

## Asian Heritage Month 2021 "Trailblazers in Social Justice"



### **DR. SALINA ABJI**

SOCIOLOGIST AND RESEARCH CONSULTANT

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Dr. Salina Abji is a Sociologist specializing in social justice research, education and action. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in Women's Studies from Oxford University. Salina recently completed a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellowship on immigration detention practices in Canada. She has published over nine research studies on citizenship and migration, gender-based violence, and social justice activism in scholarly journals like Citizenship Studies, Signs, Social Politics, and Studies in Social Justice. Her doctoral dissertation titled Emerging Logics of Citizenship: Activism in Response to Precarious Migration and Gendered Violence in an Era of Securitization was awarded the 2016 Dennis William Magill Canada Research Award for the best dissertation or published paper on Canadian society by a Ph.D. student in Sociology.

Salina has been an active presence in the South Asian community in Toronto. She has co-authored academic and community-based research on improving access to social services for South Asian survivors of gender-based violence. Her recent co-authored publications have offered critical analysis of legislation such as the Harper government's Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act as well as highlighting the ways that South Asian service providers navigate issues of forced marriage and immigration precarity in a context of state structural violence. This summer she will be presenting on her experiences organizing within and among South Asian communities at the Critical South Asian Feminisms conference at Ryerson University.

Her continued commitment to the community does not go unnoticed. Salina continues to bring her commitment in equity outside of academia. For the past decade she has organized with the Rights of Non-Status Women Network in Toronto, a grassroots network focused on education and advocacy on issues of migration precarity, border enforcement, and gender-based violence. As a community-based educator, Salina has also delivered training in qualitative research methods to young Muslim women as part of a youth-led initiative at the Barbra Schlifer clinic for women survivors of violence in Toronto.

Salina has made significant contributions to the discussion of social inequality across gender, race, and immigration while continuously exemplifying her core values in social and environmental justice, empathy, pluralism, and human rights. Salina is strongly dedicated to the community and continues her activism in a range of social issues including violence against women and the reproduction of social inequality through structural constraints. Salina has a deep understanding of the need to organize rights and membership differently in response to a changing world.

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See more of Salina's work



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