

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Faculty Development Workshop: Tools and Resources for Study of Women in South Asian Islamic Societies

The American Institute of Indian Studies, the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies and the University of Chicago South Asia Language and Area Center will hold an all-day workshop on Friday December 2, 2011 that will provide tools and resources for promoting the study of women in Islamic Society in South Asia. The focus would be to provide a complex and nuanced overview of women and the impacts of women's political participation in South Asian Muslim societies. It will emphasize their pro-active efforts at community organizing, educational reform, anti-corruption, human rights, and public health.

The goals of the workshop will include: 1) providing participants with the tools and resources they need to incorporate the study of women in Islamic societies into existing courses or to create new courses; 2) providing information about how the AIIS, the AIPS, AIBS and the University of Chicago South Asia Center can facilitate the development and enhancement of educational and scholarly programs at the participants' home institutions through opportunities for student and faculty travel and exchanges, fellowships, language study, internship and volunteer opportunities with NGOs located in South Asia; 3) generating a discussion among participants to create a process and mechanism for creating and maintaining ongoing projects and collaborations between student and faculty at the participants' institutions and partners located in South Asia; 4) encouraging and providing resources to participants to apply for Department of Education Title VI A and Title B grants and Fulbright Group Projects Abroad grants that will enhance area studies, language study and global education at their home institutions.

Workshop Agenda and Structure: In session I, workshop facilitators will provide information about resources such as fellowships, language programs, list-serves, in-country support for study and internship projects, speakers lists, curricula, etc. The workshop leaders would also provide an overview of the role of women in South Asian Muslim societies. Session II will be interactive and will include a brain-storming session to generate ideas about collaborations on future projects that could include: applying for Dept. of Education Group Projects Abroad grants to send faculty and/or students to India, Bangladesh and/or Pakistan to meet with Muslim women's NGOs, journalists, scholars, students, etc. with the ultimate goal of establishing ongoing partnership arrangements, possibly involving ongoing student and/or faculty exchanges and internships and the creation of a shared website that will be used for posting curricula, paper topics for students, speakers' lists, publicizing area events, fellowship/grant/internship opportunities. These projects would be designed to align with the particular constraints and needs faced by faculty and students at participating institutions--including limited financial resources available for international research projects and study tours; limited time available to faculty to travel abroad; financial, family and time constraints on students which limit their opportunities to participate in many types of international educational programs.

The workshop will be held at the University of Chicago and will be free for participants. Workshop participants will be reimbursed for their travel expenses. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be given certificates which they can use to obtain professional development credits from their institutions. Funding for this workshop is provided by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Who is Eligible to Participate?

Thirty faculty members will be selected to participate in the workshop. The workshop is targeted at faculty at community colleges, small liberal arts colleges, religious-affiliated colleges, minority-serving colleges, and small public colleges in the greater Chicago area and northern Illinois.

How to Apply?

Please go to http://southasia.uchicago.edu/outreach/islam_workshop.shtml and fill out the simple application which will require a brief statement of purpose about your goals for attending the workshop and how you would like to use the tools and resources that will be discussed. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2011. All applicants will be informed about whether they have been selected no later than November 7, 2011.

Workshop Presenters and Facilitators: The workshop leader will be Rafia Zakaria, an attorney, journalist, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University and a member of the Amnesty International USA Board of Directors. Her dissertation is entitled, "Negotiating Identity: Sharia, Multiculturalism and Muslim Women." Other facilitators and presenters include: Laura Ring; Fatima Imam, assistant professor of History at Lake Forest College; and Sylvia Vatuk, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.