North American Association of Islamic and Muslim Studies (NAAIMS)

Presents

44th Annual Conference

“Sectarianism in Islam and Muslim Communities”

Cosponsored By:
Middle East Studies
Brown University, Providence, RI

Saturday, September 19, 2015

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Registration

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcoming and Introductory Remarks
[Brown University – Metcalf Research Building
Friedman Auditorium, 190 Thayer Street, Providence, RI 02912]

Beshara B. Doumani, Brown University, Providence, RI
(Program Chair)

Jon Mandaville, Portland State University, Portland, OR
(NAAIMS President)

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.  Panel 1  [Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]
Rhetorics of Sectarianism
Chair: Faiz Ahmed, Brown University, Providence, RI
Discussant: Nancy Khalek, Brown University, Providence, RI

Adam Gaiser (Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL): “A Narrative Identity Approach to Islamic Sectarianism”

Michael E. Pregill (Boston University, Boston, MA): “Sects That Feign Forgetting: Anti-Sunnism and Anti-Judaism in Early Shii Propaganda”

Michael Dann (Princeton University, Princeton, NJ): “Modern Islamic Scholarship between Sectarian History and Histories of Sectarianism”

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.  Break

11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  Panel 2  [Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]
Sect, State, and Security
Chair: Chair: Maria R. Volpe, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, NY
Discussant: Nathaniel Berman, Brown University, Providence, RI

Alexander Henley (Georgetown University, Washington, DC): “New Roles of Religious Leaders at the Interface between Sect and State in Lebanon”

Natana J. DeLong-Bas (Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA): “Between Conflict and
Coexistence: Saudi Shi’is as Subjects, Objects, and Agents in Wasatiyya and Wataniyya”

Sarah A. Tobin (Brown University, Providence, RI): “Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Carriers of Sectarianism”

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
**Luncheon Keynote Address**  
[Brown University: The Faculty Club, One Magie Street, Providence, RI 02912]  
**Keynote Speaker:** M. Nazif Shahrani  
[Professor of Anthropology, Central Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN]  
**Keynote Address:** “Why Muslim Sectarian Politics of Rage in the Age of ‘Empires of Trust’?”

2:15 – 3:45 p.m.  
**Panel 3**  
[Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]  
**Contemporary Militant Sectarianism**

**Chair:** Maria Massi Dakake, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA  
**Discussant:** Corri Zoli, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Mohammad Hassan Khalil (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI): “Radical Discourse and the Killing of Civilians: Al-Qaeda and ISIS as Case Studies”

Isaac Kfir (Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY): “Human (In)Security and Social Identity Group: The Case of Jihadi Terrorism in Africa”

Nader Hashemi (Denver University, Denver, CO): “Toward a Political Theory of Sectarianism in the Middle East: The Salience of Authoritarianism over Theology”

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.  
**Break**

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
**Panel 4**  
[Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]  
**Sectarianism and the Transnational**

**Chair:** Sherine Hamdy, Brown University, Providence, RI  
**Discussant:** Pelin Kadercan, Brown University, Providence, RI

Alexander B. Stewart (University of California, San Diego, CA): “Where is Allah? Sectarian Debate, Ethnicity, and Transnational Identity among the Salafis of Northwest China”

Faegheh (Fawn) Shirazi (University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX): “Mandaeans of Iran and Iraq”

Lior B. Sternfeld (Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA): “Religious Minorities, Ethnic Minorities, Political Minorities: Jews in the Iranian Tudeh Party”

5:30 – 5:45 p.m.  
**Closing Remarks**  
Jon Mandaville, Portland State University, Portland, OR