

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY
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SEMINAR in English

Can We Be Free and Equal Too?

By Professor Philip Carl Salzman
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Date: 9 November 2009 (Monday)
Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm
Venue: Room SO322,
Dorothy Y.L. Wong Building



Baluchistan, 1973

Abstract:

It is normal to wish to put all of our ideals into practice. But are all ideals compatible with one another? Two which are central to modern Western culture are “freedom” and “equality.” Can both be simultaneously implemented? A review of ethnographic and historical cases raises questions about the compatibility of these two ideals.

Biography

Philip Carl Salzman is Professor of Anthropology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He has carried out ethnographic field research in Iranian Baluchistan, Gujarat and Rajasthan in India, and Sardinia, Italy. His publications include *The Anthropology of Real Life: Events in Human Experience* (1999), *Black Tents of Baluchistan* (2000, winner of the Premio Pitirè–Salomone Marino), *Understanding Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theory* (2001), *Pastoralists: Equality, Hierarchy, and the State* (2004), and *Culture and Conflict in the Middle East* (2008). He blogs regularly at Middle East Strategy at Harvard (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/mesh/>) and Open Anthropology Cooperative (<http://openanthcoop.ning.com/>).

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