

Karim, Lamia N.

Lamia N. Karim  
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### **Employment**

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon-Eugene, and Associate Director, Center for the Study of Women and Society (CSWS) beginning Fall 2010

Rockefeller Postdoctoral Fellow in Religion, Conflict and Peace Building, Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2002-03

Rockefeller Postdoctoral Humanities Fellow in “Gender and Globalization in Asia and the Pacific,” University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Jan-April, 2002

### **Education**

Ph.D. Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, Rice University, May 2002

M.A. Journalism, University of Michigan, April 1993

B.A. Political Science, Brandeis University, May 1984

### **Teaching Areas**

Cultural Theory, South Asia, Gender and Sexuality, Development and Globalization, Human Rights, Colonial and Postcolonial Anthropology, Anthropology of Violence, and Postcolonial Feminist Theory

### **Dissertation**

*Development and Its Discontents: NGOs, Women and the Politics of Social Mobilization in Bangladesh*, Department of Anthropology, Rice University, May 2002

Advisor: Prof. James Faubion, Department of Anthropology, Rice University

*John W. Gardner Award for the Best Dissertation in the Humanities and the Social Sciences*, Rice University, 2002

### **Publications**

#### **Book (contracted and under production)**

*Microfinance and Its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh* (University of Minnesota Press, Spring 2011)

#### **Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals**

“Demystifying Micro-credit: The Grameen Bank, NGOs and Neoliberalism in Bangladesh,” *Cultural Dynamics*, Vol. 20 (1), 2008, 5-29

“Democratizing Bangladesh: State, NGOs and Militant Islam,” in *Cultural Dynamics*, Vol. 16 (2 and 3) October 2004, pp. 291-318

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“Politics of the Poor? Grassroots Political Mobilization and NGOs in Bangladesh” in *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Lauren Leve and Lamia Karim, (eds.) Vol. 24 (1) May 2001, pp. 97-107

“Privatizing the State: Ethnography of Development, Transnational Capital and NGOs.” Introduction to Symposium on *Power, NGOs and Development* by Lauren Leve and Lamia Karim in *Polar*, Vol. 24 (1) May 2001, pp. 53-58

“Pushed to the Margins: Adivasis in Bangladesh and the Case of Kalpana Chakma” in the *Journal for Contemporary South Asia*, Vol. 7 (3) 1998

### **Chapters in Peer Reviewed Books**

“Transnational Politics of Reading and the (Un)Making of Taslima Nasreen,” in *South Asian Feminisms: Contemporary Interventions*, Ania Loomba and Ritty Lukose (eds.), Duke University Press (Fall 2010)

“Demystifying Micro-credit: The Grameen Bank, NGOs and Neoliberalism in Bangladesh,” (reprinted) in *Theorizing NGOs: Feminist Struggles, States and Neoliberalism*, ed. by Inderpal Grewal and Victoria Bernal, Duke University Press (forthcoming)

“Democratizing Bangladesh: State, NGOs and Militant Islam,” (reprinted) in *Recreating the Commons? NGOs in Bangladesh*, Farida Khan, Ahrar Ahmad, Munir Quddus (eds.) The University Press Limited, 2009, pp. 149-181

“A Kinship of One’s Own” in *The Ethics of Kinship: Ethnographic Enquiries* James Faubion, (ed.) Rowman & Littlefield, 2001

### **Peer Reviewed Working Paper Series**

“The Economy of Shame: Gender, Development and Discontents of Globalization in Bangladesh,” in *Gender and Globalization in Asia and the Pacific*, Vol. 4, pp. 31-55 (Summer, 2006). Kathy E. Ferguson and Monique Mironesco, eds. Occasional Papers Series, Women’s Studies Program, University of Hawai’i at Manoa

### **Web Articles**

“The Grameen Bank, Microcredit and the NGO Paradigm in Bangladesh,” September 12, 2009, *South Asia Citizens Web* ([www. sawc.net](http://www.sawc.net))

### **Newspaper Opinion Pieces**

“Racism Sells like Hot cakes in US,” *Register Guard*, August 8, 2010  
<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/opinion/25126819-47/party-tea-sherrod-american-economy.csp>

“A Cup of Bitter Tea: US Politics of Race,” Op-ed in *New Age*, July 29, 2010  
<http://www.newagebd.com/2010/jul/29/edit.html>

“Voices Breaking Boundaries,” Op-Ed in *New Age*, March 8, 2010.  
<http://www.newagebd.com/2010/mar/09/oped.html#1>

### **Articles in Preparation**

Karim, Lamia N.

