



Reflections on Iran's Sexual Revolution

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How have sexual politics both transformed and been transformed by dramatic changes in the Iranian state apparatus since the Iranian revolution? This presentation examines sexual and social practices of young people (ages 18-30) in contemporary Iran. How do young adults understand and enact their erotic and sexual lives within the laws and restrictions of the Islamic Republic? In this talk, I draw on several years of extended ethnographic fieldwork with young people in Tehran between 2000 and 2007. After a discussion of the local and global forces shaping sexual and identity politics in Iran, I chronicle the trajectory of what began as a sexual revolution and social movement among certain groups of middle and upper class young Iranians in Tehran, and then moved from sexual politics to the civil rights type movement we witnessed in Iran in 2009. I focus on the transformation of a social movement into a political movement in post-revolutionary Iran, reflecting on comparative movements in other global contexts, and comparing and contrasting these with the social movements crystallizing in Iran in the last 30 years.

Pardis Mahdavi, PhD is associate professor and chair of anthropology at Pomona College. Her research interests include gendered labor, human trafficking migration, sexuality, human rights, youth culture, transnational feminism and public health in the context of changing global and political structures. Her first book, *Passionate Uprisings: Iran's Sexual Revolution* was published with Stanford University Press in 2008, and her second book, *Gridlock: Labor, Migration and 'Human Trafficking' in Dubai*, also Stanford University Press, was published in 2011. Her third book, *From Trafficking to Terror: Constructing a Global Social Problem* was published with Routledge in 2013.

Lecture in English / No prior registration necessary