

Bahar Davary: EWIC Online Editor



Bahar Davary is an Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego and affiliate faculty of the Ethnic Studies department. She received her Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America in Catholic Theological Tradition and Muslim-Christian Dialogue and M.A. and B.A. in History of Religion and Islamic Theology from University of Tehran. Her research interests are: Qur'an and its interpretations, Women in Islam, and Muslim-Christian Dialogue. Her research on women in classical interpretations of the Qur'an, examines selected works of Tafsir, focusing on the development, continuity, and change in the portrayal of woman throughout Islamic history and the ways in which the commentaries affect the self-perception of Muslim women. In "Miss Elsa and the Veil: Shame, Honor, and Identity Negotiations" she looks at the theme of women as the "gendered other," but more specifically i.e. the "veiled other." Her research takes on a comparative approach between Christian and Islamic feminist thought pointing to similarities and differences in their approaches to their respective textual tradition. She has participated in research projects in Turkey and Iran on the to explore the variety of meanings of the veil as a religious symbol and its place in the consciousness of Turkish and Iranian Muslim women. Her research in Southeast Asia focuses on ecology and its relation with the sacred and with the feminine. Davary has served on the board of editors for the Companion Encyclopedia of the Qur'an (Routledge, 2006), was an external Consultant on Islam for the Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought, at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA (2007-2011) and is currently (2011-) serving on the advisory board of the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. In the past years she has taught courses, including: World Religions, Islam, Gender and Islam, Muslim Women in Literature, Ecology and the Sacred, and Islamic Mysticism. She has team-taught study abroad course Negotiating Religious Diversity in India; Honors course Women in Islam and Confucianism, and World Religion and Theatre.

Selected Publications:

Women and the Qur'an: A Study in Islamic Hermeneutics, (Lewiston, New York: Edwin Mellen Press), 2009

"Miss Elsa and the Veil: Shame, Honor, and Identity Negotiations," Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion at Harvard Divinity School, Vol. 25.2, Fall 2009

“Muslim and Christian Women: The Common Legacy of Patriarchy,” *Alam-e Niswan: Pakistan Journal of Women’s Studies*, Vol. 15/2, December 2008, pp. 61-75

“Re-appropriation of Tradition in A Secular Age: The Question of the Veil” *Dinbilimleri Akademik Arastirma Dergisi (On-line Journal for the Academic Study of Religion -in Turkish)* Vol. 8 No. 3, August 2008, pp. 291-312

“Forgiveness in Islam: Is It An Ultimate Reality?” in *Ultimate Reality and Meaning: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Philosophy of Understanding*, University of Toronto Press, Vol. 27, no. 2 (June 2004), pp. 127-141

“Mary in Islam: ‘No Man Could Have Been Like This Woman’”, *New Theology Review*, Vol. 23, number 3, August 2010, pp. 26-34.

“Violence to the Text: Violence through the Text,” in Joseph Hoffmann, ed., *The Just War and Jihad: Violence in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 2006) pp. 121-138