

The Prospects for Multiculturalism

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Professor Schallié's current research examines literary and cinematic representations of cultural hybridity in contemporary Switzerland. She teaches German language courses and German Studies courses on 20th and 21st Century German, Austrian and Swiss culture and literature. Her recent publications include, "Beyond Foreign Rabble, Thugs and Thieves.' Roma and Yenish Peoples in a Swiss Culture Class" in *New Approaches to Teaching Modern Switzerland: From Multiculturalism to Cultural Hybridity* (edited by Karin Baumgartner and Margrit Zinggeler) in 2010. She also published (with Christine Fritze) "'Switzerland Has Run out of Steam on Its Way to Multiculturalism': An Interview with Dragica Rajčić" in *Women in German Yearbook* 26 (2010).

Presentation Abstract

"Terminus Switzerland: Female Diaspora in Andrea Staka's film *Das Fräulein*." In this presentation, I will illuminate the narratives of female diaspora in the film *Das Fräulein* (2006) by Andrea Staka. I will show that the Swiss filmmaker positions the postcolonial diasporic culture within places of "situational laterality" creating a "lateral, peripatetic and multipolar" framework of reference" (Mishra 2007, 16-17). In Staka's cinematic narrative, the gendered experiences of geographic and cultural displacement come into conflict when a Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian woman meet each other in a small diasporic, culturally porous enclave in metropolitan Zurich.

Myer Siemiatycki, Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration,
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BA, McGill University; MA, University of Sussex, UK; PhD, York University

Myer Siemiatycki is a Professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University. He is the past, founding Director of Ryerson's MA Program in Immigration and Settlement Studies. He also has served as Community Research Domain Leader at the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration & Settlement in Toronto. His research interests focus on the civic participation of immigrants in Toronto. Professor Siemiatycki's recent publications include, "Reputation and Representation: Reaching for Political Inclusion in Toronto" in C. Andrew et al: *Electing a Diverse Canada*, UBC Press, 2008; "The View From Ontario: Immigration, Diversity & Multi-Level Government Response" in *Diversite Canadienne*, (Winter 2010); "Marginalizing Migrants: Canada's Rising Reliance on Temporary Foreign Workers" in *Canadian Issues* (Spring 2010); and "International Perspectives On Immigrant Service Provision" (with Triadafilos Triadafilopoulos) for the Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation in May, 2010.

Presentation Abstract

“Toronto: A Multicultural Success Story?”

Few cities can match Toronto's population diversity - or the triumphalism of its self-declared success in making multiculturalism work. This paper examines Toronto's ambiguous record of being an 'open and shut' case of identity inclusion in civic life.

Patti Tamara Lenard, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa; BA, University of Waterloo; MA, Queens University; PhD, Philosophy, Oxford University

Professor Lenard's current research interests include multiculturalism, trust and social cohesion, and global justice and migration. She teaches applied ethics and social and political thought. Her published work includes, “What can Multicultural Theory Tell Us about Integrating Muslims in Europe?” (*Political Studies Review*, 2010); “Culture, Free Movement and Open Borders” (*Review of Politics*, 2010); and “Agency, Empowerment and Culture” (*Contemporary Political Theory*, 2009). In 2005-2006, she was named a Fulbright Foundation Fellow, for work that compared the political participation of cultural and ethnic minorities in Canada and the United States. Her book, *Trust, Democracy and Multicultural Challenges*, is forthcoming with Penn State University Press.

Presentation Abstract

“The reports of multiculturalism's death are greatly exaggerated.”

The claim that we can bid farewell to multiculturalism in Canada, the United States, and across Europe – that it has failed, that it is a term that should be struck from our national vocabulary, that it is generating a backlash – is now frequently heard. Yet, analysis reveals considerable disagreement about what, in particular, about multiculturalism has failed. Some scholars are vexed about the failure of immigrant minorities to meet standard measures of socio-economic integration; some scholars are concerned that second-generation immigrants report feeling excluded from the national narrative; some scholars believe that multicultural policies have encouraged isolation and ghettoization, and has furthermore encouraged the practice of the most fundamental and traditional interpretation of religious and cultural practices. In this paper, I explore the various ways in which multiculturalism is said to be something we must now abandon, in favour of some other, improved, mechanism by which we can encourage the political and social integration of minority communities. I will argue that we need to distinguish among the ways in which multiculturalism is said to have failed to understand which, if any, multicultural policies must be abandoned. The analysis is complicated by two factors, which I elaborate: 1) the policies described as “multicultural” are at least as diverse as the ways in which multiculturalism is said to have failed and 2) contemporary debates are infused with the claim (which I dispute) that Muslim

migrants pose a particular challenge to our standard multicultural integration strategies.

