

**“Towards ‘the Dignity of Difference’:
Neither ‘the Clash of Civilizations’ nor ‘the End of History’”**

**University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada
October 2-4, 2009**

Conference Panels

(Please note that conference program may be subject to change)

Friday Evening (October 02, 2009) – Old Arts Building, University of Alberta

5:00-7:00 Reception and Dinner (Private Function)

Opening Keynote Event:

Convocation Hall, Old Arts Building

7:00-8:00 Opening remarks and musical performance:

Al-Kurd by Professor Michael Frishkopf (Dept of Music). Performed by:

* Dr. Ashraf El-Assaly, *oud*

* Nadir Bellahmer, *violin*

* Steven Byrne, *frame drum*

* Dr. Michael Frishkopf, *nay*”

8:00-9:00 Keynote Address:

Chair: Thomas Keating (Professor and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta)

• Benjamin R. Barber (Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos and President of CivWorld, USA):

Talk title: *History is not over, but! A Need for Global Governance*

Saturday (October 03, 2009) – Lister Center, University of Alberta

9:00 – 10:00: **Keynote Address**

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

Chair: Janine Brodie (Professor and Canada Research Chair, University of Alberta)

• Robert Cox: (Distinguished Professor emeritus of political science at York University, Canada):

Talk title: *Consciousness and Civilization: the inside Story*

Saturday Morning Panels (10:15: 12:15)

Panel 1: ‘The End of the West’?

Saturday (10:15 am: 12:30 pm)

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

• Chair: Lois Harder (Associate Professor and Graduate Chair, Department of Political Science - University of Alberta)

• Hamid Dabashi (Columbia University, USA): *The End of the West and the Birth of the First Postcolonial Person*

- Joshua Castellino (Middlesex University, UK): *The End of Liberal State and the First Terrorist*
- Robert Nichols (University of Alberta, Canada): *The Conditions of Liberty and the New Civilizational Discourse*

Panel 2: Difference and Dialogue in Global Politics

Saturday (10:15 am: 12:15 pm)

Aurora Room, Lister Center

- Chair: Judith Garber (Associate Professor at Political Science Department, and Chair of Centre for Constitutional Studies – University of Alberta)
- Vesselin Popovski (United Nations University, Japan): *Dignity of Difference and the United Nations*
- Yuri Stoyanov (University of London, UK): *De-Apocalypticizing the Differences and the End of History*
- Abraham H. Khan (Trinity College, University of Toronto, Canada): *The Interplay between Religion and Mainstream International Diplomacy*

12:30-1:15 LUNCH

Saturday: Afternoon Panels (1:30-3:30)

Panel 3: Beyond Exceptionalism; Towards Dialogue?

Saturday (1:30-3:30)

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

- Chair: Don Carmichael (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science – University of Alberta)
- Mustafa Abu Sway (Al-Quds University, Jerusalem): *Constructing civilizational dialogue, Deconstructing grand narratives of conflicts*
- Amira Sonbol (Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, USA): *Beyond Exceptionalism: Is a Common History Possible?*
- Peyman Vahabzadeh (University of Victoria, Canada): *Oblivion of Origins: On Hegemonic Universals and Hybrid Civilizations*

Panel 4: Cosmopolitan Political Theory of Dialogue?

Saturday (1:30-3:30)

Aurora Room, Lister Center

- Chair: David Kahane (Associate Professor, and Vargo Distinguished Teaching Chair, Department of Political Science - University of Alberta)
- Paul Rowe (Trinity Western University, Canada): *Coexist: religion, civil society and global order*
- Jakeet Singh (University of Toronto, Canada): *Violence, Religion, and the Politics of Post-secularism*

• James Lawson (University of Victoria, Canada): *The Coexistence of 'Umran' and the Improvement Epic of Settler Societies*

2:30 – 3:30: **4th Annual Hurtig Lecture** (Myer Horowitz Theatre, Students' Union Building)
Neil Macdonald (CBC News): *"Them and Us: Nationalism's Dangerous Attraction"*

AFTERNOON BREAK

Saturday: Afternoon Panels (3:45-5:45)

Panel 5: A Clash of Civilizations? Israel-Palestine in Context

Saturday (3:45-5:45)

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

• Chair: Yasmeen Abu-Laban Yasmeen Abu-Laban (Professor and Research Chair, Department of Political Science - University of Alberta)

• Ghada Hashem Talhami (Professor emerita, Lake Forest College, USA): *Terrorism Across Nations*

• Mustafa Abu Sway (Al-Quds University, Jerusalem): *How to end the Israeli occupation? Dialogue, Negotiations, or Unilateralism?*

• Ben White (Freelance journalist, UK): *Dialogue and resistance – mutually exclusive or parallel tracks? Global civil society engages with Palestine/Israel.*

• Franke Wilmer (Montana State University, USA): *Identities and Interests in Making War, States, and Peace: A Constructivist's View of the Israel-Palestine*

Panel 6: Clash within Civilizations?

