

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

MOHAMMAD H. QAYOUMI, Ph.D.

President, California State University, East Bay

Mohammad H. Qayoumi assumed the presidency of California State University, East Bay on July 1, 2006. He came to Cal State East Bay from Cal State Northridge, where he served as Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer from 2000-2006 and was a tenured professor of engineering management. He is a tenured professor of engineering at Cal State East Bay. He holds a BS in electrical engineering from American University of Beirut, a MS in electrical and computer engineering and nuclear engineering, and an MBA in finance and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He is a licensed professional engineer and a certified management accountant. He has more than 30 years of experience in the service of higher education and industry. President Qayoumi has published eight books, more than 85 articles, and several chapters in various books. He has made presentations at numerous conferences across the United States and in 10 other countries on various topics ranging from quality and energy to systems theory. President Qayoumi is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and has served as a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award examiner and senior examiner from 2000-2003. He has served his native country of Afghanistan in various capacities, including as a senior advisor to the Minister of Finance of Afghanistan from 2002-2005 and member of the board of directors for the Central Bank of Afghanistan from 2004 to 2007. Locally, President Qayoumi is a member of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and serves on several boards including the Bay Area Council, the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, and the Contra Costa Business Council.

PARVIN AHMADI, MA

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Fremont Unified School District

Parvin Ahmadi was born in Iran and came to the United States in 1975. She received her BA in Health Science from San Jose State University, Masters of Arts in Teaching from National College of Education in Illinois, and her Masters in Educational Leadership from Saint Mary's College in California. She has worked in public education for the past 23 years, as a teacher, principal, director and now assistant superintendent in diverse, high performing school district of 32,000 students. Ahmadi is also a Board Member on the Fremont Education Foundation, a non profit organization raising funds for innovative education grants and instrumental music.

ART EXHIBITION CONTRIBUTORS

Jamshed Joya, a Kabul, Afghanistan native, became a refugee in Iran and India before arriving in the United States in 1987. He has studied art in 14 countries in the last 24 years, with special interest in modern, abstract and working with vibrant colors. His current project is a calligraphy/abstract art collection of Omar Khayyam's poetry. He is a member of North California's Afghan Literary Association, a community volunteer and supporter of art and literature in every aspect of the Bay Area Afghan society.

Olomi, a Kabul, Afghanistan native, has been influenced by extensive travel to Europe, the Caribbean and the South Beach. Trained in a variety of styles and forms, his work focuses on capturing moments of the Afghan-American experience.

Ustad Kohzad, also of Kabul, Afghanistan, studied fine arts at the Academy of Beaux-Arts in Rome, Italy. In 1970 he was appointed Dean of the Department of Beaux-Arts (Fine Arts) in the Ministry of Information and Culture, the following year he was named Chief of Visual Arts (Negaristan-Ghulam-Muhammad-Maimanagi), and from 1980-92 he was president of Art and Culture in the Ministry of Information and Culture. He came to Northern California in 2000. His books are, "Jilwa-hayeh-zebaii-dar-hunar" (Revelations of Beauty in Art), "Wa-khuda-zebaii-ra-offarid" (And God Created Beauty) and "Collection of Poems."

Kabul native Wakil Razzaqui, the son of General Razzaui, studying at Kabul University before escaping in 1979, only hours before the arrival of the Soviet Red Army. Always looking for the essence of beauty, his titles include "Sea Cliff," water color, summer of 1980 and "Forest," spring of 1980.

Iris Zolfar Razzaqui, a Bay Area native, is an avid art enthusiast. Her creations include: "Yellow Surprise," 2003, colored pencil, and "Purple Iris," self portrait, 2005, paper cut-out collage.

ABUBAKR ASADULLA, MD

Physician, California State University, East Bay Student Health Center, Afghan Student Group adviser

Abubakr Asadulla was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1969. He moved to the United States in 1980, earning a BS in biochemistry at UC, Davis, an MS in chemistry from CSUEB, and an M.D. from St. George's University School of Medicine. He began his residency at New York Hospital Queens (NYHQ) and completed it at Kern Medical Center, Bakersfield, CA. He was a senior physician in the Department of Medicine at The Permanente Medical Group in Union City, CA from 2000-2008, where he still works part-time. He joined CSUEB in 2008 and published his first book, "Islam vs. West: Fact or Fiction?," in 2009.

