

Iranian Studies Initiative at Yale
Iran Colloquium

The Iran Colloquium is an ongoing forum for presenting recent research and publication on all aspects of Iran and Persian culture. It is open to Yale community as well as scholars from universities in the vicinity and interested individuals. For further information and inclusion in the email list please write to: irancoll@yale.edu

The Iran Colloquium was established in 2006 and regularly meets during the academic year.

Fall 2006

Director: Abbas Amanat

Convener: Farzin Vejdani

Speakers:

Professor William Beeman (September 29th 2006)

"Iran and the United States--The Dynamics of Mutual Misunderstanding"

William Beeman (Brown University, Anthropology) latest book is entitled *The "Great Satan" vs. The "Mad Mullahs": How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other* (Praeger/Greenwood). His recent papers include "After Ahmadinejad: the prospects for US-Iranian relations" and "The U.S. Foreign Policy Myth and the Middle East" which is in draft form.

In his presentation Professor Beeman reviewed aspects of Iran-US relations since 1979 and touched on the culture of diplomacy and obstacles to improving relations from anthropological perspective.

Professor Ali Gheissari (October 20th 2006)

"State and the Question of Democracy in Iran."

Professor Ali Gheissari (University of San Diego, History) has recently co-authored a book (with Vali Nasr) *Democracy in Iran: History and the Quest for Liberty*, Oxford University Press, 2006.

Professor Gheissari discussed current practices of controlled democracy under the Islamic Republic and obstacles toward emergence of pluralism and popular representation.

Professor Roy Mottahedeh (November 20th 2006)

"Iranians and the Persian Language in Najaf"

Professor Roy Mottahedeh (Harvard University, History Dept. and Director of the Center for Islamic Studies) is author of a number of works on history of medieval Islam and modern Iran. Among his publications is *Mantle of the Prophet*.

Professor Mottahedeh discussed his work in progress demonstrating the significance of the Iranian clerical community of Najaf and family ties between Iran and Iraq in the Shi'ite *madrasa* with greater emphasis on the late 20th century.

Professor Fakhreddin Azimi (December 1st 2007)

“The Mystique of Monarchy? Sustaining the last Shah of Iran.”

Professor Fakhreddin Azimi (University of Connecticut, History) is the author of a number of works on modern Iranian history, including most recently *The Quest for Democracy in Iran: A Century of Struggle against Authoritarian Rule*.

Professor Azimi discussed the ways in which Mohammad Reza Shah justified authoritarianism through the mystique of kingship thus sidelining democracy in Iran.

Spring 2007

Professor Arang Keshavarzian (January 26th 2007)

“Bazaar Transformations: Governance, Networks, and Politics in the Tehran Marketplace.”

Professor Arang Keshavarzian (Connecticut College, Government) is the author of numerous articles on various aspects of Iranian politics, including most recently *Bazaar and State in Iran: The Politics of the Tehran Marketplace*.

Professor Keshavarzian discussed the reasons for the transformation of Tehran bazaar from a politically potent structure during the late Pahlavis to a greatly weakened force under the Islamic Republic.

Professor Houchang Chehabi (March 9th 2007)

“Beirut and the Development of Iranian Modernity”

Professor Houchang Chehabi (Boston College, International Relations and History) is the author of numerous books and articles on aspects of Iranian history, politics and culture. Professor Chehabi discussed his recently edited volume entitled *Distant Relations Iran and Lebanon in the last 500 years*, highlighting the recent religious, cultural and political links between these two countries.

Asli Bali (March 30th 2007)

“Iran’s Nuclear Dilemma”

Asli Bali (Yale University, Irving S. Ribicoff Fellow at Yale Law School) is conducting doctoral research on the politics of enforcing international law.

Ms. Bali’s presented a complex portrait of Iranian-American tensions over the question of Iranian development of nuclear technology, and its international legal implications.

Dr. Daniel Tsadik (April 20th 2007)

"Between Foreigners and Shi'is: Iran's Jewish Minority"

Dr. Daniel Tsadik (University of Pennsylvania, Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies) spoke on the topic of his forthcoming book, *Between Foreigners and Shi'is: Nineteenth-Century Iran and its Jewish Minority*.

Dr. Tsadik explored the range of interactions between the Iranian Jewish community, the Iranian Shi'i clerical establishment, and the European powers who often intervened on their behalf.

Panel Discussion including Alireza Doostdar, Dr. Arang Keshavarzian, and Scott Long (May 1st 2007) [co-sponsored with the Yale Law School Middle East Legal Forum]

“Iran: Between Reform and Regime Change”