



A. ALFRED TAUBMAN CENTER
for Public Policy
and American Institutions

Brown Bag Series

**Fitting a Square Peg in a Round Hole:
Women and the Gendered Construction of U.S. Asylum Policy**

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12:00 Noon, Thursday March 4th, 2010

Taubman Center Seminar Room, 67 George Street

American asylum laws are the product of a specific set of norms and ideas which were dominant in the mid-20th century when the U.S. asylum system took shape. These norms privilege claims of asylum based on the “high politics” of the Cold War era but create enormous challenges for claims resulting from gendered forms of violence. The result is that women victims of gendered violence, whether rape, female genital mutilation, forced marriage or extreme domestic violence, have a very difficult time to convince the U.S. authorities that they deserve to be granted asylum.