Secularism, Sexuality, and Religious Difference

Winner of the 2005 Victoria Schuck Award, American Political Science Association

SABA MAHMOOD

Friday, March 18th 2011at 12pm in the Bade Museum

WSR is Co-sponsoring this event with the PSR Dean's Office

Saba Mahmood *is an associate professor of Social Cultural Anthropology at UC Berkeley. Her research interests lie in exploring historically specific articulations of secular modernity in postcolonial societies, with particular attention to issues of subject formation, religiosity, embodiment, and gender. In her book, Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject (Princeton University Press, 2005), She addressed some of these issues through an ethnography of a women's piety movement that is part of the larger Islamist movement in Egypt . Her analysis of the Islamist movement in this book is guided by three central questions: In what ways do these movements help us rethink the normative liberal account of politics? How do the politics of gender in these movements parochialize key assumptions within feminist theory? How does a consideration of the debates about embodied practice among Islamists and their secular critics help us understand the conceptual relationship between the specificity of bodily form and the process of subject formation?*