



The series “Other Views” was held throughout 2015 in the Rekalde Gallery in Bilbao, sponsored by the Diputacion Foral of Bizkaia and the city hall of Bilbao, and the presence of :

1. **Natalia Andujar**

Talk on the 7 of October 2015. Rekalde Gallery (Bilbao).

Born in Barcelona, with Spanish-French nationalities, she converted to Islam, Spanish language teacher, feminist. She directs the Educaislam centre, dedicated to the teaching of topics related to Islam, among them Islamic Feminism.

99 people attended this conference and there were very interesting comments about the interest the talk raised.

Natalia presented her experience about feminism and Islam, emphasizing the work of numerous Islamic feminists in different countries. She pointed out the need to fight against Islamophobia and the fundamentalism that feed on each other, and placed her hope in the new generations and in greater presence and participation of women in the religion.

During the same act, she presented the book “Women in the Hushe valley, Pakistan. Life stories”, published by the Baltistan Foundation as part of a project financed by the DiputacionForal of Bizkaia.

Link to the book in e-book format, but the book is also available.
<http://www.baltistan.eus/files/mujeres-del-valle-de-hushe>.

In this book, the stories of 9 women of the valley are told and they give testimony to their lives and the advances they are achieving on the way to realizing their dreams of autonomy, education and the recognition of people with rights.

Natalia participated in various meetings on interreligious dialogue with people from Ostargi and EDE Foundation, and with people that work in the area of immigration in the government and the third sector, and she was interviewed in different media.

Here are some interesting links:

<http://www.deia.com/2015/11/01/mundo/hay-un-movimiento-internacional-de-mujeres-musulmanas-que-luchan-dentro-del-marco-religioso-por-su-emancipacion>

<http://www.eitb.eus/es/noticias/sociedad/videos/detalle/3528240/videonatalia-andujar-musulmana-feminista/>

<http://www.eitb.eus/es/radio/radio-euskadi/programas/graffiti/audios/detalle/3527912/natalia-andujarradio-euskadi/>



2. **Samina Baig**

Conference titled "Women beyond the summits".

Rekalde Gallery, December 9, 2015 (Bilbao).

The first Pakistani woman to climb Everest (2013) and the third Pakistani person to reach the summit. She is from the Hunza valley, in the region of Gilgit-Baltistan, in the foothills of Karakorum, the area where we work from the Baltistan Foundation.

She has been, up to now, one of the few examples of sporting success among Pakistani women. The Young mountaineer began climbing with her brother from a young age, becoming a milestone for being the first Pakistani woman to climb Everest.

The thread of the conference was her vital experience. A story of empowerment and overcoming. The story of a young woman determined to show that being a woman does not mean a reduction in capacity nor should it be in rights.

She was born 25 years ago in the Shimshal Valley (Hunza, Pakistan), not very far from the Chinese border. Roads were unknown there until 2003, and nowadays they are not always assured of electricity or drinking water.

Samina was able to go to school from the time she was little, not like in other areas of Pakistan, and she could always count on her family's support. Her brother, Mirza Ali, is part of this story. Mirza started working as a porter for foreign expeditions at a very young age. When he returned home, he always told his sister that one day he would take her with him up the mountain.

A mountain of more than 4,000 meters was the first success. Step by step, Samina managed to climb Everest. After that came the ascent of the seven summits on seven continents.

Samina wanted to show that women, logically, are capable of any achievement as long as they are given the same opportunities as men and enjoy the same rights, and her story is one that, despite no opportunities and living in a society with profound gender inequalities, there are women that fight to reach their objectives beyond serious difficulties, and this is important so that other women have references to fight for their rights.

With her brother, her inseparable companion, who gave up the summit in favour of his sister and in this way dedicate the success of the expedition to the fight for gender equality.

82 people attended her conference and she was at Mikel Alonso's photography exhibition about the Hushe Valley. The presence of Samina and the possibility to hear her speak, and being able to see the exhibition of such a renowned photographer as Mikel Alonso, made for a large attendance of university staff, authorities and the media.

Samina Baig and her brother also presented their film Beyond the heights, as part of the programme of the Mountain Film Festival. The documentary linked to the ascent of Everest was in the Mendi Film Festival of 2015, which raised a lot of interest in the



media and we believe it had a positive effect on bringing to light the women in the Muslim world as well as women with important objectives and achievements, and seeing the importance of supporting empowerment processes of women all over the world, either in the West or the East.

Here are some of the links to the interviews and reports on Samina Baig and some links of interest.

http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2015/12/23/paisvasco/1450860170_365056.html

http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2015/12/14/paisvasco/1450094755_535658.html

<http://www.baltistan.eus/actualidad/videoteca/samina-2012-expedition/?searchterm=samina>

<http://mendifilmfestival.com/MFF/index.php/es/2015-05-19-15-19-46/protagonistas-2015/757-samina-baig>

<https://vimeo.com/52640690>



3. Mola Dad Shafa

Conference January 20, 2016 in the Rekalde Gallery in Bilbao, the last of the conferences in the series about Islam, 2015.

The first series of conferences was initially planned to take place entirely during 2015, but due to the visit from Samina, the conference was changed to December, so that both would not coincide in the same month, and because December is full of commitments, they decided it would be much more positive to offer the conference given by Mola Dad in January. That is why this talk was moved to 2016 and not in 2015.

Mola Dad Shafa is director of PDCN (Professional Development Centre-North/ an outstanding centre for innovation education in the north of Pakistan) which belongs to the Aga Khan University. He has a Phd in teaching from the University of Toronto.

He is a promotor and the first director of the Wafa organization for the empowerment of women in the Hunza Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The conference given by Mola Dad was titled 'Education, a factor in Human Development' and was also well-attended by 51 people.

The BF has helped him prepare a series of meetings and visits in order to create possible synergies and meeting places throughout the Basque Country. He has had a busy but very interesting schedule, having visits and meetings: in the Basque University, the Etxebarri town hall, with technical staff, with teachers and associations in Etxebarri, Mondragon University (MU), Faculty from Empresariales LEINN, MCC, Technology Centre, the Department of Education of the Basque Government and ALC. He has been accompanied by his wife MeherUINsa, who runs the association of women Wafa in Gilgit-Baltistan (Women's Association for Advancement).

He was also extensively interviewed in the media. Here are some interesting links:

http://www.berria.eus/paperekoa/1884/003/001/2016-01-21/gobernua_eta_gizartea_beldurtzeko_eraso_diote_terroristek_unibertsitateari.htm

http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2016/01/26/paisvasco/1453810200_214107.html

http://www.baltistan.eus/actualidad/el/image/image_view_fullscreen

<http://www.etxebarri.net/es-ES/Eventos/Paginas/20160127-Conferencia-Otras-Miradas.aspx>