“Ethnography as a Decolonizing Practice,” (in preparation)

“Mining Globalization: Asia Energy and People’s Resistance in Bangladesh,” (in preparation)

### **National Academic Research Grants**

*National Science Foundation Research Grant, 2008-2010*

*Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Write-up Grant, 1999-2000*

*J. William Fulbright Fellowship for dissertation research in Bangladesh, 1997*

*Wenner-Gren Foundation of Anthropological Research Dissertation Grant, 1998*

*Social Science Research Council Predoctoral Dissertation Grant for fieldwork (declined)*

### **Academic Awards**

*John W. Gardner Award for the Best Dissertation in the Humanities and the Social Sciences, Rice University, 2002*

*Tappa Kau Alpha Society, Highest Honors in Journalism, 1993*

*Jan Weber Summer Journalism Scholarship Award, Department of Communication, University of Michigan, 1992*

*Wien International Scholarship, Brandeis University, 1980-84*

### **Finalist for National Academic Fellowships**

*Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities (Finalist), 2002-03*

Alternate Finalist, Harvard University Woodrow Wilson Fellowship

*Princeton Society of Fellows Program in the Humanities (Finalist), 2002-03*

*Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellowships in the Humanities (Finalist), 2001*

### **Academic Research Awards (University of Oregon)**

*Center for the Study of Women and Society Project Grant 2008*

*Junior Professor Development Award, 2008*

*Wayne Morse Center for Law and Democracy Project Grant 2007*

*Oregon Humanities Faculty Fellowship, 2007*

*CSWS Research Grant, University of Oregon, 2005*

*Summer Research Award, 2005*

*Junior Professor Development Award, 2005*

*Freeman Foundation Faculty Research Fellowship, 2004*

*Junior Professor Development Award, 2004*

*New Faculty Award, 2004*

*Selected for Pilot Program for External Research Support, 2004*

### **Teaching Improvement Grants**

*Information Technology Workshop Grant 2007*

*Information Technology Workshop Grant 2006*

### **Invited Keynote Engagements**

Keynote Speaker, “Women and Human Rights in a Global Context,” International Women’s Day, University of Oregon, March 5, 2010

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Plenary Speaker, “Does Micro-credit Really Help Women?” Closing Plenary on Global Issues, National Council on the Research on Women, CUNY Graduate School, New York, June 10-12, 2009

Keynote Speaker, “Rethinking Development and Women’s Empowerment under Globalization,” at the *Engaging Islam: Feminisms, Religiosities, and Self Determinations Conference* at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, September 12-16, 2007

Plenary Speaker on “Reading ‘Obscenity’: National, Transnational Politics of Reading Exiled Feminist Author Taslima Nasrin,” at *Obscenity: An Oberman Center Humanities Symposium*, University of Iowa, March 1-4, 2007

### **Invited Academic Projects**

Workshop participant, “The New Silk Road: Perspectives on the Asian Highway from Bangladesh,” at the Social Science Research Council, Inter-Asian Connections II, December 8-10, 2010, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Microfinance Symposium, Lorwin Lecture Series on Women’s Rights in a Global Frame, University Of Oregon, October 19, 2010

Workshop participant, “Revisiting Microcredit/Microfinance as a Development Strategy for an Inclusive Growth: A Global Perspective,” University of California, Santa Barbara, May 28, 2010.

Workshop Facilitator with Prof. Richard Shapiro, “Teaching Race and Gender in a Globalized Postcolonial World,” at the *Teaching Race and Gender Beyond Diversity Conference*, University of Oregon May 7-8, 2010

Invited to present my work on middle classness at the CASCA/AES Meetings, in Vancouver, British Columbia, May 13-16, 2009.

Invited to present my work on social movements in Bangladesh at the *Conference on Poverty, Inequality and the State*, UNC-Chapel Hill, January 11-13, 2008

Invited to present my work on Islamic nationalism and gender at the *Conference on Feminist Scholarship on the Margins of South Asian Studies*, University of California-Irvine, January 25-26, 2007

Invited to present my work on decolonizing ethnography at *The Turns and Folly of Apprentice Ethnography*, University of California-Irvine, March 30-31, 2006

Workshop on “Gendered Violence in South Asia: Nation and Community in the Postcolonial Present Gender, Violence and Nationalism in South Asia,” *South Asia Studies Conference*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 14-16, 2004. This workshop brought together an international group of feminist scholars to publish new research on violence in South Asia.

