September 14, 2017

Creating a dialogue to discuss Muslim LGBTQ issues

Edmonton – MacEwan University will host a three-day conference featuring four prominent scholars to create a dialogue about LGBTQ Muslim issues. The conference will feature four renowned authorities on the subject in keynote presentations and panel discussions.

The scholars include:

Dr. Scott Siral al-Haqq Kugle a professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at Emory University. His field of expertise include Sufism, Islam in South Asia, and issues of gender and sexuality.

Iman Daayiee Abdullah is the founder and Executive Director of the MECCA institute, based in Washington, D.C. He lectures internationally on the development of inclusive and progressive revisions of Islamic theological thought and Islamic law.

Dr. Samar Habib (via Skype) is an international expert on gender and sexuality. She has published academic papers on same-sex love and desire among women in the Arab world about Islam and homosexuality.

Dr. Hussein Abdullatif is the author of the book Islamic Law and Muslim Same-Sex Unions. A highly-esteemed doctor, he is part of an institution that established a multidisciplinary clinic for the care of gender issues involving children.

The conference is organized by Dr. Junaid Jahangir, MacEwan University. Jahangir, an assistant professor of economics, has been lobbying for the past 10 years to create more safe spaces for Muslim LGBTQ youth. His social commentary on this topic has been published in a variety of academic and non-academic publications and media including the Huffington Post.

This is a free event that is open to the public.
CONFERENCE AGENDA

Friday, September 29 – MacEwan University, City Centre Campus, 10070 – 104 Ave.

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Presentation: Histories and Representations of sex and love between women in the Arabo-Muslim World (9-217: Building 9, room 217)
   Dr. Samar Habib

1- 2 p.m. Prayer service: Religiously plural, gender equal, LGBTQ affirming Juma prayer 7-143: Building 7, room143

4 - 5 p.m. Presentation: A Quick Overview of LGBTQ Muslim History - 1970s to Present 9-201: Building 9, room 201
   Imam Daayiee Abdullah

Saturday, September 30 – MacEwan University, Robbins Health Learning Centre, 10810-104 Ave.

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Indigenous prayer and blessing
   Roxanne Tootoosis

11a.m. - 12 p.m. Panel discussion: Islam and LGBTQ Muslims
   Moderator - Roz Zulla

12:30 - 12:45 p.m. Presentation: MECCA Institute's Programming and Future Goals
   Imam Daayiee Abdullah

2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Featured speaker
   Dr. Scott Kugle

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Presentation: Same-sex unions within Islamic law: A Reflection on our book
   Dr. Hussein Abdullatif

Sunday, October 1 – McDougall United Church, 10086 MacDonald Drive

Noon - 2:00 p.m. Panel discussion: Abrahamic texts and LGBTQ concerns - an interfaith conversation
   Imam Daayiee Abdullah, Reverend Mark Chiang, Rabbi Gila Caine along with Dr. Samar Habib and Dr. Scott Kugle

For further information, please contact:
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