DIEDRE BADEJO, PH.D.

Dean, College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, California State University, East Bay

Diedre L. Badejo earned her Ph.D. in comparative literature and an MA in African Area Studies from UCLA and a BA in English and Afro-American literature from the University of Southern California. Before coming to CSUEB in 2008 she was associate dean of curriculum and program development in the College of Arts and Sciences, and chair of Pan-African Studies at Kent State University. Badejo's expertise in African and African Diaspora Studies includes nearly 100 conference papers, public presentations, scholarly articles, book chapters, encyclopedia chapters and entries, creative writing, essays, and books published in the United States, Africa and Europe. She is an American Council on Education Fellow, a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar, and a Rockefeller Fellow. Her most recent published works include "Sango and the Elements: Gender and Cultural Discourses," "The African Union," "The Pathways of Osun as Cultural Synergy," "Methodologies in Yoruba Oral Historiography and Aesthetics" and "Gender Ideology, Global Africa, and the Challenges for Pan-African Studies in the 21st Century."

MAZIAR BEHROOZ, PH.D.

Associate Professor, History Department, San Francisco State University

Maziar Behrooz was born in Tehran-Iran. He received his BA in History-Government from Saint Mary's College of California (1982), his MA in Modern History of Europe from San Francisco State University (1986), and his Ph.D. from University of California, Los Angeles (1993). He has authored numerous articles and book chapters on Iran and is the author of two books on the history of Iranian left movement: "Rebels with a Cause" (1999), which has been translated into Persian (2001) and Turkish (2006), and "Perspectives on the History of Rebels with a Cause in Iran published in Persian" (2006).

THOMAS BROWN

Academic Affairs Education, Thomas Brown & Associates, LLC

Thomas Brown is a consultant to more than 350 colleges and universities in this country and abroad, and an authority in retention, academic advising, promoting the success of at-risk students, international education, diversity training and developing inclusive campus communities. His books are, "Critical Concepts in Academic Advising" in The Academic Advising Handbook, "Preparing Providers to Foster Student Success", in Fostering Student Success in the Campus Community, and "Advising Students of Color," in Academic Advising for Student Success and Retention.

FARAH DAVARI

California Nurses Association labor representative advocating labor rights and health care for all

Farah Davari came to the US in the late 1960s as a student, received a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston and became actively involved in the Iranian Students movement for human rights and political freedoms in Iran. Over the years, she has been a grassroots organizer and advocate, involved with civil rights and human rights issues at the national and global levels. Some of her major areas of impact have been through labor organizing and advocacy for listeners sponsored media networks.

VAHID FOZDAR, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, History, California State University, East Bay

Vahid Fozdar received his Ph.D. in modern South Asian history at UC Berkeley. At CSUEB he is Director of the Asian Studies Program and teaches modern world history, the history of South Asia, and Middle Eastern history. He has published "Imperial Brothers, Imperial Partners: Indian Freemasons, Race, Kinship and Networking in the British Empire," in Decentering Empire: Britain, India and the Transcolonial World (Orient Longman, 2006).

MANZAR FOROOHAR, PH.D.

Professor, History, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Manzar Foroohar received her Ph.D. in History from University of California, Los Angeles and has taught at Tehran University, University of California, San Diego, and California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo focusing on Latin American history, Middle East history, and comparative history of the two regions. Her research focuses on both areas and includes the book, "Catholic Church and Social Change in Nicaragua," 1989 and numerous articles and presentations on the Palestinian Diaspora and Peace with Justice in the Middle East. She has traveled widely in occupied Palestine, Lebanon, Israel and other Middle East countries as an international observer and an ambassador for peace with justice.

SONIA GAEMI, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator, Public Health Institute of Berkeley

Sonia Gaemi is a registered dietitian with a degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in international education from the University of San Francisco. She has a lifelong dedication to bridging Eastern and Western medicine by the integration of science with multicultural food wisdom. She introduces Qi-Gong Chinese healing energy as essential to entire body nourishment and well being. As the founder of the Women for Cultural Wisdom (WCW), she was awarded the United Nations title, "Most Amazing Woman" for her research and food wisdom programs including One Day Sel Healing and Peace with Food. At the Hague Peace Conference her Tea for Life project was recognized an important step towards healing.