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Workshop on “Democratizing Women: NGOs, Empowerment, and Marginalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” at the Rockefeller Bellagio Study and Conference Center, Italy sponsored by the University of California at Irvine and the Rockefeller Foundation, August 9-15, 2004.

Workshop on “Global Circuits of Feminism” at the University of California at Irvine, May 21, 2004

### **Invited Academic Public Lectures**

“Knowledge/Power in Microfinance,” University of Iowa, November 13, 2010

“Microfinance and Its Discontents,” Emory University, Atlanta, GA, April 14, 2010

“Anthropology: Challenges, Discourses and Practices,” Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh October 14, 2009

“Debating Human Rights.” Plenary Session, National Council for Research on Women, New York, June 2009

“Microcredit and Its Limits: The Case From Bangladesh,” Northeastern University, Boston, February 19, 2009

“The Neoliberal Subject and The Economy of Shame,” University of Toronto, February 3, 2006

“Struggles Within Islam: The Emergence of Human Rights Discourse for Women and Minorities in Bangladesh,” University of California at Irvine, March 15, 2005

“Struggles Within Islam: The Emergence of Human Rights Discourse for Women and Minorities in Bangladesh,” *South Asia Speaker Series*, University of Texas, Austin, March 10, 2005

Invited Speaker at the *Race, Class, Gender and Ethnicity Conference* Law School, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, February 19, 2005

“Discourses of Modernity? Gender, NGOs and Militant Islam in Bangladesh.” *Sociocultural Colloquia Series*, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington Seattle, November 17, 2003

“The Economy of Shame: Gender, Development and the (Dis)Contents of Globalization in Bangladesh. Public Lecture, Women’s Studies and the Department of Romance Languages, University of Houston, March 11, 2003

“The “Surrogate” Capitalist: Women-Targeted Programs and the Emergence of New Technologies of Control in Bangladesh.” *Rockefeller Visiting Fellows Public Lecture*, Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, October 3, 2002

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“Engendering Development: The Political Economy of Debt and Disgrace.” *Rockefeller Postdoctoral Fellows Public Lecture*, Women’s Studies and Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii, March 8, 200

“From Armchair Ethnology to the Postmodern Turn: New Directions in American Anthropology.” Dhaka University, Department of Anthropology, March 15, 1998

### **Academic Conferences Organized**

*Empires in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Emergence and Contestation* Spring 2007

Co-organizer with Prof. Sangita Gopal (UO-English), sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women and Society, University of Oregon. The conference brought together a group of internationally known feminist scholars to examine the forms of the emerging empires of “Chindia” (India and China) and the gendered contestations around these new forms of empire building

*South Asia Speaker Series (2004)*, University of Oregon

Organized the South Asia Speaker Series 2004 at the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies that brought five international scholars to the University of Oregon representing the following topics: nationalism, gender, war and violence, human rights and Islamic laws, and gay/lesbian Muslim organizing

*Women and the Contested State Conference*, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, April 11-12, 2003.

“*Visualizing South Asian Diasporas*,” Rice University, March, 1996

Co-organizer of a two-day symposium on South Asian ethnographic documentaries. The event brought together South Asian scholars from Rice and beyond, filmmakers and local community activists, to explore diasporic forms of belongings for South Asians

### **Academic Workshop Organized**

“Teaching Race and Gender in a Postcolonial/Globalized World,” workshop organized by Professors Lamia Karim and Richard Shapiro at *Teaching Beyond Race and Gender Diversity Conference*, University of Oregon, May 5-6, 2010

*Faculty Seminar on Subaltern Historiography*, University of Oregon Fall 2006

Organized through the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS) a faculty-graduate student seminar on subaltern historiography conducted by Visiting Fulbright Fellow, Dr. Anjan Ghosh from the Center for Social Sciences, Kolkata (India)

### **Panels Organized at Academic Conferences**

*Transnational Networks, Globalization and Social Movements*, Annual Anthropology Meetings, November 2008. Chair, and co-organizer. The session invited by the American Ethnological Association (AES) and the Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA).

The double-panel session brought together twelve scholars/activists working on a broad range of issues in grassroots activism.

