Title
“Bodies that Matter in Death: Honour Killings and Canadian Racial Logics”

Synopsis
Over the past decade national media reported that Canada witnessed twelve honour killings in the period between 2000 and 2009. Varying in cause, these crimes have created intense public debate over issues of multiculturalism, immigration, integration, and citizenship. Questions of belonging and cultural difference occupy a central place in nation making, and in Canada, honour killings now act as a locus for social, moral, and political anxieties over core liberal democratic values and principles. This talk investigates the complex and politically charged term honour killing, its symbolic power and usage in political and public domains. Building on a discourse analysis of the term, my paper asks how the deployment and use of honour killing imagine and shape an ideal Canadian citizenry, collective memory, and identity.

Biography
Dr. Dana Olwan is Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and is cross-appointed to the Department of Cultural Studies at Queen’s University. She is also the Future Minority Studies Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies at Syracuse University for Spring 2011. She completed her Ph.D. in English literature at Queen’s University in 2009 and her dissertation examined the publication and reception of Arab American women’s literature post 9/11. Her current work focuses on contemporary anti-racist and feminist solidarity movements in national and international contexts. She is interested in issues of power and resistance, especially as they relate to Muslim women and their relationship to multicultural states like Canada.