

11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POLITICAL SCIENCE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE PRESENTS

# MAHER ARAR

CIVIL LIBERTIES & NATIONAL SECURITY

ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS & FREEDOMS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007 · 7:00 PM · WINSPEAR CENTRE

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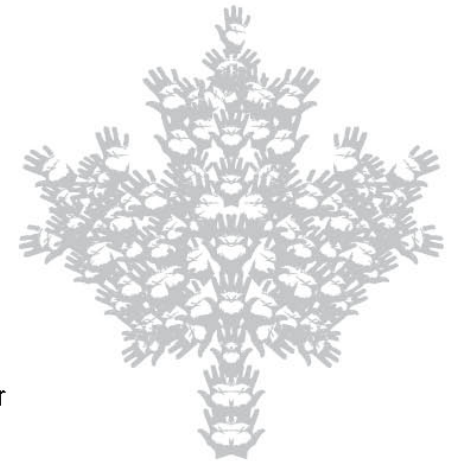
Official Welcomes

Music Program: Music for Reflection and Action

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Biographies

Sponsors and Thank You



### Event Organization

Dr. Malinda Smith, Event Coordinator

Ms. Tara Mish, Assistant Chair

Ms. Nisha Nath, Research Assistant

Ms. Stephanie Fletcher, Volunteer Assistant

### Media Promotions

Ms. Angela Martincevic, Director of Fund Development & Public Relations

Ms. Melissa Boisvert, Faculty of Arts Communications Coordinator

*Edmonton Journal*

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### Program Design and Development

Mr. Sanjit Fernandes+Bakshi (University of Alberta alumnus) – Graphic Design & Coordination

Dr. Sandra Rein (Augustana Campus) – Program Design & Development



## Message from His Worship Mayor Stephen Mandel

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, it is my privilege to welcome Maher Arar and Julian Falconer to Alberta's Capital.

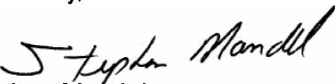
I would also like to acknowledge the University of Alberta's Department of Political Science for hosting the 11th Annual Political Science Distinguished Lecture. This year's theme, "Challenges of Torture for Contemporary Democracies", speaks to our duty as citizens to work together to promote tolerance, diversity and understanding.

Mr. Arar's lecture on "Civil Liberties and National Security" provides an important and thought provoking backdrop to broaden our awareness and understanding of civil liberties and Canadian citizenship.

The City of Edmonton is keenly aware of our stewardship in enhancing and protecting civil liberties and fundamental freedoms for all of our citizens. Together, with our community partners, we are building a city based on respect, dignity and diversity.

It is commendable for the University of Alberta to host such lectures that encourage discussion on these important and far reaching societal issues.

Yours truly,

  
Stephen Mandel  
Mayor



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA

## WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA


On behalf of the University of Alberta, our students, faculty and staff, I would like to welcome you to our campus, and the City of Edmonton. We are delighted to have you as our guest to deliver the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Political Science Distinguished Lecture on "Civil Liberties & National Security."

Your visit to the University of Alberta greatly contributes to the advancement of knowledge of democracy, human rights, and justice for the benefit of not only our leaders of tomorrow - our students - but ultimately for all Canadians. This topic is particularly timely as this year we commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The University of Alberta is a dynamic, modern institution of higher learning, leading change nationally and internationally. We are committed to activities that develop leadership, foster social and moral responsibility, and contribute to the further development of our society and its institutions. For this, we are grateful that you will be sharing your experience and insights with us.