Adrian Shubert, Professor, Department of History, York University, Toronto
BA, University of Toronto; MA, University of New Mexico; MA, University of Warwick; PhD, Queen Mary College, University of London

Professor Shubert's teaching and research interests focus on European social history, in particular the history of Spain. In 1999 he was named a Commander of the Order of Civil Merit by King Juan Carlos of Spain. In 2000-2001, he was the Interim Associate Director of the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies and Coordinator of the newly established European Studies program. He is the co-author of *The West and the World: Contacts, Conflicts, Connections*, the Grade 12 history text for the new secondary school curriculum. He co-edited *The Historical Practice of Diversity* in 2003 with Dirk Hoerder and Christiane Harzig. He is currently working on a history of uniformity in modern Europe.

Presentation Abstract

"Liberty, Equality, Uniformity: a hidden thread of Europe's modern history."

Before the French Revolution, Europe was a menagerie of difference, the continent and its individual political units home to a congeries of peoples distinguished by language, culture, and legal status. The Revolution and subsequent European liberalism overturned that diversity, seeking to create populations that were as legally, linguistically, religiously and culturally uniform as possible. This search for uniformity, a hidden thread in Europe's modern history, helps explain the inability of Europeans to accept multiculturalism.

Saeed Rahnema, Professor, School of Public Policy and Administration, York University, Toronto
MA, PhD, Queen's University

Professor Rahnema has served as the Director of the School of Public Policy and Administration, and Coordinator of the Political Science program at Atkinson Faculty, York University. He has also served as an officer of the UNDP, and as a Director of the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA). Professor Rahnema has won several major awards, including the Government of Ontario Leadership in Faculty Teaching (LIFT) Award in 2007. Professor Rahnema's current research focuses on Middle East politics and economy, religious fundamentalisms, and Islamic Diasporas. His publications include, *Selected Communities of Islamic Cultures in Canada: A Statistical Profile*, Diaspora, Islam Gender Project, York University, Toronto, 2005; "Islamic Radicalism and Failed Developmentalism" in *Third World Quarterly*, 2008; "Islamic Diaspora and Challenges of Multiculturalism", in H. Moghissi, *The Making of Islamic Diaspora*, 2006; *Diaspora by Design: Muslims in Canada and Beyond*, (co-authored), University of Toronto Press, 2009; "Secularism

and Islamism: Iran and Beyond”, co-guest editor, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* (CSSAAME), vol. 31.1, Spring 2011.

Presentation Abstract

“Patchwork vs Integrative Multiculturalism: The Case of Muslims in Canada.”

On paper, Canadian Government’s Multicultural policy has evolved from early “ethnicity multiculturalism” with the focus on “celebrating differences”, to the present “integrative multiculturalism” emphasizing “inclusive citizenship”.

Focusing on communities of Muslims origin in Canada, this paper argues that Canadian multicultural policy has more or less remained unchanged and continues along the same line of creating self-contained closed enclaves, without seriously trying to integrate immigrant communities in the larger society. Worse still, the policy seems to shift towards a faith-based multiculturalism.

A major feature of Muslim communities in the west is its diversity in terms of sects, degrees of religiosity, nationality, ethnicity, language and class. Nowhere in the west, there exists such pronounced diversity of Muslim population as in Canada. Yet, the government and the media, along with the conservative Islamist leaders, propagate a homogenized view of these highly differentiated communities. The vast majority of Canadian Muslims tries to integrate into the larger society, but a small minority tries to propagate an imported radical Ideology with an effort to create segregated enclaves.

It will be argued that racism and Islamophobia, along with continued confrontations in Muslim-majority countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan/Pakistan, as well as the unresolved Palestinian issue, attracts a growing number of Canadian Muslims, particularly the youth to these scattered enclaves that are dominated by a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam. Solutions to the problem should be sought at different levels involving different players. While the most important role is played by different levels of government, the media, the Muslim communities, and religious leaders, also have significant roles and responsibilities in creating a truly integrative multiculturalism in Canada.