Iranian politics since the 1979 Revolution is commonly viewed as a polarized conflict between “secular” and “Islamic” ideologies. This masks the real site of battle, which is between despotism and patriarchy on the one hand, and democracy and gender equality on the other. The century-old struggle for democracy in Iran has been enmeshed in the dynamics of changing relations between sexuality, theology and politics. In this light, Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini will examine the course of the 2009 and 2013 presidential elections and their aftermath.


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