The University of Alberta extends our thanks to the Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Arts for hosting this important event held at the Winspear Centre on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007. I have no doubt that this will be an outstanding event, both thought-provoking and inspiring for all. Please accept my sincere thanks and I wish you every success.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Indira V. Samarasekera, O.C. President and Vice-Chancellor





**DR. LINDA TRIMBLE**



**WELCOME TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

As Chair of the Department it is my great honour to welcome Mr. Maher Arar as the Political Science Distinguished Annual Lecturer. Mr. Arar's horrific experience – of suspicion, extraordinary rendition, imprisonment and torture, followed by a long and valiant battle to win freedom and clear his name – raises serious questions about the structures and values Canadians hold dear and often take for granted. Mr. Arar's story shows very clearly that citizenship, democracy, human rights, justice, and government accountability are not mere concepts. They are often unrealized ideals, imperfect in practice.

We are inspired by Mr. Arar's courage and tenacity and heartened by his commitment to finding answers and solutions for all Canadians. Mr. Arar's ordeal brings some of the most fundamental issues in the study of politics to the forefront of national political debates, and underlines precisely why it is important for political scientists to continually scrutinize and interrogate the norms and practices of citizenship, democracy, security and civil rights. The questions raised by Mr. Arar's experiences lie at the heart of our discipline, and the Department of Political Science deeply appreciates the willingness of Mr. Arar to share his story and insights with us and the broader University and Edmonton community.

**Linda Trimble, PhD  
Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science  
University of Alberta**



**DR. MALINDA S. SMITH**

**WELCOME TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POLITICAL  
SCIENCE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE**

I was honoured to have Maher Arar accept my invitation to deliver the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Political Science Distinguished Lecture on the subject of "Civil Liberties & National Security."

The Annual Lecture is a capstone for the Political Science Speakers Series, which each year brings together renowned scholars to explore pressing political challenges. This year's theme – *Subaltern Voices: Speaking & Theorizing from the Disciplinary Margins* – encouraged students, researchers, and academics to be aware of, and take responsibility for, the silences, omissions, exclusions, oversights and inequalities, which may flow from the way we think about politics or we practice our citizenship. As participants in the Series, we were challenged to critically analyze how our assumptions and biases can limit who speaks, if and how we listen, and whether we hear certain voices in the classrooms and in the broader community. The Series also reflected upon the responsibility of the intellectual to "speak the truth to power", and to assess how intellectual capital is used, whether to tell dominant stories or stories from the political and theoretical margins.

Political theory through storytelling, Hannah Arendt argued, entails the profoundly political task of "illumination." She insisted that "even in the darkest of times we have the right to expect some illumination." We appreciate Mr. Arar's willingness to share his story with us, as we reflect upon the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Mr. Arar's story clarifies why certain values and principles are fundamental to the proper functioning of democratic societies, such as the rule of law, and civil rights for all citizens, without regard to race, national origin, creed or religious conviction. His story exposes the dangers and costs to liberal democracies that equivocate on fundamental rights. We are fortunate to hear him tell his story, in his own words.

I hope this lecture provides the space for us to examine the dominant narratives of rights and security, and how they, simultaneously, may provide *insecurities* for some of us and, potentially, for all of us.

**Malinda S. Smith, PhD  
Associate Professor, Political Science**

## MUSIC PROGRAM

### MUSIC FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION

*Song of Man*

*I suffered at the hands of despotic rulers;  
I suffered slavery under insane invaders;  
I suffered hunger imposed by tyranny.  
Yet, I still possess some inner power  
With which I struggle to greet each day.  
Yet, I am still seeking truth.  
~Khalil Gibran*

6:00-6:10 **I Dialogue: Arabic Oud and Sitar**

Ashraf El-Assaly, *oud*  
Seema Ganatra, *sitar*

6:10-6:25 **II Voices of Sufism**

Vinod Bhardwaj, *bansuri, harmonium*  
Regula Qureshi, *sarangi*  
Masood Ahmad, *tabla*  
Abdul Wardak, *rabab*  
Robina Virk, *tanpura*