SAHAR HAGHIGHAT, MA

Lecturer, General Education, California State University, East Bay

Sahar Haghighat earned a MA in Sociology from CSUEB with an emphasis on global studies, women's rights and social movements, and is applying to sociology Ph.D. programs where she plans to continue global research with an emphasis in Iranian studies. She has returned to her native Iran multiple times including a 2006 trip to interview women for her master's thesis, "Peeking from Behind the Hejab: Tehranian Women's Identities Reflected Through Hejab."

PARTOW HOOSHMANDRAD, Ph.D.

Professor, Ethnomusicology and Persian Studies at California State University, Fresno

Partow Houshmandrad received her Ph.D. in ethnomusicology at the University of California, Berkeley and teaches courses in both ethnomusicology and Persian Studies and is involved in developing a Middle East Studies program in the College of Arts and Humanities. Her research and passion for music have taken her to travel widely in remote areas of Iran. Her dissertation and research focus on the devotional music and devotional practices of the Ahl-i Haqq of Guran.

FARIMA JOYA

Small business owner

Farima Joya, born in Kabul, Afghanistan, left the country at 17 for India, eventually settling in San Francisco. Married at age eighteen while a refugee in Iran. Over time she worked at the County of Marin Child Protective Services. She is working toward a degree in multimedia communication from the Academy of Art University, is a community volunteer, and president of Berkeley Bamyān Education Foundation, a non-profit organization.

NAJIA KARIM, MS

Poet, Dietitian

Najia Karim, a registered dietitian, is a nutrition health educator at Eden Hospital. She holds a BS in Dietetics and a MS in Nutrition Education. She has served as an adjunct faculty at several universities, and has conducted many presentations and has several publications in the areas of healthy eating, food patterns, etc. A native of Afghanistan, Karim is also a Persian poet whose work has been published in several Afghan and Iranian magazines in the US. She has also published two collections, "The Cry of the Miserable's," and "Garden Wisdom" (a collection of her own proverbs, idioms, and short poems, as well as ones by other Persian poets). She is a regular guest with "Voice of America" as well as on many Afghan radio and TV stations. Karim also co-hosts the monthly TV program, "Today's Family," concerning healthy eating, here in the Bay Area on one of the local Afghan Satellite television stations.

FATEMEH KESHAVARZ, Ph.D.

Author, professor Persian Language/Comparative Literature; chair, Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, Washington University, St. Louis

Fatemeh Keshavarz holds a BA (1976) in Persian Language and Literature from Shiraz University, and an MA (1981) and a Ph.D. (1985) in Near Eastern Studies from School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She has taught at Washington University since 1990 and has served as Director of the Graduate Program in Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Studies, Director of the Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations, and President of the Association of Women Faculty. Her latest book, "Jasmine and Stars: Reading more than 'Lolita' in Tehran," explores the relationship between literature and society in the post-revolutionary Iran. She received a Peabody Award for her appearance on, "Speaking of Faith: The Ecstatic Faith of Rumi," for American Public Media in 2007.

SEPIDEH KHOSROWJAH

Co-founder of Darvag, an Iranian/American theater group in Berkeley

Sepideh Khosrowjah left Iran when she was 17. After establishing Darvag in 1985, she has worked there as a playwright, actor, and director. In 2007, a collection of her plays was published in Iran by Nila Publications. Khosrowjah's writings emphasize woman's issues. Her play, "In Memory of Kazem Ashtari," was last performed in the 19th International Iranian Women's Studies Foundation conference in Berkeley in 2008. Khosrowjah has also been a community activist for the last three decades and have been involved closely with the Iranian community in the Bay Area. Khosrowjah has also served for three years in the first KPFA independent radio elected board. Khosrowjah has a BS in Mathematics and an MS in Economics and has worked on issues involving energy, water and communications policies for the last 10 years.

YUKO KURAHASHI, PH.D.

Associate Professor, Theatre, Graduate Coordinator, and Art of the Theatre Supervisor, School of Theatre and Dance, Kent State University

Yuko Kurahashi received her Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1996. She teaches theatre theory/criticism, theatre history, research/writing methodology, and multicultural theatre. She is the author of "Asian American Culture on Stage: The History of the East West Players" (Garland, 1999) and "Multicultural Theatre" (Kendall/Hunt, 2004 & 2006). Her most recent article on Terrence Spivey and Karamu House was published in the February issue of American Theatre Magazine this year.

