

UBC'S CENTRE FOR CULTURE, IDENTITY & EDUCATION (CCIE) and  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES (EDST)

present

Thursday  
DECEMBER 8, 2011  
Noon - 1:30 pm  
•••

**Professor**  
**Goli Rezai-Rashti**  
*University of Western Ontario*



**Ponderosa G  
Lounge**  
**2044 Lower Mall**

**MAP:**

<http://tinyurl.com/grezai>

**Light Refreshments**

**RSVP:**

<http://tinyurl.com/rezai-rsvp>  
•••

**Women and Higher Education in Iran:  
*Negotiating Between Modernity and Tradition***

**GOLI REZAI-RASHTI** is Professor of Education and the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs in the Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario, Canada. Her research interests are broadly in the fields of sociology, critical policy analysis, and postcolonial studies. She has published extensively in refereed journals which deal specifically with issues related to intersection of gender, race, class, sexuality. Her work also has focused on the impact of neoliberal education reform in Ontario with specific implications for teachers and policy makers. Recent research has focused on globalization and educational restructuring, male teacher shortage, and women and higher education in Iran. Her scholarship has been published in international refereed journals such as the *American Education Research Journal*, *Gender and Education*, *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*, *Curriculum Inquiry*, and *Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies*.

*Poster designed and produced by Carole Wallace/NCIE.*

In contemporary Iran, women with higher education face both gender discrimination and an unfavourable economic system, one that is not conducive to employment-generation for women. Professor Rezai-Rashti provides an analysis of women's access to higher education in Iran, which has varied over the last 30 years, and their continuously limited participation in the job market. Based on qualitative field research, this talk includes the voices of individual women, discussing their experience of higher education and factors they think are contributing to their limited choice of employment. She suggests that while the recent trend in negotiating *mehrieh* (a nuptial gift which is payable by the groom to the bride) has been a strategy employed by Iranian women to overcome some of the discriminatory laws they are subject to, this trend cannot actually be explained by the fact that women's employment opportunities are limited. Professor Rezai-Rashti concludes by asserting that limited labour force participation for educated women is a consequence of both political economy and gender ideology.



**a place of mind**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**Faculty of Education**

**Centre for Culture, Identity & Education**  
[www.ccie.educ.ubc.ca](http://www.ccie.educ.ubc.ca)  
**Department of Educational Studies**  
[www.edst.educ.ubc.ca/](http://www.edst.educ.ubc.ca/)