6:25-6:45 **III Iranian and Arabic Songs**

Elaheh Ahmadi  
Ashraf El-Assaly, *oud*

6:45-7:00 ~~ INTERMISSION ~~

## LECTURE PROGRAM

### MAHER ARAR

7:00

#### Opening Remarks

Dr. Malinda S. Smith  
*Political Science Speaker Series Coordinator*

7:05-7:15

#### University Welcome

*Dr. Olive Yonge, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs)*

7:15-7:25

#### Department Welcome

*Dr. Linda Trimble, Chair, Political Science*

7:30-7:50

#### Introduction of Mr. Julian Falconer Remarks by Mr. Julian Falconer

7:50-7:55

#### Introduction of Mr. Maher Arar

*Dr. Malinda S. Smith*

7:55-8:35

#### Keynote Address by Maher Arar

*"Civil Liberties & National Security"*

8:35-8:40

#### The Maher Arar Essay Competition & Award

*Student Liaisons: Ms. Nisha Nath (Graduate) and  
Mr. Naveed Bandali (Undergraduate)*

8:40-8:50

#### Announcement of the Maher Arar Essay Competition Winner

Mr. Maher Arar to award the Essay Competition Prize

8:50-8:55

#### Closing Remarks

*Dr. Linda Trimble*

~~ END ~~





**MAHER ARAR**

Mr. Maher Arar is a 36-year-old wireless technology consultant. He was born in Syria and came to Canada with his family at the age of 17. He became a Canadian citizen in 1991. On 26 September, 2002, while in transit in New York's John F. Kennedy's airport on his way home to Canada from a vacation, Mr. Arar was detained and interrogated by United States officials about alleged links to al-Qaeda.

Twelve days later, Mr. Arar was chained, shackled and flown to Syria, where he was held in a tiny 'grave-like' cell for over ten months before he was moved to a different prison. In Syria, Mr. Arar was beaten, tortured and forced to make a false confession.

During his imprisonment, Mr. Arar's wife, Monia Mazigh, campaigned tirelessly on his behalf. Mr. Arar finally was released by Syrian authorities and returned to Canada in October 2003, where he joined his wife and supporters in a campaign to clear his name. According to Mr. Arar, "What is at stake here is the future of our country, the interests of Canadian citizens, and most importantly Canada's international reputation for being a leader in human rights where citizens from different ethnic groups are treated no different than other Canadians."

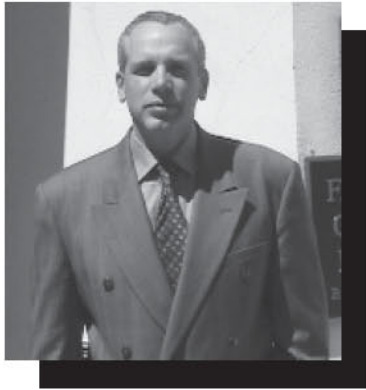
On 28 January, 2004, under pressure from Canadian human rights organizations and a growing number of concerned citizens, the federal Government announced a Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar. The Inquiry was headed by Ontario's Associate Chief Justice, Mr. Dennis O'Connor. In his report of 18 September 2006, Mr. Justice O'Connor cleared Mr. Arar of all terrorism allegations, and stated that "[he was] able to say categorically that there is no evidence to indicate that Mr. Arar has committed any offence or that his activities constitute a threat to the security of Canada." The Inquiry also found that the suffering experienced by Mr. Arar and his family was due, in part, to the actions of some government officials. The United States

Immigration and Naturalization Service agents acted on information supplied by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

On 26 January, 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper acknowledged that a "tremendous injustice" had occurred, and he issued a formal apology to Mr. Arar and his family: "On behalf of the government of Canada, I wish to apologize to you [Maher Arar], Monia Mazigh and your family for any role Canadian officials may have played in the terrible ordeal that all of you experienced in 2002 and 2003." On the same day, the Canadian government announced that a settlement was reached regarding the lawsuit brought by Mr. Maher against the Canadian government.

Currently Mr. Arar is pursuing a Doctorate degree in wireless engineering. He and Monia Mazigh continue their struggle to clear his name in the United States, and to remove them from that country's no-fly list. Mr. Arar's wish, to "make sure this does not happen to any other Canadian citizens in the future," requires all Canadians to reflect on the importance of civil liberties and the challenges of torture for democracies, governmental accountability, and our roles and responsibilities as citizens.





