Parin Dossa
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Biography

Dr. Parin Dossa, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, received her education on three continents: Africa, Europe and North America. Her long-standing interest on displacement and critical feminist ethnography has led her to focus on the interface between social inequality, health, gender, social palliation, socio-cultural procurement of food. Based on her research on social suffering and narratives of trauma, Dr. Dossa explores the differential effects of structural violence on the lived realities of Muslim women: homelands and diasporas. She grounds her analysis in methodologies that capture the reconstitution of lives on the margins of society. This orientation questions the conceptualization of the local and the everyday as discrete from the body politic, paving the way for presenting an alternative view of the margins as sites for the making of a just world.

Dr. Dossa's field work on Muslim women has resulted in several interrelated projects: racialized bodies and disabling worlds; policy implications of storytelling; testimonial narratives and social memory; place, health and everyday life; social suffering; and violence in war and peace.

Education

PhD (Anthropology), University of British Columbia
MA (Islamic History), Edinburgh University
BA (English, History), Makerere University, Uganda

Areas of Interest

Migration, gender and health; critical feminist anthropology; transnational aging; politics of disablement; structural violence, storytelling and witnessing; Muslim Women.

Geographical Focus: Canada, Kenya, Afghanistan and India

Select Publications

Books

- Dossa, Parin. *Ethics of Coexistence: Ethno-Photography*. University of Toronto Press, 2026
- 2022 Dossa, Parin. *The Circle Unfolds: Envisioning Social Justice from the Margins*. Illustrated by Charlotte Corden. Printed in the USA.

- 2020 Dossa, Parin. *Social Palliation: Canadian Muslims' Storied Lives on Living and Dying*. University of Toronto Press. (Nominated: New Millenium Book Award, Society for Medical Anthropology).
- 2017 Dossa, Parin and Cati Coe. (eds.) *Transnational Aging and Reconfigurations of Kin-Work*. Rutgers University Press.
  Book Review: Anthropology and Aging
- 2014 Dossa, Parin. *Afghanistan Remembers: Gendered Narrations of Violence and Culinary Practices*. University of Toronto Press.
  Book Review: International Journal of Comparative Sociology
- 2009 Dossa, Parin. *Racialized Bodies, Disabling Worlds: Storied Lives of Immigrant Muslim Women*. University of Toronto Press.
  Book reviews: Cultural and Pedagogical Inquiry and American Anthropologist
- 2004 Dossa, Parin. *Politics and Poetics of Migration: Narratives of Iranian women in the Diaspora*. Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- Dossa, P. (2025). "Displacement and Re-imagining End of Life Care," Edited by David Clark and Annemarie Samuels. Edward Elger, 140-153.
- Dossa, P. (2024). "Photographic Ethics of Co-existence." Afterimage: Essay. University of California Press.
- Dossa, P. (2022). "Testimonial Photography: Thinking through Violence, 'we do not eat fruit because our garden was burnt'." Ethno-Scripts Open Access Journal, 24(1): 125-142,Universität Hamburg (also available in German).
- Dossa, P. (2021). "Health and Health Systems in North America." In The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion. Oxford University Press.
- Dossa, P. (2021). "Spatializing the Far Right" Response to the Social Anthropology Forum: The Far Right. *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*.
- Dossa, P. (2021). "Gendering Everyday Islam, Border-Crossings and Production of 'Alternative Knowledge'", In *Producing Islam(s) in Canada: On Knowledge, Positionality and Politics,* edited by Selby, Jenifer et al, University of Toronto Press. Pp. 359-378.
- Dossa, P. & Golubovic, J. (2019). Reimagining Home in the Wake of Displacement. *Studies in Social Justice*, 13(1), 117-186.
- Dossa, P. (2018). From Displaced Care to Social Care: Narrative Interventions of Canadian Muslims, *American Anthropologist,* 120(3), 558-560.
- Dossa, P. (2017). Entangled Emplacement: Ethnographic Reading of Canadian Muslims' Engagement with the World of Palliative Care, *Journal of Muslim Mental Health,* 11(1), 19-38.

