

Theme Fall 2014:
Orientalism
and the representation of Islam
in French and Francophone culture

Laurence Porter French Colloquium Series

Dr. Safoi Babana-Hampton
Romance and Classical Studies
November 21, 2014

2:00pm to 3:30pm
Wells B 243

The Subversive Performance of Female Muslim Identity in Radu Mihaileanu's *La Source des femmes*

The predominance of religious and folkloric motifs in Radu Mihaileanu's film *La source des femmes* are reflective of a general concern with generic and formal questions, which not only confer upon it a decidedly self-referential quality but, more importantly, enables the emergence of highly complex and rebellious female characters within a decidedly hegemonic patriarchal regime. From traditional songs and dance to perennial social customs and religious rituals, these narrative elements are transformed into dynamic symbolic sites of resistance to oppressive patriarchal social acts of self-affirmation and inscribed. This presentation which female acts of self-affirmation and resistance to oppressive patriarchal social structures are realized in which the characters' feminist interventions represent a creative engagement with Islamic knowledge critically examines the various ways in which the foundations of patriarchal power and cultural patrimony to trouble the foundations of patriarchal power and validate women's empowerment and agency in a traditional Muslim society.