**MR. JULIAN N. FALCONER**  
**FALCONER CHARNEY LLP**

Mr. Julian Falconer has been legal counsel to numerous organizations including the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (since 1992), the Chinese Canadian National Council (Toronto Chapter), various Presbyteries of the United Church of Canada, the St. Elizabeth Home Society (Hamilton, Ontario) and Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto.

Mr. Falconer's practice has also included acting as counsel for lawyers

on matters ranging from partnership disputes to contempt proceedings and personal costs applications. His practice includes an emphasis on public interest litigation triggering issues of state accountability at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Mr. Falconer's more notable work includes acting on the Ipperwash Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George as well as the Coroners' Inquests into the Deaths of Lester Donaldson, Robert Gentles, Edmund Yu and Wayne Williams. Mr. Falconer recently acted for Maher Arar in resolving his litigation and is also currently counsel to Joseph Pannell whose extradition is being sought by the United States in respect of an alleged 1969 shooting of a Chicago police officer.

Currently Mr. Falconer Co-Chairs (with Chief Bill Blair of the Toronto Police Service) the Saving Lives Implementation Group: a Committee struck with the Toronto Police Services Board to implement key reforms in the area of Alternatives to the Use of Lethal Force by Police. He is a recipient of Pride Magazine's African Canadian Achievement Award; the Vision of Justice Award by the Black Law Students Association of Canada; and the Urban Alliance Race Relations Medal. Mr. Falconer was also honoured by the University of Toronto as one of the twentieth century's 100 most notable graduates for his work on social change in the context of Coroners Inquests.

## MAHER ARAR ESSAY COMPETITION JUDGES

**Dr. Malinda S. Smith (Chair)** is an Associate professor in Political Science, and the Speaker Series Coordinator. She teaches in the areas of international and comparative politics, feminist critical race theory, and African politics. Her recent published works include, *Beyond the 'African Tragedy': Discourses on Development and the Global Economy*. Dr. Smith is on the Exec. of the Middle East and African Studies program. She has served on the Board of the Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations and co-founded the Anti-Racism & Decolonization Network.

**Dr. Rob Aitken** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Carleton University. His research interests lie at the intersection of International Political Economy and Cultural Studies and focus on the globalization of finance, the culture of everyday economic spaces and the relationship between national security and economic processes.

**Ms. Amritha Fernandes+Bakshi** holds a BA in Political Science and an LLB from the University of Alberta; a masters in International Development Studies from the University of Guelph; and a masters in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford. Currently she combines her academic and past musical training to explore human rights and justice issues. She co-composed the score for "The Fifty Sixers", a CBC documentary on Hungarian-Canadian refugees. Her most recent work is composing the music for "Black Snow", a documentary of Holocaust survivors produced in part by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.

**Dr. Zohra Husaini** holds a Masters of Letters in Philosophy from Cambridge University, England and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Alberta. She is a recipient of the Alberta Centennial Medal for her contributions to the life of our city. She has taught Philosophy, Sociology and Education both in India and in Canada. Dr. Husaini is the Vice President of the Inter-Faith Centre for Education and Action, Director on the Board of Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities, Vice-President of Canadian Council of Muslim Women, and Past President of the Indo-Canadian Women's Association.



**Dr. Catherine Kellogg** is an Associate professor in Political Science at the University of Alberta. She teaches political theory, and her areas of specialization are contemporary continental philosophy, Marxist and feminist theory and the critical theory of the Frankfurt School. Her present research focuses on debates over the nature of political sovereignty.

**Dr. Saleem Qureshi** is a Professor Emeritus in Political Science at the University of Alberta, where he teaches and writes in the areas of Middle Eastern and South Asian politics, Islamic fundamentalism and contemporary Islamic movements. He is frequently in demand to provide expert commentary for global media.