- Dossa, P. & Coe, C. (2017). Introduction: Transnational Aging and Reconfigurations of Kin Work. In*Transnational Aging and Reconfigurations of Kin Work,* edited by Dossa, P. & Coe, C. Rutgers University Press. Pp. 1-21.
- Dossa, P. (2017). The Recognition and Denial of Kin Work in Palliative Care: Epitomizing Narratives of Canadian Ismaili Muslims. In*Transnational Aging and Reconfigurations of Kin Work,* edited by Dossa, P. & Coe, C. Rutgers University Press. Pp. 180-196.
- Dossa, P. (2013). Structural violence in Afghanistan: Gendered memory, narratives, and food. *Medical Anthropology: Cross Cultural Studies in Health and Illness,* 32(5), 433-447.
- Dossa, P. (2012). Bearing witness: Women in war-torn Afghanistan. In Crabtree, S. A., J. Parker & A. Azman (Eds.) *The Cup, the Gun and the Crescent: Social Welfare and Civil Unrest in Muslim Societies* (ed)., Whiting and Birth, pp. 62-81.
- Dossa, P., & Dyck, I. (2011 revised). Place, health, and home: Gender and migration in the constitution of healthy space. In O. Hankivsky (Ed.) *Health Inequities in Canada: Intersectional Frameworks and Practices*, pp. 239-256, UBC Press.
- Dossa, P. (2011 reprint). Social suffering: Exploring the interface between health policy and testimonial narratives of Canadian Afghan women. In D.L. Spitzer (Ed.) *Engendering Migrant Health*, pp. 147-166, University of Toronto Press.
- Dossa, P. (2011). Exploring the disjuncture between the politics of trauma and everyday realities of women in Afghanistan. *Journal of Muslim Mental Health*, 5(1), 8-21.
- Dossa, P. (2008). Creating politicized spaces: Afghan immigrant women's stories of migration and displacement. *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*. pp. 10-22, Sage Publications.
- Dossa, P. (2008). Creating Alternative and Demedicalized Spaces: Testimonial Narratives on Disability, Culture and Racialization. *Journal of International Women's Studies,* 9(3), 79-98, on-line peer-reviewed Journal.
- Dyck, I., & Dossa, P. (2007). Place, health and home: Gender and migration in the constitution of healthy space. *Health and Place* (13), 691-701, Elsevier Press.
- Dossa, P. (2006). Disability, marginality and the nation-state, negotiating social markers of difference: Fahimeh's story. *Disability and Society,* 21(4), 345-358, Routledge Press.
- Dossa, P. (2005). Witnessing social suffering: Testimonial narratives of women from Afghanistan. *BC Studies: The British Columbian Quarterly*, pp. 147: 27-49.
- Dossa, Parin. 2005. "Racialized Bodies, Disabling Worlds "they [service Providers] Always Saw Me as a Client, Not as a Worker." *Social Science & Medicine* (1982) 60(11): 2527–36.
- Dossa, Parin. 2003. "The Body Remembers." *International Journal of Mental Health* 32(3): 50–73.
- Dossa, Parin. 2003. "Localized Impact of Global Restructuring of Work: Border-Crossing Stories of Iranian Women." *Gender, Technology and Development* 7(2): 209–32.

- Beynon, June, and Parin Dossa. 2003. "Mapping Inclusive and Equitable Pedagogy: Narratives of University Educators." *Teaching Education (Columbia, S.C.)* 14(3): 249–64.
- Dossa, Parin. 2002. "Narrative Mediation of Convention and New 'mental Health' Paradigms: Reading the Stories of Immigrant Iranian Women." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 16(3).
- Dossa, Parin. 2000. "Opportunity House: Ethnographic Stories of Mental Retardation: *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 14(3).
- Dossa, Parin A. 1999. "Living and Writing Dislocated Stories of Women: A Part or Apart?" *Canadian Woman Studies* 19(3).
- Dossa, Parin A. 1997. "Reconstruction of the Ethnographic Field Sites: Mediating Identities: Case Study of a Bohra Muslim Woman in Lamu (Kenya)." *Women's Studies International Forum* 20(4): 505–15.
- Dossa, P A. 1994. "Critical Anthropology and Life Stories: Case Study of Elderly Ismaili Canadians." *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology* 9(3): 335–54.
- Dossa, Parin A. 1992. "Ethnography as Narrative Discourse: Community Integration of People with Developmental Disabilities." *International Journal of Rehabilitation Research* 15(1): 1–14.
- Dossa, Parin. 1992. "Enhancing quality of life of the developmentally disabled." *Practicing Anthropology* 14(1): 21–23.
- Dossa, Parin A. 1990. "Toward Social System Theory: Implications for Older People with Developmental Disabilities and Service Delivery." *International Journal of Aging & Human Development* 30(4): 303–19.
- Dossa, Parin A. 1989. "Quality of Life: Individualism or Holism? A Critical Review of the Literature." *International Journal of Rehabilitation Research* 12(2): 121–36.
- Dossa, Parin. 1988. "Women's Space/Time: An Anthropological Perspective on Ismaili Immigrant Women in Calgary and Vancouver." *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 20(1).

Encyclopedia

- Dossa, P. & Golubovic, J. (2018). Community-Based Ethnography. *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology,* edited by Hillary Callan, 1040-1046. John Wiley & Sons.
- Dyck, I. & Dossa, P. (2014). Immigrant Health. *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia*.

Selected Book Reviews

- Dossa, P. (2018). Paul & Helen Macbeth (eds). Food in zones of conflict: cross-disciplinary perspectives. 235 pp. Oxford, New York: Berghahn Books, 2014. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 24, 419.

- Dossa, P. (2017). Kabul carnival: Gender politics in postwar Afghanistan, by Julie Billaud. University of Pennsylvania, 2015, (256 pages). *American Anthropologist*, 119 (1), 157.
- Dossa, P. (2016). Ayya's Accounts: A Ledger of Hope in Modern India, by A. Pandian & M. P. Mariappan. Indiana University Press, 2014, (216 pages). *Journal of the American Ethnological Society*, 43 (4), 790.

