TALKING WITH THE TALIBAN
CHALLENGES FOR THE US, AFGHANISTAN, AND PAKISTAN

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12:00 NOON
Orfalea Center
Seminar Room
1005 Robertson Gym

ABSTRACT
How can the US, Afghanistan and Pakistan engage with the Taliban, and would they be willing to share power if they are invited into a future government? These are some of the questions that are on the security agenda of the three countries, yet each struggle with their own particular challenges. For the US the priority is to get out of Afghanistan in 2014 with a relative success. For Afghanistan the main challenge is to avoid returning to a post-1989 situation where civil war and warlordism replaced the presence of the invading forces. For Pakistan its position towards the Afghan Taliban amounts to a question about containing the influence of India and countering the internal security threat from the increasingly forceful Pakistani Taliban.

In this talk, Dr. Mona Sheikh will discuss the current attitudes of both the Afghan Taliban and the Pakistani Taliban towards negotiations, and the status of different attempts to talk with different factions of the Taliban.

BIO
Mona Kanwal Sheikh is a researcher on Pakistan and Afghanistan at the Danish Institute for International Studies. Her main area of expertise is militant movements in Pakistan, especially the movements related to the Pakistani Taliban, and she has conducted extensive fieldwork in the country. She holds a PhD from the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen, and for the academic year 2008-2009 was a Visiting Research Scholar at the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies, UCSB.