TERI LINDGREN, PH.D.

Adjunct faculty, University of California at San Francisco, Project Director, National Institutes of Health funded study on HIV in Africa

Teri G. Lindgren studied nursing at the University of Washington, received her master's degrees in nursing and public health at the University of Hawaii and completed her Ph.D. at the University of California, San Francisco. She continued with postdoctoral studies focusing on HIV and symptom management. She remains connected to the Afghan Community by serving on the board of an Afghan community based organization.

FARZANA NABI, PH.D.

Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Social Services, California State University, East Bay

Born in Kabul, Afghanistan, Farzana Nabi immigrated to the US with her family at age five. She grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, and recently completed a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. Her areas of interest include socio-cultural facets of Islam, international social policy, poverty and faith-based approaches to social welfare. She is currently undertaking research with her colleague, Carl Stempel, focusing on second generation Afghans in the US. She visited Afghanistan in May 2002 on a humanitarian mission and looks forward to helping in the country's rebuilding. She has also given lectures on issues affecting Afghanistan and its people.

SAMI NADI

Sculptor

Sami Nadi was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1958. He studied both classical and modern sculpture and attended the Kabul Sana'eh School of Art, the College of Fine Arts at Kabul University. Nadi won a scholarship in 1981 to the Academy of Sculpture and Fine Arts in Minsk, where he studied under a classical Italian sculptor. During his career in Europe, he produced many sculptures and displayed his works in numerous exhibitions in Italy, Germany, France and England. Nadi first came to the United States in 1993 to visit the artistic scene in New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Exiled from his native land, Nadi lived in Germany for several years and in 2001 moved permanently to the US. A resident of Simi Valley, California he has a studio at the Willits Center Gallery in Fremont.

NOSRATOLLAH NOOH

Poet

Nosratollah Nooh was born in Iran in 1926 and began publishing poetry in newspapers around 1950. Later that decade, he was imprisoned for writing poetry that involved political activism. He has published several books, which include compilations of his poems focusing on social change. His poetry collections include, "The Wilted Flowers" and "World of Colors." Nooh has been a lecturer in several states and in Canada and has been teaching a Hafez Class in Sunnyvale for the past eight years.

CERI OEPPE, PH.D.

Freelance research consultant

Ceri Oeppen recently completed her doctoral studies at the University of Sussex, UK. Her dissertation was entitled "A stranger at home: Integration, transnationalism and the Afghan elite." The research that informed this dissertation took her to the San Francisco Bay Area, London, Peshawar and Kabul. She has previously carried out research with Afghans in New Delhi, India. She is in the process of writing a proposal for a post-doctoral fellowship at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, where she plans to continue her research on the Afghan diaspora. She is co-editor of the forthcoming book "Afghanistan: a multi-disciplinary approach."

ALAM PAYIND, Ph.D.

Director, Middle East Studies Center, Ohio State University

Born and raised in Afghanistan, and previously a holder of government and academic positions in Kabul, Alam Payind speaks Pashto, Dari and Urdu with native fluency. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science and Higher Education, as well as an MA in Political Science in 1977 from Indiana University, his MS in Higher Education from Indiana University in 1972; and his BA in Political Science & Islamic Law from Kabul University in 1966. He is both a professor at Ohio State University and on the faculty at Kabul University in Afghanistan, and is a consultant to the new Afghan government in its educational reconstruction efforts. He continues to conduct field work, provide consultations on a regular basis in Afghanistan and has visited the country six times since September 11, 2001. Payind is a founding member of the Council of Area Studies Center Directors, a board member and former president of the Eastern Consortium in Persian and Turkish. His concurrent appointments and position on the task force provide Middle East Studies Center with a strong link to the academic units charged with administering and realizing the university's international vision and education goals.

RONA POPAL

Executive Director Afghan Coalition and AWAI; Project Director Afghan Health Partnership Program

Rona Popal has extensive experience in designing and organizing community service programs, as well as providing direct client service and advocacy. She is a recognized community leader. On October 27, 2007 State Assembly Member Alberto Torrico honored her with the 20th District Unity Award. A tireless community organizer and outspoken proponent of civil liberties and human rights, she was also voted International Woman of the Year by the Silicon Valley Women's Organization in 2002. In October 2006, Popal presented a speech as oral testimony on behalf of the Coalition's Afghan Women's Association International to the California Commission on the Status of Women. She has worked in social services for more than 20 years as an employment counselor and social worker and has headed the Afghan Women's Association since 2001 and the Afghan Coalition since 2003. She holds a BA in political science and international relations from CSUEB.

