



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

**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)

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Sharīʿa Justice in 20th century Yemen

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

**Deborah Tor** (University of Notre Dame), The Parting of Ways Between ʿAlid Shiʿism and ʿAbbāsīd Shiʿism in the Wake of the ʿAbbāsīd 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 Shīʿī 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 Shīʿī studies

**Amin Ehteshami** (University of California, Berkeley), Al-Maʿmūn's Translators: Sectarian Genealogies of the Greco-Arabic Translation Movement

**Mathieu Terrier** (CNRS, Paris), Historicisation of Shiʿism and Shiʿitisation of History. Forty years of Imami Studies from Henry Corbin to Mohammad Ali Amir-Moezzi

**Seyed Amir Hossein Asghari** (Indiana University), The Contemporary Shīʿa 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 Ḥilla

**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 Shīʿī 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**, Ismāʿīlism as Shīʿism: The Construction of a Historical Category of Analysis

**George Warner** (SOAS, University of London), Shīʿism as Epic in the ʿAlī Nāmāh

**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 Shīʿī Discourse on Religious Leadership: Penitence, Revolution and Eschatology after Imam Ḥusayn

**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