Shii Studies: The State of the Art
International Conference held at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ
(December 7-9, 2017)1

Convenors:
Hassan Ansari (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton)
Sabine Schmidtke (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton)

Venue:
White-Levy Room, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (morning and afternoon sessions)
Dilworth Room, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (S.T. Lee Lecture)

Program

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

Morning Session (8:00-12:00 pm) (Chair: Bernard Haykel, Princeton University)
Registration and Welcome (Hassan Ansari and Sabine Schmidtke)

Mushegh Asatryan (University of Calgary, Canada), A Medieval Nusayri Shaykh's Disputations and the Study of the Nusayris in Western Academia [video presentation]

Samer Traboulsi (University of North Carolina at Asheville), The Past, Present, and Future of Druze Studies

Shafique N. Virani (University of Toronto), Pir Sabzali and the Missing Sources of Ismaili History

Jo-Ann Gross (The College of New Jersey), Documentary Sources on Ismailism in Badakhshan: Genealogical History and the Construction of Confessional Identity in Badakhshan

Matthew Melvin-Koushki (University of South Carolina), Occultist Imamophilia in Timurid-Safavid Iran

Yaacov Lev (Bar Ilan University), The Uniqueness of the Fatimid State

Afternoon Session (1:00-5:00 pm) (Chair: George A. Kiraz, Beth Mardutho/Institute for Advanced Study)

1 Generously funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Dr. S.T. Lee Fund for Historical Studies.
Soroush Dabbagh (University of Toronto), Islamic Reform in Contemporary Iran: The Shiite Legacy

Anne Regourd (University of Copenhagen, ERC Project 'Islam in the Horn of Africa'), Between the lines: reading the history of papers from early manuscripts in the Glaser collection held in Berlin

Brinkley Messick (Columbia University), Imamic Governance and Shari’a Justice in 20th century Yemen

Nebil A. Husayn (University of Miami), From Kūfa to Yemen to Baghdad: The Evolution of Zaydi Dialectics on the Imamate

Deborah Tor (University of Notre Dame), The Parting of Ways Between 'Alid Shi’ism and 'Abbāsid Shi’ism in the Wake of the 'Abbāsid Revolution: A Re-Examination

S.T. Lecture (6:00-7:00 pm)

Ulrich Marzolph (Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Göttingen), The Visual Culture of Iranian Twelver-Shiism in the Qajar Period

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER

Morning Session (8:00-12:00 pm) (Chair: Stefan Schorch, Halle University/Institute for Advanced Study)

Dennis Halft (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), New Evidence for the History of Iranian Jewry and Imāmī-Jewish Relations from Shi‘ī Manuscript Repositories in Iran

Ehud Krinis, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Jewish-Shii Studies: Past Contributions and Future Prospects

Roy Vilozny (University of Haifa), Levy Billig (1897-1936): an understudied episode in the history of Shi‘ī studies

Amin Ehteshami (University of California, Berkeley), Al-Ma‘mūn’s Translators: Sectarian Genealogies of the Greco-Arabic Translation Movement

Mathieu Terrier (CNRS, Paris), Historicisation of Shi‘ism and Shi‘itisation of History. Forty years of Imami Studies from Henry Corbin to Mohammad Ali Amir-Moezzi

Seyed Amir Hossein Asghari (Indiana University), The Contemporary Shi‘a Seminary in Iran: Opponents and Adherents of Philosophy and Sufism

Afternoon Session (1:00-5:00 pm) (Chair: Ali Asani, Harvard University)
Torsten Hylén (Dalarna University, Falun, Sweden), Dating versions of the Karbalāʾ story

Ali Rida Rizek (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen), “The disciples of al-Shaykh”: Imāmī Legal Scholarship after al-Ṭūsī (d. 460/1067) [video presentation]

Aun Hasan Ali (University of Colorado Boulder), The ijāza of al-ʿAllāma al-Ḥillī to the Banū Zuhra: Sources for the History of the School of Hilla

Devin Stewart (Emory College), Notes on the Life and Legacy of al-Shahīd al-Thānī, Zayn al-Dīn al-ʿĀmilī

Edmund Hayes (Leiden University), How do we deal with Imamic hadith? The case of the historical development in the Imams’ statements of khums

Robert Gleave (Exeter University), Early Shi‘ī law: Limitations and Possibilities of Current Scholarship

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER

Morning Session (8:00-12:00 pm) (Chair: Will Hanley, Florida State University/Institute for Advanced Study)

Carmela Baffioni (Institute for Ismaili Studies, London), The Problem of Additions in the Manuscript Tradition of the Ikhwān al-Ṣafāʾ [video presentation]

Daniella Talmon-Heller (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Fatimid Ritual: from Mamluk to Modern Scholarship

Rodrigo Adem, Ismāʿīlīsm as Shi‘īsm: The Construction of a Historical Category of Analysis

George Warner (SOAS, University of London), Shi‘īsm as Epic in the ‘Ali Nāmah

Michael Dann (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Illinois, Urbana), The Origins, Usage and Indeterminacy of Sectarian Labels: “Batris” and “Rafidis” as Case Studies

Afternoon Session (1:00-4:00 pm) (Chair: Sebastian Günther, Göttingen University/Institute for Advanced Study)

Mohammad Sagha (University of Chicago), Early Shi‘ī Discourse on Religious Leadership: Penitence, Revolution and Eschatology after Imam Husayn

Hussein Abdulsater (University of Notre Dame), Muʿtazilism ignored, espoused and negotiated: Imami interpretations of the Covenant Verse

Walid Saleh (University of Toronto), Shiite anti-Sunni Polemics and the Sunni Tafsir Tradition