



Call for Papers

“The Essential Needs of the Iranian Woman Today”

**The 19th International Annual Conference of the
Iranian Women Studies Foundation**

July 4-6, 2008

Wheeler Auditorium

University of California, Berkeley

Despite a myriad of social and legal setbacks in the last thirty years wherein Iranian women lost many of the rights they had attained in the past 100 years, they have continuously strived to improve their social and political status. Consequently they have established their presence in different spheres of life, particularly that of civil society. This conference will examine the socio-political needs of the Iranian woman in regards to ethnicity, gender, religion, class background, sexuality, and sexual orientation.

We invite you to submit proposals exploring the following questions as they relate to Iranian women both in Iran and diaspora:

1. What are the different tendencies within the Iranian women's movement? How do they propose to go about fulfilling the essential needs of the Iranian woman?
2. What are the possible obstacles and challenges in addressing these needs?
3. How do women mutually influence each other in their efforts to address and realize these needs?

4. What role do notions of ethnicity, gender, religion, class background, sexuality and sexual orientation play in the articulation and realization of these needs?
5. How have these needs been reflected upon and manifested in the sphere of the arts and literature?
6. What are the critical needs of the younger generation of Iranian women?

There will be two additional panels exploring the following issues in more depth:

1. The impact of the global economic and political forces on the issues of gender and women's rights in the Middle East.
2. Different tendencies within the Iranian women's movement.

The papers of this conference will be published in the IWSF 2008 Conference Proceedings.

Please note our request for a new and not a previously published paper. Participants must therefore commit themselves not to present or publish the papers presented at this conference elsewhere. Papers must be delivered in person and in Persian. All entries must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Proposals should be in Persian* no longer than 300 words and must include a short biography, mailing and email address and a telephone number.

*Please contact us if you are unable to submit your proposal in Persian. Exceptions can be made.

Deadline for submission: **February 15, 2008**

Please address all enquiries and proposals to:

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Fax: 1-650-386-5170