ALIREZA REZAPOUR, MD

Director, Health and Wellness Center, Saint Mary's College of California

Alireza Rezapour was born in Iran and came to the US with his family at age 14. He received his undergraduate degree in cellular biology from the University of California, Berkeley and his medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean. He completed his residency training in internal medicine at the University of California San Francisco Fresno campus and started private practice in Fresno in 1996. Rezapour joined the board of KFCF independent radio in 2004 and served on the KPFA board for two years. He joined the Physicians for a National Health Plan (PNHP) in 2007 and opened a new chapter of this organization in Fresno in 2008. The same year he received "The Way of Peace" award from the Fresno Center for Nonviolence. In July 2008 Dr. Rezapour and his family moved to the Bay Area to take the position at St. Mary's College in Moraga.

HOMAYUN SAKHI

Rubab performer

Homayun Sakhi is a composer, vocalist, and musician born into a family steeped in musical tradition. His father Ghulam Sakhi, a notable Rubab nawaz (player) was taught by Ustad (master, teacher) Muhammed Omar. The family fled his native Afghanistan in 1992, first settling in Pakistan, and in 2001 in the United States where Sakhi founded a music school in Fremont and resumed his recording and performing career. Working closely with another Kabuli master musician, tabla-player Toryalai Hashimi, they are making inroads beyond the Afghan community, recording their first album for the Smithsonian Folkways label in 2005, and touring internationally as part of the Smithsonian/ Aga Khan Trust For Culture's Music and Voices of Central Asia tour.

VIDA SAMIIAN, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Arts and Humanities; Professor of Linguistics, California State University, Fresno

Vida Samiian joined Fresno State in 1984 after receiving her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, Los Angeles, specializing in Syntax and Iranian Languages. Born and raised in Iran, Samiian came to the United States as a student in 1965 and became involved with the Iranian students movement against the repressive and client state government of the Shah. She returned to Iran right after the revolution where she taught at Tehran's Free University and became involved in the women's rights movement. She has been an activist for women's rights and civil rights in Iran and the United States. Samiian is co-organizer of the International Iranian Linguistics Conference, which is held in Europe every two years. She has been the recipient of four grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, including a special initiative titled Fresno Conversations on Pluralism and Identity.

SHAFIQ SHAMEL, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Comparative Literature/German Studies, Stanford University

Shafiq Shamel fled his native Kabul, Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion and lived as a political refugee in Germany until 1996. After receiving a Ph.D. at Stanford, Shamel began teaching in the departments of Comparative Literature and German Studies at Stanford University where he specializes in Persian and German literature and culture with special interests in poetry and poetics, intellectual history, and the intercultural exchange of ideas. Publications include, "History and Autobiography," "The Middle East Institute Publication Viewpoints 6," "Global Jihad, by Bassam Tibi." *Telos* 148 (Fall 2009) print, and "Epic Poetry and The Kite Runner: Paradigms of Cultural Identity in Afghan Society." *Telos* 138 (Spring 2007) print.

AIDA SHIRAZI, Ph.D.

Researcher, Contra Costa Health Services Administration, department of mental health; Afghan Coalition

Aida Shirazi was born in Tehran and came to the US to continue studies. She earned a BS in pharmacy, an MS in nutrition sciences and her Ph.D. in public health education and health promotion at Oregon State University. As a Community Principal Investigator, she has focused on Community Based Participatory Research, and Breast Health Behaviors of Afghan Immigrant women in Northern California. Shirazi has directed and participated in all phases of the study's implementation including recruitment, interviewing, training development/production and translation of documents into Farsi. She does evaluation and interpretation of data and submission of recent research grant proposal with CBCRP.

MEHRA SHIRAZI, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Public Health, University of California Berkeley; Lecturer, Department of Women Studies, Oregon State University

Mehra Shirazi completed her Ph.D. 2006 in Public Health Promotion and Education with a minor in Women Studies at Oregon State University where she also received her Master's degree in Environmental Health Management. Her areas of research interest include Immigrant Women's Health, International Health and Transnational Feminist Studies. Her dissertation examined socio-cultural barriers and attitudes that Iranian immigrant women have with respect to breast care and access to breast health services in the United States. She teaches courses on "International Women." By using a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach, her research employs local knowledge in the understanding of health problems in order to determine whether religious, cultural impediments and their interaction, along with other psychosocial factors, preclude immigrant Muslim women from learning about their breast health care and utilizing existing services.

