TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
12:30 PM - 1:30PM
2339 FACULTY/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Contemporary Family Issues in America

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This presentation is a qualitative study of the institution of family focusing on the issues of marriage, divorce, cohabitation and parenting that challenge its stability and functionality. The ideal model of two-parent, nuclear families, with a bread-winning father and a home-making mother is changing. Binuclear, blended and same-sex families are increasing day-by-day and cohabitation is becoming a more common way of starting a family — perhaps even beginning to replace the institution of marriage. These trends must not be ignored; whatever our traditional notion of family may be, we do the institution of family an injustice if we fail to study its continued evolution.

Dr. Javed is a comparative and applied sociologist and started her career studying social transformation and minorities in India. This research was published in 1990 and 1992 as Muslim Society in Transition-A Case Study of Hyderabad. After moving to the United States, she studied the immigrants from the same ethnic group in this society in a comparative perspective and then expanded her research investigation to other ethnic groups like Arabic, Bangladeshi, Bosnian, Chaldean, Indian and Pakistani, who moved to the United States after 1995. She has extensively worked with these groups of immigrants as an applied sociologist, and designed faster mainstreaming workshops for bicultural parents, children and their teachers. This research was later published as a chapter entitled “Mainstreaming Immigrant Children through Coordinated Parallel Socialization Workshops," in Dr. Mary Cay Sengstock’s book Voices of Diversity.