



Sophia Pandya

Bio –

Dr. Sophia Pandya is a Professor of Religious Studies at California State University Long Beach with a focus on women, religion and globalization. She is the author of the book *Muslim Women and Islamic Resurgence: Religion, Education and Identity Politics in Bahrain*, and was the co-editor of *The Gulen Hizmet Movement and Its Transnational Activities: Case Studies of Altruistic Activism in Contemporary Islam*.

Info about talk-

**“The War Took us Backwards: Women’s Activism in Yemen post Arab Spring”**

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018 7:00pm**

**Ethnic Cultural Center Theatre - UW Seattle**

Sophia Pandya, Professor of Religious Studies at California State University, Long Beach, examines the potential and consequences of women activism in Yemen, during the Arab Spring and subsequent (ongoing) war. In 2011, for the first time, thousands of Yemeni women took to the streets, voices raised and fists in the air, in order to overthrow the Saleh regime, increase women’s political participation, and limit the power of religious conservatives. Indeed, women activists framed their gendered demands as part of a larger call for access to health care, education, employment, power sharing, and the safeguarding of individual human rights. For a period, Yemen’s Arab Spring created profound optimism that barriers could be raised for women’s engagement at every level of society, including government. Since then, many Yemeni gender activists have expressed deep disappointment with the outcome of their efforts; any gains made have been threatened by the brutal war, rising religious conservatism, and patriarchal attempts to “reorder” the social fabric. This talk sheds light on the “disorder” and “reordering” of gender roles during political conflict, exploring under which conditions women’s activism in Yemen might lead to lasting change.



Philip Gorski

Bio-

Philip S. Gorski is a Professor of Sociology and the Co-Director of Yale's Center for Comparative Research. His empirical work focuses on topics such as state-formation, nationalism, revolution, economic development and secularization with particular attention to the interaction of religion and politics. He is the author of *American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present* and *The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Growth of State Power in Early Modern Europe*.

Info about talk –

**“In Search of our Better Angels: A Brief History of American Civil Religion”**

**Thursday, July 19, 2018 7:00pm**

**Ethnic Cultural Center Theatre - UW Seattle**

Our present polarization has many causes. One is the long-running battle between those who believe that the United States was founded as a secular democracy and those who believe it was established as a Christian nation. In his talk, Philip Gorski, Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies at Yale University, argues that our founding tradition was a synthesis of both sacred and secular sources. He traces the history of this civil religious tradition from Puritan times through to the present day, reflects on how it might help heal our political divisions and concludes with some immodest proposals for repairing our torn social fabric.