

## **Dr. Patricia Madigan**

Dr. Patricia Madigan, currently residing in Sydney, Australia, is the director of CIMER ([www.cimer.org.au](http://www.cimer.org.au)), the Dominican Centre for Interfaith, Ministry, Education and Research (CIMER) which engages with communities of people of other faiths, and contributes to mutual understanding and social cohesiveness in Australian society. Their web site says, "We develop communities and make known the theological and other resources found in the Catholic and Christian tradition which support interfaith engagement. We focus especially on women's role and participation in the religious faith traditions and women's contribution to building societies of peace, justice and care of creation." Dr. Madigan completed her studies in ecumenical and interfaith dialog at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, and Harvard Divinity School, where she specialized in Christian-Muslim relations. She was awarded her Ph.D. in the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Sydney. She is the Chair of the Broken Bay Catholic Diocesan Commission for Interfaith Relations and Chair of the Living Faiths Commission of the New South Wales Ecumenical Council in Sydney.

Dr. Madigan works with persons inspired by Gülen, such as those who founded the Affinity Intercultural Foundation (<http://www.affinity.org.au/>) led by Mr. Mehmet Saral and the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy of Australia (<http://www.isra.org.au/>) led by Mr. Mehmet Ozalp and Mrs. Zuleyha Keskin. She has closely collaborated with the Affinity Cultural Foundation on numerous projects including an annual International Abraham Conference and community-wide educational activities such as communication between Muslim and Christian groups. As a Dominican sister with pastoral experience in education, interfaith relations, and university chaplaincy, Dr. Madigan is currently working with the AIF to plan a joint study tour with Catholics from the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, (Sydney) and Australian Muslims going together to Turkey and Rome in 2012. She has written "Learning from Islam" for *Fountain Magazine*, October-December 2007, an article which also appeared in *Catholics On-Line*.

A founding member of the Women's Interfaith Network located in Sydney, and a representative on the Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Jews and Muslims (ANDCJM), in 2002 she participated in a Consultation of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue for Asia held in Seoul, South Korea. From 2004 to 2008, Dr. Madigan held the position of Australian delegate at four regional inter-governmental conferences of the Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony.

The National Council of Churches in Australia in conjunction with the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence sponsored "Journey of Promise," a live-in dialogue program for a week with thirty young people with an equal number of Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Sydney. Dr. Madigan was selected to be the Christian mentor of the young people who had a Muslim mentor and a Jewish mentor as well. An educational DVD was made of this dialogue program and many of these young people on their own initiative have gone on to lead interfaith projects such as "friendship" days for children in the various religious schools in Sydney.

She has written *Women and Fundamentalism in Islam and Catholicism, Negotiating Modernity in the Globalized World* (Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, 2011) which takes a theological-historical approach to understanding the complex relationships among gender, religion, economics and politics in the global context, with particular reference to Islam and Catholicism as two worldwide, culturally diverse and patriarchal religious traditions. It looks at ways in which Catholic and Muslim women, both within and between their respective traditions,

are critiquing fundamentalist theological and cultural positions and reclaiming their rightful place within the life of their religious traditions. In so doing, it argues that they offer to their respective religious communities, and beyond, a holistic ways of negotiating the impact of modernity in a globalized world. The final chapter of the book gives voice to some Australian Muslim and Catholic women who, at a local level, reflect many of the overall concerns of women who find themselves at the cutting edge of their respective religious tradition's negotiation of modernity.

She has published numerous research articles on interreligious relations in Australia, the dynamics of religious fundamentalism, religion's engagement with modernity, religion, gender, and human rights, women's religious and cultural history, especially in Christianity/Catholicism and Islam. Among her publications are:

*Report commissioned on the Australian Women's Coalition Intercultural Bridge-building Project: a study of the social and political impact of women's intercultural dialogue.* Completed March 2010. Published at <http://www.awcaus.org.au/Projects.aspx>

"Women Negotiating Modernity: A Gender Perspective on Fundamentalisms in Catholicism and Islam", *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, Birmingham, vol 20, no 1, January 2009, 1-20.

"Muslim and Catholic women reclaim a liberating vision", Commemoration Issue 21 of Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia magazine, *Australian Mosaic*, March 2009, 29-30.

"Women in Islam and Catholicism: Sydney Women Speak", *Pacifica*, June 2008, 210-223.

"Learning from Islam", *The Fountain*, issue 60, Oct-Nov 2007, 20-22.

<http://www.fountainmagazine.com/archive.php?ARCHIVEDetail&ARCHIVEID=60>. First published in *Online Catholics*, 17th November 2004.

"The threat of fundamentalism? Some Christian and Muslim perspectives", *Compass Theological Review*, vol 38, Winter, 2004, 14-18.

"What does spirituality mean for us today? (Talk given at Women of Faith Dinner, 4 April 2004), *ACMICA Enews*, issue 4, 2004.

Contributed to *Sustained Dialogue: Close Encounters of the Muslim-Christian Kind*, Sydney: Affinity Intercultural Foundation, March 2004

Book review: "Religions for Peace: A Call for Solidarity to the Religions of the World", *The Australasian Catholic Record*, vol 81, no 1, January 2004, 124-125.

"Much in Common – Women and the Interfaith Journey" *Australian Mosaic*, issue 2, Autumn 2003, 18-19.

Book review: "At the Wellspring", *The Australasian Catholic Record*, vol 80, no 1, Jan 2003, 125.

"A Tale of Mountain-climbing and an Elephant in the Living Room - the third phase of the ecumenical movement", *Compass Theological Review*, vol 35, Winter, 2001, 21-26.

"Thousands of men and no groping," *Eureka Street*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (February 15, 2011) <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=25048>.

For more information on these and the other things in which she is involved, see [www.cimer.org.au](http://www.cimer.org.au).