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American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, New Orleans, November, 2002  
Chair, and co-organizer, “Dislocating/Resituating South Asian Anthropology: Critical Perspectives on Knowledge Formation from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka”

Chair and Panel organizer, “Between Subjects and Citizens: Women, the “Modern” State, and Violence in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan,” University of Notre Dame, April 11-12, 2003

Society for the Study of Narrative Literature. International Narrative Conference ,  
Rice University, Houston, TX, March, 2001  
Chair and panel organizer, “Ethnographic Narratives of Culture: Power in the Global Economies”

American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, November, 1999  
Panel co-organizer, “Privatizing the State: Ethnography of Development, Transnational Capital and NGOs”

### **Presenter at Academic Conferences**

“Considerations on the Middle Class in Bangladesh” at *Invigorating Feminist Anthropology: Intersectionality and the Conundrum of the Middle Class*, American Ethnological Society, Vancouver, Canada, May 2009

“Politics of the Oppressed: Resistance to Globalization, Asia Energy and People’s Movement in Phulbari, Bangladesh,” *Conference on Poverty, Inequality and the State*, UNC-Chapel Hill, January 11-13, 2008

“An Ethnography of Feelings: Nationalism and the Rise of Political Islam in Bangladesh,” *Conference on Feminist Scholarship on the Margins of South Asian Studies*, UC-Irvine, January 25-26, 2007

“The Recalcitrant Subject of Human Rights: NGOs and the Struggle for Women’s Citizenship Rights in Bangladesh,” Invited Panel, *Annual Anthropological Association Meetings*, San Jose, California, November 15-19, 2006

“Ethnography as a Decolonizing Practice,” *Conference on Turns and Folly of Apprentice Anthropology*, University of California-Irvine, March 30-31, 2006

‘Contested Citizenships’: Human Rights, Democracy, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in Bangladesh,” *Gender, Race and Militarization Conference*, University of Oregon, October 28, 2005

“Grotesque Nationalism and the Minority Question in Bangladesh,” *International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences*, Kolkata, India, December 12-15, 2004

“Women as Surrogate Citizens: State Policies, Developmental NGOs, and Militant Islam in Bangladesh.” *Women and the Contested State Conference*, Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, April 11-12, 2003

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“The “Intimate Enemy”: Bengali Hindus and Language Culture Debates for Bengali Muslims.” Invited Panel, *Annual Anthropological Association Meetings*, New Orleans, November 20-24, 2002

“National Identity and The Politics of Reading Taslima Nasreen: The Two Bengals.” *South Asian Studies Conference*, University of Hawaii, April 10-11, 2002

“Narrating the Poor.” Narrative Conference, sponsored by the *Society for the Study of Narrative Literature*, Rice University, Houston, March 8-11, 2001

“Politics and its Futures: NGOs, Global Capital and Emerging Identities.” Invited Panel, *American Anthropological Association Meetings*, Chicago, November 17-21, 1999

“Rethinking the Rhetoric of Development: Discourses, Policies Practices.” *Allied Social Science Associations Conference*, New York, January 2-5, 1999

“Woman as Money Makes the World Go Round.” *American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings*, Philadelphia, PA, December 2-6, 1998

“Narratives of Debt and Empowerment.” *Annual Conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 4-6, 1999

“Micro-credit: An Untold Story.” *Conference on Culture and Economics*, the University of Exeter & Society for Critical Exchange, Exeter, UK, July 23-26, 1998

“Feminizing Micro-credit: Is it Empowering Women?” *Annual Conference on International Association for Feminist Economics*, Mexico City and Taxco, Mexico, June 19-22, 1997

“Between State and Donors: NGOs and Governmentality in Bangladesh.” *Brown Bag Seminar* at the Department of Anthropology, Rice University, Houston, TX, March 31, 1997

“Kinship and Globalization,” *Conference on Kinship and Cosmopolitanism*, Rice University, Houston, March 29, 1997

Selected as part of a small group of graduate students to participate at the conference on *History and The Limits of Interpretation*, Rice University, Houston, TX March 15-17, 1996

“The Tribal in Bangladesh: Whose State is it Anyway?” *Annual South Asian Studies Conference*, University of California-Berkeley, CA, February 15 & 16, 1997

“Ethnographer as Native/Other: Reflections on Conducting Interviews.” *Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society*, April 18-20, 1996

