individuals who are making meaningful contributions to critical public issues. Two UQAM professors are also Trudeau fellows: [Alain-G. Gagnon](http://www.professeurs.uqam.ca/component/savrepertoireprofesseurs/ficheProfesseur?mId=n2u5AIrFI4I_) and [Joseph Yvon Thériault](http://www.professeurs.uqam.ca/component/savrepertoireprofesseurs/ficheProfesseur?mId=C3FhgQXeT%252fs_) and two UQAM doctoral students have earned Trudeau scholarships: Mélanie Millette and Laure Waridel.

**About the Institute for Feminist Research and Studies**

Established in 1990, the Institute’s mission is to promote and advance training and research on women’s issues through an interdisciplinary approach. It includes more than 400 UQAM members – professors, researchers, lecturers, professionals, and students – and other associate members.

**Information**

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- 30 -

**Sources**:

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