Selected Reviewer

- Book Proposal "Homeward Journeys of Immigrant Women in Canada, Routledge, (08/2025).
- Academic Advisory Committee: Race and Disability, Canada. June 2023 – December 2024.
- Dorothy Killam Fellowship 2022-2024.
- Federation of Humanities and Social Science – evaluating book manuscripts related to my area of expertise 2022-2024.
- Evaluation of 9 applicants for promotion to Associate Professor: The University of Punjab (2022).
- Food, Culture and Society Journal: An International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (2022).

Invited Speaker

- Securing Food in Zones of Conflict. MENA (Middle East and North Africa), University of Arizona (10, 2025).
- Recounting 90 Days: Western Golden Theatre: Expulsion of Ugandan Asians, (2022).
- Video Presentation: World Refugee Day, "The main health challenges facing refugee women around the world," São Paulo State University, Zoom (2021).
- Graduating Class: Gender Studies, Central Europe University, Zoom (2020).
- "(Re) Imagining Integrity of Life and Death: Ethnographic Narratives of Aging Muslims in the Diaspora." Public lecture (February 15, 2024)
- Hosted a panel on International Women's Day: Inspire Inclusion. Title: "Re-making a home in the Diaspora: Migration and Belonging." (March 8, 2024).
- Keynote Speaker: "Acknowledging Islamic Modernities and their Engagement with Coloniality." International and Interdisciplinary Conference: *Unsettling Colonial Modernity.* University of Alberta (April 4, 2015).
- "Entangled Emplacement: Ethnographic Reading of Canadian Muslims Engagement with Palliative Care." Colloquium: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Simon Fraser University (November 18, 2019). "

Examiner/Supervisor: Master's & Doctoral Thesis (selected)

Senior Supervisor. Makhfirat Olimshoeva "Understanding Student Success: A multilayered and comparative study of two higher education institutions, Faculty of Education (Interdisciplilary Studies): 2022 (in progress).

External Evaluator. Shenila Khoja-Moolji, Georgetown University, promotion Full Professor (2025).

External Reviewer. Naima Osman MSc Thesis Defence, Faculty of Education (October 22, 2024).

- A participatory research evaluation study of a program to enhance the mental health of older immigrant Punjabi women living in British Columbia, Simon Fraser University (2024).
- Chronic Disease and Chronic Humanitarianism: An ethnographic study of the experiences of Somali refugees living with Hypertension in protracted refugee camps in Kenya, Simon Fraser University (2022).
- Experiences of Immigrant Women Living with Chronic Pain and their Caregivers, University of Ottawa (2022).
- E-Entrepreneurship and Women Empowerment in Pakistan, University of Punjab (2021).
- Evaluation of 9 applicants for promotion to Associate Professor: The University of Punjab (2022).
- Co-supervisor, Zoolfikar K. B. Suleman *Silent Adhan: Exploring the Muslim call to prayer in Metro Vancouver, Interdisciplinary Studies, Simon Fraser University, 2022*.

Awards & Funding

- Senior advisor for China SUC Institute (the Sustainable Urban Development and Livable Community Institute), 08/2025 – to-date.
- Institute for Intersectionality Research and Policy (IIRP) Affiliation – community of practice, Simon Fraser University, 08/2025 – to-date
- Dossa, Parin "Envisioning Social Justice from the Margins," President's Faculty Lecture (02/2021).
- SSHRC Connection Grant, "Producing Islam(s) in Canada," (Participant, PI Jennifer Selby, Memorial University of Newfoundland), 04/2017 - 03/2018.
- SSHRC Insight Grant, "Anti-Muslim Hate Crime Study," Co-Principal Investigator (in collaboration with Barbara Perry and Dennis Helly), 05/2017 - 4/2021.

- SFU Community Engagement Initiative Grant, "From Knowledge to Collaborative Engagement: Inclusive Palliative Care for Immigrant Muslims," 2014 - 2016.
- Small SSHRC Grant, "Coming of Age: Exploring the Needs of Elderly Racialized Minorities in Hospice Palliative Care in Urban," 2014 - 2016.
- SSHRC/Standard Research Grant, "Writing Trauma: Testimonial Narratives of Afghan Women- Homeland to Diaspora," Principal Investigator: Parin Dossa, 2008 - 2012.
- Recipient of the SFU Bookstore Award: Author of the month (March 2005).
- Honoured as a RIIM Scholar of the month (November 2004).
- Honoured as a Researcher: Presidents Research Luncheon, Centre for Dialogue, SFU (2001).
- Recipient of the Canadian Cable Television Association Award: *New Voices: Ethnic Elders in Calgary*, Rogers Cable 10 (co-produced video with David Campbell, 1985).

Media & Events

Co-Produced Videos:

- *Out of the Shadows: Narratives of Women with Developmental Disabilities*, Shaw Cable, Calgary, Alberta (1995).
- *New Voices: Ethnic Elders in Calgary*, Rogers Cable 10, Calgary (1987).
    - Link: https://stream.mcintyre.ca/sfuopen/title/25170