

Facing Others: Iranian Identity Boundaries and Modern Political Cultures

Yale Iranian Studies Initiative
Council on Middle East Studies
MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies

April 25th-27th 2008
Luce Hall, Yale University

Program

Friday 25 April 2008

3:30-4:00pm Opening Remarks
Abbas Amanat (Yale University)

4:00-6:00pm Panel One: ***Legacy of Cultural Exclusion***
Room 203

Dick Davis (Ohio State University), *Iran and Aniran: The Shaping of a Legend*
Stephen Dale (Ohio State University), *Perso-Islamic, Turco-Mongol: the Varieties of Identity and the Nature of the Boundaries in the Autobiography of Zahir al-Din Muhammad Babur*
Sunil Sharma (Boston University), *Redrawing the Boundaries of 'Ajam in Early Modern Persian Literary History*

Discussant: Kishwar Rizvi (Yale University)
Chair: Abbas Amanat (Yale University)

6:30-7:30pm Keynote Address
Auditorium

Bert Fragner (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna), *Elements of Iranian Identities: Historical Dimensions of a Contemporary Discourse*

Saturday 26 April 2008

8:30-10:30am Panel Two: ***The Internal Frontiers***
Auditorium

Lois Beck (Washington University), *Locating Identity at the Margins and at the Center*
Touraj Atabaki (University of Leiden), *Iranian History in Transition: Recasting the Symbolic Identity of Babak Khorramdin*

Arash Khazeni (Claremont-McKenna College), Across the Black Sands and the Red: Travel and the Frontiers of Nineteenth-Century Central Asia

Discussant: Gene Garthwaite (Dartmouth College)

Chair: Fakhreddin Azimi (University of Connecticut, Storrs)

11:00-1:00pm Panel Three: *Empires and Encounters*

Auditorium

Rudi Matthee (University of Delaware), Facing a Rude and Barbarous Neighbor:

Iranian Perceptions of Russia and the Russians from the Safavids to the Qajars

Sabri Ates (Southern Methodist University), Dividing the Umma, Defining the Citizen: Ottoman Occupation of Northwestern Iran

H. Lyman Stebbins (University of Chicago), British Imperialism, Regionalism, and Nationalism in Iran, 1889-1919

Discussant: Fakhreddin Azimi (University of Connecticut, Storrs)

Chair: Kishwar Rizvi (Yale University)

2:30-4:30pm Panel Four: *Self-Fashioning and Othering*

Auditorium

Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi (University of Toronto), Orientalism, Europism and the making of Iranian Islamism

Afshin Matin-Asgari (California State University), The Academic Debate on Iran and Iranian Identity: Challenging Nationalist and Orientalist Narratives

Houchang Chehabi (Boston University), Some Thoughts on Inter-Societal Linkages between Iran and Iraq

Discussant: Arang Keshavarzian (Connecticut College)

Chair: Farzin Vahdat (Vassar College)

5:30-6:30pm Persian Classical Music

Afshin Goodarzi

Shahram Karoori

Sunday 27th April 2008

9:00-11:00am Panel Five: *Domestic and Globalized Anxieties*

Auditorium

Orly Rahimiyan (Ben-Gurion University), Iranian Jewish Identity: Between Diaspora and Homeland

Mahmoud Sadri (Texas Women's University), The Iranian Caper (*Irani-bazi*): Notes on a Culture of Liminal Predation

Mina Yazdani (University of Toronto), Dolgoruki's 'Memoirs': From Fiction to Master Narrative

Manochehr Dorraj (Texas Christian University), How Iran Copes with the Challenges of Globalization: Neo-Populism as a Strategy of Regime Survival

Discussant: Farzin Vahdat (Vassar College)

Chair: Farzin Vejdani (Yale University)

11:30-12:30pm **Plenary Session**

Auditorium

Concluding Remarks: Ehsan Yarshater (Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University)

Chair: Abbas Amanat (Yale University)

For more information regarding the conference, please contact Farzin Vejdani (farzin.vejdani@yale.edu)