VALERIE SMITH, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Communication, California State University, East Bay

Valerie Smith has worked in the local Afghan community for nearly four years and served for three years as facilitator for the Afghan Coalition's Health Leadership Consortium meetings, which bring together community leaders and organizational representatives to improve health care for refugees. Based on her dissertation, "The Information Needs and Associated Communicative Behaviors of Female Afghan Refugees in the San Francisco Bay Area," she presented research results at a Refugee Health Summit in October 2008, prepared and distributed a report of 30 recommendations for service providers, and is working on program development with service groups. She published, "Ethical and effective ethnographic research methods: A case study with Afghan refugees in California," in the September issue of the *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*.

CARL STEMPEL, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Sociology/Social Services, California State University, East Bay

Carl Stempel earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from University of Oregon in 1992. He teaches family, sexuality, and social theory. In 2007-08 Stempel was the principal investigator of a survey on the community, health, and mental health needs of first generation Afghans in the East Bay. The survey includes measures of migration patterns, family patterns and practices, intergenerational relations, transnational practices, health status and practices, acculturation, medical interpretation needs, posttraumatic stress, and emotional distress. Stempel presented initial results of the survey at a Refugee Health Summit in October 2008. For a report summary contact: carl.stempel@csuesastbay.edu.

DIANE TOBER, PH.D.

Executive Director, Unique Zan Foundation

Diane Tober holds a Ph.D. in anthropology, with a focus on Iran and the Middle East, from the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco. She lived in Isfahan, Iran with her two sons while conducting research on family planning among low-income Iranians and Afghan refugees, and has devoted most of her career to women's health, particularly in Muslim settings, and brings this focus to her work at the Unique Zan Foundation. She has received several grants for her research and for the development of her photographic essay exhibit, "Iran and the Afghan Diaspora," at UCB from 2004-2005. Her publications include the edited volume, "Islam, Health, and the Body: Science and Religion in the Muslim World, for Body and Society," and a special volume for Iranian Studies, "Afghan Refugees and Returnees: Culture and Survival in the Face of War, Violence and Dislocation."

SAMIRA YAMIN

MFA student, Studio Art, University of California, Irvine

Samira Yamin, born in the US, received a BA in Studio Art and a BS in Sociology from University of California, Los Angeles in 2006. Her Honors Thesis indicts contemporary war photography as a new medium for canonical representations of the Middle East, a tradition with roots in the 19th century Orientalist painting movement. Yamin's work interrogates the historical document through a recontextualization of documentary war photography, within or as pattern, ultimately giving new meaning to the original source. Her work confuses East/West binaries and Colonial/Orientalist representations of the Middle East while revealing the ironies of transnational identities constructed around cultural hybridity, global trade and war.

FARID YOUNOS, PH.D.

Lecturer, Human Development, California State University, East Bay; Television host and commentator

Farid Younos received his Ph.D. in International and Multicultural Education from the University of San Francisco and, in addition to becoming a television personality, has become an authority on Asian issues and politics – particularly in the time following September 11th – and an advocate of women's rights. He has been interviewed by such newspapers as The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Associated Press and by such radio programs as "Voice of America" and "Freedom Radio" (Prague). He has been invited and sponsored numerous times by Afghans in Europe and Canada, as well as in the United States to speak about Islam and Afghanistan. This past academic year he was honored to have his students nominate him for the university's "Outstanding Professor" award. Younos coauthored "Asia in the San Francisco Bay Area," an Asia Society publication, and wrote, "Gender Equality in Islam," published by 1st Books Library, 2002, and, "Democratic Imperialism: Democratization vs. Islamization," 2008.

MIZGON ZAHIR-DARBY, MA

Journalist covering the Afghan-American community in the United States

Mizgon Zahir recently completed her MS at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Her work has been published in the "New York Times," "San Francisco Chronicle" and many other newspapers and magazines. Zahir-Darby is the former editor and publisher of "Afghan Journal," the first intergenerational Afghan-American magazine.

