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**Asef Bayat**

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Title:

**“Does Islam Have No Fun?”**

Abstract:

“Does Islam have no fun? So, why is that Islamists are so apprehensive of the expression of everyday pleasures-- singing, dancing, mundane festivities, private parties, bustling street corners, and secular celebrations? The paper attempts to explore the logic behind Islamists' fear of “fun”-- a metaphor for the articulation of individuality, spontaneity, joy and lightness. I argue that anti-fun sentiments are not necessarily rooted in Islamic doctrine, nor are they necessarily religious. Rather, they represent a particular regime of power.”

Bio:

Asef Bayat, Political Sociologist, is the Academic Director of the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM) and the ISIM Chair at Leiden University, The Netherlands. He was a Professor of Sociology and the Middle Eastern Studies at the American University in Cairo before leaving for Leiden. His scholarly interests include social movements, international development and cities, with geographical focus on the Muslim Middle East. He is the author of *Workers and Revolution in Iran* (London, 1987); *Work, Politics and Power* (New York, 1991), and *Street Politics* (New York, 1998).

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