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**The Relevance of Islamic Identity in Canada - Dialogue, Discussion and Book**

VIDEO, PAST EVENT, ARTS & CULTURE

# The Relevance of Islamic Identity in Canada - Dialogue, Discussion and Book

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STORY



Mawenzi House publishers (Toronto, Canada) as launched in Vancouver their new publication "The Relevance of Islamic Identity in Canada: Culture, Politics and Self". This collection of essays examined, from different perspectives, what it means to be a Muslim in Canada. Is it a public identity, and as an identity is it compatible with a secular democracy such as Canada? What relation does it bear to historical, cultural, and ethnic identities? Is a total gnostic or an atheist a Muslim? Is a person who disavows being a Muslim still a Muslim? How do Muslims cope with anti-Muslim bigotry, especially when it goes "official"? What alterations in society and religious practice and what re-thinking of interpretation can one expect in its evolution?

These vital questions of faith, culture, survival, and identity were addressed by prominent members of the Canadian cultural and intellectual community.

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## **SPEAKER BIOS**

Mohamed Abualy Alibhai (Vancouver/ Seattle) is an independent scholar and former editor of the quarterly journal "Islam in America". He obtained a joint honours degree in physics and mathematics from the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and a master's degree in geophysics from the Imperial College of Science and Technology (University of London, England). He studied at the graduate program in Islamic Studies at McGill University and obtained a doctorate in Islamic Philosophy from

Harvard University. He was a faculty member of McGill University in the mid 1980-'s. He has worked as a computer programmer and systems analyst.

Nurjehan Aziz (Toronto) is the publisher and director at Mawenzi House

Publishers. <http://www.mawenzihouse.com/> She has edited the anthologies "Her Mother's Ashes; Stories by South Asian Women in Canada and the United States, Vols. 1, 2 and 3; and co-edited, with Sanjay Talreja, the collection of essays, "Strangers in the Mirror: In and Out of the Mainstream of Culture in Canada."

Ameen Merchant (Vancouver) was born in Bombay and raised in Madras, India. In 1989 he came to Canada for graduate work in English Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of British Columbia. His work has been published in journals and collections of writing. His debut novel "The Silent Raga" (Douglas & McIntyre) was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writer's Prize, 2008. He is currently working on his next novel.

Zool Suleman (Vancouver) is a writer, policy consultant, and Canadian immigration/ refugee/ citizenship lawyer. He was the one of the founders and editors of "Rungh Magazine, A South Asian Quarterly of Culture Comment and Criticism" from 1990-1997" [www.rungh.org](http://www.rungh.org) He is also the Director of MARU which explore the intersections between migration, art and race. [www.maruworld.org](http://www.maruworld.org) He has been the Chair, Co-Chair and Member of the Mayor's Working Group on Immigration (MWGI) for the City of Vancouver for Mayor Campbell, Mayor Sullivan and

Mayor Robertson. [www.sulemanco.com](http://www.sulemanco.com)

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