

SWAG Colloquium Series

The Transnational Trials of Taslima Nasrin



Taslima Nasrin's case is symptomatic of the state of menace that has been consistently threatening to engulf South Asian secular freedoms. It is also, clearly, a case for feminist intervention against censorship of speech and expression, and for an investigation into what happens when a radical icon finds herself homeless, literally and metaphorically. It has become a commonplace for the feminist project of writing to be understood as a retrieval of voice against its suppression, both in speaking of, and speaking out against. It has become commonplace to talk about women writers as living under a regime of patriarchal mega-collusion that keeps a female/subaltern from speaking at all. Many Third World or Southern critics frequently distrust and/or envy so-called Western/Northern progressiveness and liberality pro-

pounded in social and cultural situations; these "liberal" literatures possess, after all, a venerable tradition of women writers/women's rightists who have through the generations demanded rooms of their own. How, then, could South Asian feminisms, censorships and women's writing be distinguished from the larger body of feminist activism that lives through fiction across the world?

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Friday, October 16 at 1 p.m.

University of Virginia

Minor Hall, Room 125

Charlottesville, Virginia

Reception to follow

Sponsored by Studies in Women and Gender. Co-sponsored by Page Barbour Lecture Series, Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Middle Eastern Studies Program, Center for South Asian Studies, South Asian Leadership Society and Sikh Student Association.

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