“The Writer as Enemy: Bangladeshi Women and Exiled Feminist Writer Taslima Nasreen.” *Brown Bag Seminar*, Department of Anthropology, Rice University, November 28, 1995



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“Islam, Gender Identity, and the Bangladeshi Diaspora in the US.” Center for the Study of Social Sciences, Dhaka University, August 6, 1995

## **Teaching**

### **Teaching Areas**

Cultural Anthropology, South Asia, Islam, Gender and Sexuality, Development and Globalization, Colonial and Postcolonial Anthropology, Anthropology of Violence, and Postcolonial Feminist Theory

### **Seminar on Islam and Women at California Institute for Integral Studies (CIIS)**

Invited to conduct a seminar on women, Islam and modernity at the California Institute for Integral Studies, November 2005

### **Undergraduate and Graduate Anthropology Courses**

Cultures of South Asia  
Anthropology and Globalization  
Colonialism and Anthropology  
Gender, Sexuality and Politics in Muslim Societies  
Sexuality and Culture  
Women in Cross-Cultural Perspectives  
Anthropology of Violence  
Graduate Cultural Theory Seminar  
Postcolonial Feminist Theory  
Feminist Ethnographic Methods

### **Faculty Affiliations**

Asian Studies Program  
Comparative Literature  
Folklore Program  
Honors College  
International Studies

### **Graduate Students**

#### **PhD Students**

Aaron Greer (Ph.D.) Anthropology, Dissertation Committee Member  
Tung-yi Kho, Sociology, External Dissertation Committee Member  
Chris O’Bryan (Ph.D.) Anthropology, Dissertation Committee Member  
Mauricio Magana (Ph.D.), Anthropology, Dissertation Committee Member  
Sandra Ezquerra (Ph.D.), Sociology, Dissertation Committee Member, 2008  
Blair Orfall (Ph.D.), English, Dissertation Committee Member, 2009

#### **MA Students**

Jennifer Erickson (M.A.), Anthropology, M.A. Thesis Reader, 2004  
Taimur Khan (M.A. Journalism 2007), M.A. Thesis Reader, 2007  
June Hwe Kwon (M.A.), Anthropology, M.A. Thesis Reader, 2005  
Mauricio Magana (M.A.. Anthropology), MA Thesis Reader, 2008

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Summer Pennell (M.A. Folklore), M.A. Thesis Reader, 2009

Rupa Pillai (M.A. Anthropology), Thesis Advisor, 2010

Gennie Nguyen (M.A. Anthropology), M.A. Thesis Advisor

## **Service**

### **University of Oregon**

Coordinator, Women of Color Project at the Center for the Study on Women and Society, 2009-2010

Delegate to the Regional National Council on Research on Women West Coast Meetings at UC-Davis, May 1, 2009

Member, Diversity Committee, Department of Anthropology, 2006-09

Served on Graduate Admissions, Department of Anthropology, 2006, 2007, 2008

Senator, University of Oregon Faculty Senate, 2005-08

Advisory Board Member, Wayne Morse School of Law, and Politics, University of Oregon, 2006-09

Executive Board Member, Center for the Study of Women and Society (CSWS), 2004-06

Delegate to the Asian Pacific Rim Universities Fellows Program, University of Malaya, Malaysia. August 21-27, 2005

Member, Advisory Board, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS), University of Oregon, 2003-05

### **External**

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Internationality*

Reviewer, National Science Foundation, 2004, 2005, 2007

Reviewer, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, 2004-2006

Reviewer, *Cultural Anthropology*, *International Journal of Social Welfare*, *Cultural Dynamics*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*, *Journal of Feminist Economics*

Podcast interview of my work on microfinance and the Grameen Bank on Power and Diplomacy, April 28, 2009 ([www.poweranddiplomacy.com](http://www.poweranddiplomacy.com))

Radio Interview on my work on micro-credit and its effects on the lives of rural Bangladeshi women on "Border Crossings," on KPFT, Houston, TX March 24, 2005

### **Other Academic Experience**

Research consultant for indigenous human rights sponsored by the Madaripur Legal Aid Foundation, Bangladesh and the Sasakawa Foundation, Japan on "Collective Minority Ethnic Rights in Bangladesh." Completed a two-month project on two indigenous groups, Garos and Santals, in Bangladesh, 1996

### **Professional Memberships**

American Anthropological Association

American Ethnological Association

American Association of Cultural Anthropology

American Institute for Bangladesh Studies