



“Interculturality and Revolution of Values: Reading Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Canadian Context”

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4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room D216



About the Speaker: Jahanbegloo’s intellectual activity focuses on fostering constructive dialogue between divergent cultures and has written numerous books and articles in Persian, English and French on the subject of Western philosophy and modernity. Born in Tehran, Iran, Jahanbegloo has a doctorate in philosophy from Sorbonne University in France. He was then a post-doctorate fellow in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. From 1997-2001, he was an adjunct professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, after which he served as a fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy. Upon returning to Tehran, he was appointed head of the Contemporary Philosophy Department of the Cultural Research Center. He is currently back as an associate professor in the University of Toronto.

About the Lecture: Fifty years after King’s assassination, it is time to explore his significant legacy of non-violence for peoples and places embroiled in conflict; including his legacy for the civic movements in the U.S. and the diverse movements in 2009-2012 that became known as the “Arab Spring.” King turned to the symbol of the “American Dream” as a hope of equity and social justice for every individual beyond the American society. With the failure of all major political paradigms in the last hundred years, starting from revolutionary leftism and fascism up to neo-liberalism and ideological Islam, it is more than evident that nonviolent action is the new paradigm that is attempting to define itself distinctly and overcome the intellectual and political weaknesses of its predecessors. Though this nonviolent paradigm is still in the making, it can nonetheless be characterized as a legacy of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.