

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF MUSLIM CIVILISATIONS

The Institute, established in London in 2002, aims to strengthen research and teaching on the heritages of Muslim societies as they have evolved over time, and on the challenges these societies face in today's globalised world. The Institute studies systems of moral and ethical thought, structures of governance and social and political life, and artistic and creative expressions in all forms. It also seeks to create opportunities for interaction among academics, traditionally trained scholars and other professionals in an effort to deepen the understanding by Muslims and non-Muslims alike of issues affecting Muslim societies today.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY – THE CENTRE FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES AND CULTURES

The Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures has been established at Simon Fraser University (SFU) to encourage academic discussion and public understanding of the cultures and societies of Muslim peoples, past and present. Muslim societies and cultures have increasingly become the focus of public and academic attention, although much of the discussion has centred narrowly on contemporary issues of Muslim extremism. The variability and flexibility of Muslim practices and perspectives have not featured in this discourse, leaving the public largely unaware of complexities, achievements and challenges. The Centre's mission is to encourage the academic study of Muslim societies and cultures in their broad range of geographical and cultural diversity.



CENTRE FOR THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
MUSLIM SOCIETIES AND CULTURES

WWW.SFU.CA/CCSMSC



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
(International) in the United Kingdom

Celebrating 25 years

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

4 – 5 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RA Tel (020) 7907 1020 Fax (020) 7907 1030

www.aku.edu/ismc www.akdn.org

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The Aga Khan University (International) in the UK is incorporated in England as a company limited by guarantee no. 4448389

2009 SUMMER PROGRAMME

Expressions of Diversity

A Contemporary Introduction to Muslim Cultures



20 – 31 July, 2009

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR THE
STUDY OF MUSLIM CIVILISATIONS, LONDON

www.aku.edu/ismc/shortcourses



SFU

Expressions of Diversity

A Contemporary Introduction to Muslim Cultures

Expressions of Diversity: A Contemporary Introduction to Muslim Cultures aims to provide a window into the diversity of the cultural and social productions of Muslims, past and present. Major international scholars will be brought together on the campus of the Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations in London to provide instructional modules addressing various facets of the history, culture, and contemporary challenges of Muslims. In this stimulating environment, participants will be equipped with the resources and skills to understand the heritages, evolving experiences, contributions to world history, and contemporary relevance of Muslim peoples.



The Programme is co-sponsored by the Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC) and the Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures at Simon Fraser University (SFU-CCSMSC). It will provide a critical-historical understanding of Muslims within larger frameworks that recognise the importance of interdisciplinary and comparative approaches, without reducing this understanding to issues solely related to religion. At a time when rigorous and unbiased information concerning Muslims is at a premium, the Programme offers an opportunity for non-specialists to obtain timely knowledge, practical skills, and critical perspectives about Muslim cultures. The Programme seeks to attract interested individuals from the general public, including a range of professionals from the business, government, education, legal and other relevant sectors.



The Programme will draw upon the wealth of knowledge of participants and faculty to create a rich, multi-cultural experience. Classroom discussions will be supplemented by a series of co-curricular activities including film screenings, walking tours exploring cultural sites and museum visits. Moreover, the location of the Institute will give participants the opportunity to experience London's vibrant atmosphere.

This Programme will be offered from Monday July 20 to Friday July 31, 2009 and is open to all. A Certificate of Attendance will be awarded at the end of the Programme.



PROGRAMME SESSIONS: Week One

- Locating Muslim Cultures in Historical Contexts
- Thinking of Islam and Muslims in the West
- Pre-Muslim Milieus: From the Nile to the Indus
- Approaching Scriptures: The Qur'an
- The Exemplary Biography: The Prophet
- The Formation of Muslim Communities
- Law in Society: Muslim Contexts
- Gender and Identity in Muslim Societies: Past and Present
- Philosophy and Science
- Artistic Expressions: Early and Classical
- Expressions of Mysticism

PROGRAMME SESSIONS: Week Two

- Artistic Expressions: Contemporary Times
- Regional Expressions of Muslim Cultures
- Early Modern Connections and Conflicts
- Encounters with Modernity: Ideas and Politics I
- Encounters with Modernity: Ideas and Politics II
- Contemporary Concerns: Development Issues I
- Contemporary Concerns: Development Issues II
- Contemporary Concerns: Education
- Cultural and Social Transformations in Muslim Societies: Contradictory Aspects
- Muslims in the West
- Traditions and Modernity in Music

Programme Fee: £500/£300

(full/concessionary fee: see website for details)

The fee includes tuition, pre-reading materials, session hand-outs, refreshments and a formal dinner.

Application Deadline: 15 June 2009

Please apply early as places are limited.

One scholarship is available for a Summer Programme participant from a developing country. The scholarship will cover tuition fees, accommodation, travel and living costs while participating in the Programme.

Further details and an application form can be found at: www.aku.edu/ismc/shortcourses



The Summer Programme opened up many questions; it engaged me in a way that has inspired a deep yearning and quest for knowledge in this field. It met my expectations in that it articulated questions and ways of thinking that require deeper study. It provided a taste of a subject that is vast and deep and therefore requires much dialogue, thought, research and personal historical exploration.

Student, Summer Programme 2008

FACULTY

The Programme will be taught by lecturers from Aga Khan University, Simon Fraser University and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Their extensive teaching experience and breadth of research interests will enable participants to engage in discussion and debate on a range of topics covering the heritage of Muslims as well as contemporary challenges in Muslim contexts. Profiles of the teaching faculty can be found on the Programme website.