Saturday (3:45-5:45)

Aurora Room, Lister Center

• Chair: Julian Castro-Rea (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science – University of Alberta)

• Hochang Hassn-Yari (Royal Military College, Canada): *Clashology within Islam: not civilizational but political*

• Mekere Stewart-Harawira (University of Alberta, Canada): *Indigenous Peoples and International relations at the End of Empire*

6:00-7:00 DINNER BREAK

7:15 – 8:15: **Keynote Address:**

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

Chair: Ibrahim Abu-Rabi (Professor and Chair in Islamic Studies, University of Alberta)

• Hassan Hanafi (Cairo University, Egypt)

Talk Title: *Cultures, in Conflict or Dialogue? Alternative Models*

Sunday (October 04, 2009) – Lister Center, University of Alberta

9:00 - 10:00: **Keynote Address:**

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

Chair: David Goa (Director of The Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life - University of Alberta)

• Fred Dallmayr (Packer J. Dee Distinguished Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Political Science, University of Notre Dame, USA):

Talk title: *Dialogue among Faiths: The Dignity of Religious Difference*

Sunday: Morning Panels (10:15-12:30)

Panel 7: Iran 2009: "Dignity of Revolt"

Sunday (10:15 am: 12:30 pm)

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

• Chair: Laurie Adkin (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science – University of Alberta)

• Hamid Dabashi (Columbia University, USA): *The Crisis of an Islamic Republic*

• Ramin Jahanbegloo (University of Toronto, Canada): *The Gandhian Moment in Iran*

• Mojtaba Mahdavi (University of Alberta): *The Ahmadinejad Phenomenon: The Rise and Crisis of Iran's Neoconservatives*

Panel 8: Resistance, Terror, and Religion

Sunday (10:15 am: 12:30 pm)

Aurora Room, Lister Center

• Chair: Malinda Smith (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science – University of Alberta)

• Roger van Zwanenberg (Sussex University Alumni and Managing Director of Pluto Press, UK): *Civilization, Empire and History: Resistance, Terror and Religion*

• Tanya Narozhna (University of Winnipeg, Canada): *In the name of the cause: plural pathways to female suicide terrorism*

• Zachary Devereaux (Ryerson/York University, Canada): *A Comparative Analysis of the Framing of Terrorism in Online News under the George W. Bush and Barak H. Obama Administrations: from Clash to Dialogue?*

12:30-1:15 LUNCH

Sunday: Afternoon Panels (1:30-3:30)

Panel 9: Rethinking Civilizationist Discourse: Beyond Dialogue among Civilizations

Sunday (1:30-3:30)

Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

- Chair: Andy Knight (Professor and Chair, Political Science, University of Alberta)
- Walther Lichem (Former *Austrian Ambassador* to Canada): *Capacity for otherness in pluri-identity societies*
- Ramin Jahanbegloo (University of Toronto, Canada): *Transcending the Clash of Cultures: The Search for Common Shared Values*
- Aloka Parasher-Sen (University of Alberta): *Negotiating Plurality – The Indian Civilization Perspective*
- Siavash Saffari (University of Alberta): *Prerequisites for Dialogue: Subaltern counterpublic as the 'site of radical possibilities'*

Panel 10: Justice and Difference

Sunday (1:30-3:30)

Aurora Room, Lister Center

- Chair: Rob Aitken (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science – University of Alberta)
- Mokhtar Lamani (Moroccan diplomat, Former Ambassador of the Arab League to Iraq, visiting IDRC, senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, Waterloo, Canada): *The Extinction of Iraqi Minorities: Challenge or Catastrophe?*
- Tracey O'Reilly (Grant MacEwan College, Canada): *A Clash of Civilizations or a Clash of Perceptions? Divergent Views on Democracy between "The West and the rest"*

AFTERNOON BREAK

3:45: 5:00: **Keynote Address:**
Maple Leaf Room, Lister Center

Chair: Malinda Smith (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science – University of Alberta)

- Akbar Ganji (Iranian journalist and political activist)
Talk Title: Iran and the West: Confrontation or Dialogue?