

The New Colonialism: The American Model of Human Rights, February 2018  
Speakers' biographies



**Saied Reza Ameli** is the Professor of Communications and North American Studies, Dean of Faculty of World Studies at University of Tehran. His publications cover various aspects of Islam/Muslim studies, globalisation, global media, internet studies, intercultural studies and strategic studies.



**Tasneem Chopra** is a Cross-cultural Consultant and was listed as one of '50 Women you Need to Know' in 2017's Herald Sun *International Women's Day* count, following a listing in Latte Magazine's '2016 - Women to Watch'. In previous years she has been listed in *The Age* Magazine's Top 100 most influential 'Movers and Shakers in Melbourne' and *The Australian Magazines* 'Top Ten thinkers'.

Through her consultancy, she speaks across the private and public sector to issues of cultural competence, gender, leadership and intersectional discrimination.

When not delivering keynotes, workshops or emceeing events, Tasneem is a Board Director for *Ambulance Victoria*, *The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)*, the *Luke Batty Foundation* and Chair of the *Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights*. She is also the outgoing Chair of *Lentil As Anything* and a former Curator at both the *Immigration Museum* and *Islamic Museum of Australia*.

A TEDxMelbourne presenter (*Don't Believe the Hype: Exceed it*) and writer, Tasneem's latest paper was the Griffith Law Journal's, '*Burqas, Bombs and Bogeymen*' highlighting media bias against Australian Muslims. She has a Masters in International Development and a background in psychology and politics

Tasneem has appeared in numerous editorial outlets, including *The Guardian*, *The Age* and *The Australian* and appeared on *BBC IQ2 Debates*, *Q&A*, *The Project*, *Compass* and is a regular commentator on ABC's *The Drum* and Radio Melbourne.



**Sohail Daulatzai** is a writer, curator and professor, and is the founder of Razor Step, an L.A. based media lab. He is the author of *Fifty Years of "The Battle of Algiers": Past as Prologue*, as well as *Black Star*, *Crescent Moon: The Muslim International and Black Freedom beyond America* and co-editor of *Born to Use Mics*, a literary remix of Nas's album *Illmatic*. He is the curator of the celebrated exhibit *Return of the Mecca: The Art of Islam and Hip-Hop*, and editor of the limited edition, companion commemorative book of the same name, which includes an interview with Yasiin Bey (aka Mos Def) and an essay by Chuck D, the work of Jamel Shabazz, Ernie Paniccioli, and others, as well as album cover art, photography, flyers and other ephemera. He has written liner notes for the Sony Legacy Recordings Release of the 20th Anniversary Deluxe Box Set of Rage Against the Machine's self titled debut album, the liner notes for the DVD release of *Freestyle: The Art of Rhyme* and the centerpiece in the museum catalog *Movement: Hip-Hop in L.A., 1980's – Now*, and his other writings have appeared in *The Nation*, *Counterpunch*, *Al Jazeera*, *Souls*, *Wax Poetics*, and *Artbound*, amongst others.

He also curated the exhibit *Histories Absolved: Revolutionary Cuban Poster Art and the Muslim International*, which showcased the work of the Havana-based OSPAAAL (Organization of Solidarity with the People of Africa, Asia and Latin America) and their political graphic art of the 1960's, '70's and '80's with Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Afghanistan and other Muslim majority countries. He is the founder of *Groundings*, a conversation series that has included Yasiin Bey, *Immortal Technique*, Chuck D, Rosa Clemente, dream hampton, Brother Ali, Robin D.G. Kelley and Jasiri X.

He has been awarded and received funding from the University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media, the University of California "Public Partnership in the Humanities," the Doris Duke Fund, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, amongst others. He has been invited to present his work throughout the world at academic conferences, universities, art institutions, galleries, and literary festivals, including at Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Georgetown, Duke, Columbia, University of Chicago, Berkeley, Stanford, Oxford University, SOAS (in London), EHESS (in Paris), American University Beirut, the Paris Hip-Hop Festival, the William Grant Still Art Center, the Asian American Writers Workshop, the Muslim Protagonist Festival, the Grammy Museum, and elsewhere. He teaches in the Department of Film and Media Studies, the Department in African American Studies, and the Program in Global Middle East Studies at the University of California, Irvine.



