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THE NY SALON IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
THE BATTLE OF IDEAS, THE NEW SCHOOL  
AND BARNES & NOBLE PRESENT...

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**BATTLE  
SATELLITE  
SALONS in  
NEW YORK  
CITY**

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**MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**  
THE WOLLMAN HALL, THE NEW SCHOOL, 65 W11 ST, NYC

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**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**  
BARNES & NOBLE, 86TH & LEXINGTON AVENUE BRANCH, 150 EAST 86TH STREET, NYC

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TWO PUBLIC DEBATES ABOUT KEY  
ISSUES OF OUR TIME WHERE AUDIENCE  
PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED.

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# GROUND ZERO TOLERANCE: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND AMERICA'S CULTURE WAR

**MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
7.30PM UNTIL 9.00PM**

The clearance by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission for the so-called 'Ground Zero mosque' to be built in lower Manhattan received national coverage amidst a raging debate, initiated by Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich and then weighed in upon by Mayor Bloomberg and President Obama, as to whether Park 51, the 13 storey Islamic cultural centre, should be allowed to be built so close to 9/11's Ground Zero.

Those who oppose Park 51 argue either that the project is insensitive because Ground Zero is unique and a kind of 'hallowed ground' as Charles Krauthammer put it, or that it is politically motivated, with an anti-American agenda, and should not be treated with the same tolerance as a religious institution. Those defending the Islamic centre have been quick to label opponents as bigots, and claimed the centre will be a bridge to cultural harmony, promoting moderation, non-violence and diversity.

Is this apparent new backlash against Muslims in Western nations and the arguments around the issue a new version of the 'Culture Wars'? While religious freedom has been a consistent part of the Enlightenment tradition, does the increasing antagonism towards Muslims in the West express a feeling that we tolerate the intolerant at our peril? Is it true that today's politically correct 'tolerance' results in a craven accommodation to radical Islam even when it is antithetical to Western values? How should today's American society deal with clashing belief systems? Is this simply a case of religious freedom and free speech? Does the current preoccupation with Islam, whether sympathetic or hostile, reflect a deeper lack of certainty about what Western values are?

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## **SPEAKERS:**

**Zead Ramadan**, Chairman of New York Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

**Wendy Kaminer**, lawyer and social critic; correspondent, theatlantic.com; latest book, Worst Instincts: cowardice, conformity and the ACLU

**Brendan O'Neill** editor, spiked; feature-writer, Christian Science Monitor in America and for BBC in Britain

**Kristen Saloomey**, correspondent, Al Jazeera

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## **MODERATOR:**

**Alan Miller**, Director, NY Salon; co-founder, London's Truman Brewery and Vibe Bar; London Regional Council, Arts Council England

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## **VENUE:**

**The Wollman Hall**, The New School, 65 West 11th St, New York

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## **TICKETS:**

This event is free and open to the public.

For further information please email Jean: [nysaloinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:nysaloinfo@yahoo.com)

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# IS AMERICA STILL AN IMMIGRATION NATION?

WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
7.00PM UNTIL 8.30PM

With an estimated twelve million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., many people agree that something must be done. At the same time most citizens acknowledge with pride that our country was founded by immigrants seeking to build a better future for themselves and their families. No other country has offered this to the same extent as the U.S. This implied open borders not only for people traveling inside the country but also for people traveling or moving to the U.S.

Many have lambasted Arizona's new immigration legislation signed into law in April by Republican governor Jan Brewer. In July a federal judge blocked implementation of provisions in that law that require police to determine the immigration status of people they stop and suspect of being in the U.S. illegally. And yet there has been much less criticism of the Democrats' plans to tighten border security and require all U.S. citizens and legal immigrants who want jobs to obtain a high-tech, fraud-proof Social Security card each with a unique biometric identifier.

As the temperature rises in the immigration debate, what should our vision be for American society in the twenty-first century? Do we want to live in a country that shuts others out or is there a moral case to be made that welcomes immigrants and their aspiration for a better life?

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## SPEAKERS:

**Donna Lieberman**, executive director, NYCLU

**Jason Riley**, member, editorial board, Wall Street Journal; author, Let Them In: the case for open borders

**Dr Alex Standish**, assistant professor of geography, Western Connecticut State University; author, The Politics of Geography: approaches to teaching global issues in the twenty-first century

**Gary Younge**, columnist, Guardian; author, Who Are We: and should it matter in the 21st century?

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## MODERATOR:

**Jean Smith**, Director NY Salon

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## VENUE:

**Barnes & Noble**, 86th & Lexington Avenue Branch, 150 East 86th Street, New York

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## TICKETS:

This event is free and open to the public.

For further information please email Jean: [nysaloninfo@yahoo.com](mailto:nysaloninfo@yahoo.com)

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## **The NY Salon Battle Satellites is an international collaboration between The NY Salon and The Battle of Ideas**

Today intellectual life seems to end with college graduation. Political discussion in the 'real' world is pragmatic and focused on narrow policy questions. When debate touches on matters of value and principle, it tends to degenerate into name-calling and mutual vilification. The NY Salon aims to provide a distinct environment where ideas are robustly debated. It welcomes disagreement rather than trying to sweep it under the rug. At the NY Salon, participants have a right to hold an opinion but they also have a duty to express and defend it. It is only through open debate that we come to know and develop our own opinions and become able to draw conclusions about the pressing issues of our time. This is the spirit that animates the NY Salon and it is why we have partnered with The Battle of Ideas in London for these two Battle Satellites.

Claire Fox, Director of the Battle of Ideas outlines the themes of the 2010 international conference by referring to the ancient Greeks' notion that 'Man is the measure of all things'. She continues, "Today, humanistic thinking is under threat, from those who warn that human-centredness is no more than hubris, that man's ambitions are destructive, that we cannot trust politicians, bankers, cricketers, even each other or ourselves. Sessions will explore what these ideas mean for our attitude to human life or for our ambitions to engineer our future and use the huge gains of science, technology and biomedicine to solve problems associated with ageing, with the economy or even natural disasters. Is man guilty of playing God? Or would any lessening of our aspirations mean simply accepting our fate? We welcome attendees who are free thinkers, who have verve, passion and idealism, and a dose of irreverent scepticism; who believe mankind has a future worth fighting for."

This exciting collaboration is part of an international series of Satellite events including India, across Europe and New York. We invite you to come and join in and engage in the key battle of our times.

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**THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:**

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