



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Center for Arab
and Middle Eastern Studies

Invites you to two hybrid lectures

ABDOLMOHAMMAD KAZEMIPUR

Professor of Sociology and Chair of Ethnic Studies, University of Calgary

Abdolmohammad Kazemipur is a professor of sociology and Chair of Ethnic Studies at the University of Calgary. He studied Sociology at the University of Tehran and the University of Manitoba. His most recent books include: *Sacred as Secular: Secularization under Theocracy in Iran* (2022, McGill-Queen's University Press), *The Muslim Question in Canada: A Story of Segmented Integration* (2014, University of British Columbia Press), and *What Went Wrong? On the Decline of Community in Iran* (2022, Agar Publisher). He is currently working on a new book manuscript on the international migration ecosystem, tentatively titled *Homo Emigraturus*.



THE RISE OF THE MUSLIM IMMIGRANT QUESTION IN THE WEST

A GLIMPSE INTO THE NEW DEBATES,
WITH A FOCUS ON MUSLIMS IN CANADA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022 | 2:00-4:00 PM | WEST HALL, AUDITORIUM B

Recent years have seen increased debate on Muslim immigration to western countries. Muslim immigration is viewed as a socio-political issue, where these immigrants are perceived as either unwilling or unable to integrate into Western liberal democracies. This has led to the emergence of many fallacies, the most prevalent of which are the notion of 'Muslim exceptionalism'; the notion of 'Islamic essentialism'; and the notion of 'Muslim reductionism'. This lecture will address some of the debates and fallacies, as well as potential solutions, drawing on research on Muslim immigrants in Canada.

FROM FOUCAULT'S 'POLITICAL SPIRITUALITY' TO PUTNAM'S 'DECLINE OF COMMUNITY' IRAN FOUR DECADES AFTER THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022 | 3:30-5:30 PM | IFI CONFERENCE ROOM

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Michel Foucault described the Islamic revolution as a site for the birth of 'political spirituality', which he defined as a means to connect "ways of distinguishing true and false and ways of governing oneself and others". He believed Iranians would find a new foundation to connect these two realms, something that modern western thought was incapable of doing. In *What Went Wrong? On the Decline of Community in Iran* (2022/in-press), Kazemipur compares the decline of community in Iran to the state of social capital in the US, as argued by Robert Putnam in *Bowling Alone* (2000). An understanding of this transformation is needed to make sense of socio-political developments in Iran, including the recent protests in objection to the compulsory hijab law.