**Ramon Grosfoguel** is a professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California at Berkeley and a research associate of the Maison des Science de l'Homme in Paris. He has published extensively in the fields of Political-Economy of the World-System, International Migration and Decolonial Studies.



**Sandew Hira** founded the International Institute for Scientific Research (IISR). He is an economist and historian and a representative of the decolonial historiography of Suriname. He leads the project Decolonizing The Mind, that looks into the question of how science has been influenced by colonialism.



**Saeed A. Khan** is Senior Lecturer Near East & Asian and Global Studies at Wayne State University, as well as Research Fellow at its Center for the Study of Citizenship and Honorary Fellow at Australian Catholic University. He is also Co-founder and Senior Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding. He is a regular panelist on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Turning Point, as well as a regular contributor to news outlets like the BBC, *Veja*, *Quartz* and *Time Magazine*.



**Dr Rajeesh Kumar** is an Associate Fellow at the Institute for defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. He has Ph.D. in International Organization from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prior to joining IDSA in 2016, he taught post-graduate courses at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (2010-11& 2015-16) and University of Calicut, Kerala (2007-08). He is the co-editor of two books; *Eurozone Crisis and the Future of Europe: Political Economy of Further Integration and Governance* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), *Islam, Islamist Movements and Democracy in the Middle East: Challenges, Opportunities and Responses* (Delhi: Global Vision Publishing, 2013). His articles and reviews appeared in journals, magazines and newspapers such as *Strategic Analysis* (Routledge), *India Quarterly* (Sage), *JCMS: journal of Common Market Studies* (Wiley Blackwell), *CEU Political Science Journal* (CEU Press), *E-International Relations*, *The Diplomat*, *Japan Times*, *Tehran Times* and *The Outlook*.



**Laurens de Rooij** (post-doctoral research fellow, University of Cape Town) completed his PhD at Durham University, UK, in 2017. His present research analyses how the media discourse on minorities (particularly Muslims and Islam) affects how they are conceptualized, understood, and treated. This work is based on the research supported in part by the National Research Foundation of South Africa (Reference number (UID) 85397). The opinions expressed herein are that of the author, and the NRF accepts no liability whatsoever in this regard. He was a visiting researcher and scholar at Jakarta's Graduate School Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University (March-April 2013), Duke University's Department of Religion (fall 2013), the University of Colorado-Boulder's Centre for Media, Religion, and Culture (spring 2014), and at Brazil's Fundação Joaquim Nabuco (summer 2016).



**Mary K. Ryan** is a doctoral candidate in the interdisciplinary ASPECT (Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought) program at Virginia Tech where she teaches Global Ethics. Her dissertation concerns structural racism in the US federal government. Mary has chapters in *Critical Insights: Civil Rights Literature Past and Present* (Salem Press), *Spaces of Surveillance: States and Selves* (Palgrave Macmillan), and forthcoming in *Surveillance, Race, Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan) and *Representation of Poverty in Popular Culture* (McFarland); peer-reviewed articles in *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*, *Nomadic Sojourns Journal*, and *Journal for the Study of Peace and Conflict*; and poetry in *Clockhouse* and *Lehigh Valley Vanguard*.



**Mushtaq Ul Haq Ahmad Sikander** is a Writer-Activist based in Srinagar, Kashmir, India and has completed his M.Phil in Political Science from Kashmir University on the topic of “Mawlana Abul Ala Mawdudi’s Concept of an Islamic State: An Evaluation”. His interests span over a wide range of issues from writing to activism. His write ups and book reviews appear regularly in various newspapers, magazines, journals and websites. He is frequently invited to present academic papers on issues related to Religion, Politics, Terrorism, Conflict Resolution, Feminism and Islamic Revivalist Movements. He actively participates in Inter and Intra Faith, Ethnic and Regional dialogues. He has also penned down numerous poems and short stories. Mr Sikander is also an activist and volunteer with various humanitarian organizations working in the valley as he believes that writing alone doesn’t work unless corroborated by activism.