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[Formerly the Association of Muslim Social  
Scientists of North America (AMSS)]

“The Concept of Authority in Muslim Societies:  
Political, Religious, Social and Literary”

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**ABSTRACT ONLY – WORK IN PROGRESS**

“Feminist Theology: Media and Authority”

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Islamist feminist hermeneutics consider the Qur’an as an open text, not frozen, in which certain points need to be categorically refuted in accordance with the principles and egalitarian spirit of the text (Badran, 2010). In the Iranian context this hermeneutic evolution has resulted in the demand for legal changes (Kian, 2010). Dr. Asmae Lamrabet is the personification of this approach in the Maghreb. The personal trajectory of this Moroccan doctor and sociologist, her intellectual production and active role in transnational Islamic feminist organizations will help us better understand the complexity, diversity and dynamics of the Islamist feminist movement that challenges the traditional understanding of male authority. Through an efficient use of new media technologies, she contributes to formulating a new theological discourse by questioning concepts that structure traditional Islamic thought, and by investigating points of reference that govern the conception of the sacred. In doing so, Lamrabet is at the forefront of a creative dialogue between theology and feminist theories that challenge the androcentric theological concept of authority. The elaboration of new theories runs parallel with the fight increasing the presence of women in the field of knowledge and decision-making in the legal sphere. Lamrabet’s use of new media technology amplifies her approach enabling her to act as a bridge builder, widening the conversation, raising awareness, and lifting taboos in addressing authority and patriarchy.