



Secularism, Sexuality, and Religious Difference

Winner of the 2005 Victoria Schuck Award, American Political Science Association

SABA MAHMOOD

Friday, April 15th 2011 at 12pm
in Mudd 100 at PSR 1798 Scenic Ave.

WSR is Co-sponsoring
this event with the
PSR Dean's Office

Saba Mahmood is an associate professor of Social Cultural Anthropology at UC Berkeley. Her research interests lie in exploring historically specific articulations of secular modernity in postcolonial societies, with particular attention to issues of subject formation, religiosity, embodiment, and gender. In her book, *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*

(Princeton University Press, 2005), She addressed some of these issues through an ethnography of a women's piety movement that is part of the larger Islamist movement in Egypt. Her analysis of the Islamist movement in this book is guided by three central questions: In what ways do these movements help us rethink the normative liberal account of politics? How do the politics of

gender in these movements parochialize key assumptions within feminist theory? How does a consideration of the debates about embodied practice among Islamists and their secular critics help us understand the conceptual relationship between the specificity of bodily form and the process of subject formation?