## STUDENT LIAISONS

**Nisha Nath** (Graduate liaison) is a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. She specializes in Gender and Politics, and Canadian Politics. She holds a B.A. from the University of Alberta, an M.A. from Carleton University in Ottawa, and is the recipient of the University of Alberta PhD Scholarship.

**Naveed Bandali** (Undergraduate liaison) is entering his third year of Political Science. Naveed is the Director of Finance for the Political Science Undergraduate Association; an Arts Councillor-elect for both the General Faculties Council and Students' Council; and a feature columnist and Editorial Board member for *Antidote Newspaper*.



## PERFORMERS

**Ashraf El-Assaly** is a Professional Engineer and a Project Manager for Oil and Gas Projects. An accomplished oud player, singer, and composer, he performs widely, including for the Middle Eastern Ensemble at the University of Alberta.

**Seema Ganatra** is a professor of Dentistry and an instructor of the Indian Music Ensemble at the University of Alberta. A renowned classical sitarist, she is a long time student of Ali Akbar Khan and his son Ashish Khan.

**Vinod Bhardwaj** is a versatile musician and poet; he plays bansuri (bamboo flute), harmonium, and sings, with several CDs and performances in Canada, the United States and India to his credit. He is Vice President of Challenger Engineering in Edmonton.

**Regula Burckhardt Qureshi** plays the bowed sarangi and the cello; she has established world music study at the University of Alberta and directs the folkwaysAlive project which is focused on people's music as a human value.

**Masood Ahmad** plays the tabla; he is a connoisseur and performer of South Asian classical and Sufi music. He was a librarian at the University of Alberta.

**Robina Virk** plays the drone accompaniment on the tanpura.

**Abdul Wardak** plays the Afghan rabab and is a renowned instrument builder. He was an Engineering professor in Afghanistan.

**Elaheh M. Ahmadi** holds an MD degree from Iran and currently works as a Research Assistant with the Family Medicine Department of University of Alberta. Inspired by spiritual ethnic music, she sings traditional Persian songs with the University of Alberta Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensemble.



# THANK YOU!

## **Maher Arar Essay Competition & Award:**

Maher Arar Essay Competition Judges

Dr. Malinda Smith - Associate Professor, Political Science

Dr. Saleem Qureshi - Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science

Dr. Catherine Kellogg - Associate Professor of Political Science

Dr. Rob Aitken - Assistant Professor of Political Science

Dr. Zohra Husaini - Vice-President of Muslim Women's Association

Ms. Amritha Fernandes+Bakshi - Human Rights lawyer and a composer

## **Sponsorship and promotion:**

*Edmonton Journal*

*Gateway* (University of Alberta)

University of Alberta Graduate Students Association (GSA)

University of Alberta Bookstore

Audrey's Bookstore

Ms. Kathryn Arbuckle, University of Alberta Library staff

Ms. Maureen Engel, Arts Resource Centre (ARC)

## **University-Community Liaison:**

Mr. Larry Shaben, Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities

Mr. Zak Sheikh, University of Alberta Chaplains Association

Ms. Nora Abou-Absi, Canadian Arab Friendship Association

Ms. Evelyn Hamdon, Muslim Women's Association

Ms. Vanessa Ali, HumanServ

Mr. Richard Awid, Phoenix Society

Ms. Charlene Hay, Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations

Mr. Laurence Frederick, Council of Canadians of African & Caribbean Heritage

## **For their generous support of the Maher Arar Lecture:**

Political Science

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Office of the Provost

Centre for Constitutional Studies

Office of Human Rights

folkwaysAlive!

*Edmonton Journal*

Hole's Greenhouse

The staff in the Faculty of Arts Development Office

The staff at the Winspear Centre

The staff in the Department of Political Science (Ms. Cindy Anderson, Ms. Marilyn

Calvert, Ms. Donna Coombs-Montrose, Ms. Tara Mish)

