

Contributors

Aref Abu-Rabia is a native anthropologist who received a PhD in Anthropology from Tel-Aviv University. He is the author of four books and numerous scholarly publications on traditional medicine, family customs, holy saints, education, violence, abuse of children and cosmopolitanism. His research focuses in particular on the Middle East, North Africa and Islamic communities in the West. His interests include anthropology, education, public health, Islamic medicine, ethno-botany, traditional medicine, conflict and violence, and Sufism – the mystics of Islam. The author is establishing a garden for food, medicinal and aromatic plants in the Negev. Recent titles include *A Bedouin Century: Education and Development among the Negev Tribes in the 20th Century* (2001) and *Bedouin's Traditional Medicine* (1999).

Erika Friedl is E. E. Meader Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Western Michigan University. A native of Austria, she has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Boir Ahmad, southwest Iran, since 1965, covering most of the core anthropological topics of enquiry over the years. Most of her published work deals with gender issues, children and folklore. Monographs include *The Women of Deh Koh: Lives in an Iranian Village* (1991), *Children of Deh Koh: Young Life in an Iranian Village* (1997) and *Folktales from a Persian Tribe* (2007), and collections include *Muslim Women and the Politics of Participation* (1997), with co-editor Mahnaz Afkhami.

Mary Elaine Hegland teaches in the Anthropology Department and Women and Gender Studies programme at Santa Clara University in California. She has published about women, politics and Shi'a rituals in Iran and Peshawar. Her current research interests are ageing and the elderly in Iran and among Iranian Americans in the United States; social change, urbanisation and modernisation in the Iranian village; and women's education, identity and family relations in the village of Aliabad and nearby Shiraz in Iran.



Yagoub Y. Al-Kandari received his PhD from Ohio State University. He is Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Social Work, and Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Kuwait University. Recent publications include both articles, among them 'Fertility and Its Relationship with Sociocultural Factors in Kuwaiti Society' (2007), and monographs, including *Al-Diwaniyah al-Kuwaytiyah: Dawruha al-ijtimai wa-al-siyasi* (2002) and *The Prevalence of Consanguineous Marriage and Its Relations to Some Cultural Characteristics in Kuwait Society* (2006).

Hayder Al-Mohammad, having completed a Social Anthropology degree at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, has been conducting preparatory research in Iraq for his doctoral dissertation. His research focuses on issues of social ontology, conflict and the body.

Zahra Sarraf, an oncologic-gynaecologist, is a faculty member in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and is Director of the Oncologic-Gynaecology Centre at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) in Iran. In addition to teaching and medical practice, Dr Sarraf has been involved in a number of research projects that have focused on women's health. She has authored numerous publications and translations, including *Where Women Have No Doctors: A Health Guide for Women* (1997), which she translated from English into Persian/Farsi.

Mohammad Shahbazi, PhD, MPH, CHES, is an Associate Professor of Public Health and Acting Chair, Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health and DrPH Degree Program Coordinator, School of Health Sciences, College of Public Service at Jackson State University in Mississippi. He earned his PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis and his MPH in International Family Health from the UCLA School of Public Health. As a medical anthropologist and nationally certified health educator, he applies anthropological frameworks to study health in general and socio-cultural dimensions of public health in particular.