

## Our Upcoming Events

This week, [the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs](#) will be hosting a lecture on the recent protests in Iraq, given by [Hassan Abbas](#) at Harvard University. Additionally, on November 24th, Project Director [Payam Mohseni](#) and Project Associate [Mohammad Sagha](#) will be hosting a workshop in Florida on pluralism and Islam in the United States.

**Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs Harvard University**

# IRAQ AND THE GEOPOLITICS OF PROTEST

**Hassan Abbas**, Professor of International Relations at the Near East-South Asia Strategic Studies Centre (NESA), National Defense University in Washington DC

Moderated by **Payam Mohseni**, Director of the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs

Thursday, November 14th | 6pm  
COLS South 5020, Harvard  
1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138

### 11/14 - Iraq and the Geopolitics of Protest

The recent mass protests in Iraq which have spread throughout the country since October have resulted in an apparent political deadlock between the country's main political factions, leading to competing narratives over the nature and direction of the protest movement. However, the dynamics of Iraq's political structure are by no means insulated from the larger regional geopolitical environment. Join us in this timely lecture by [Dr. Hassan Abbas](#), Distinguished Professor of International Relations at National Defense University and senior advisor at the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs.

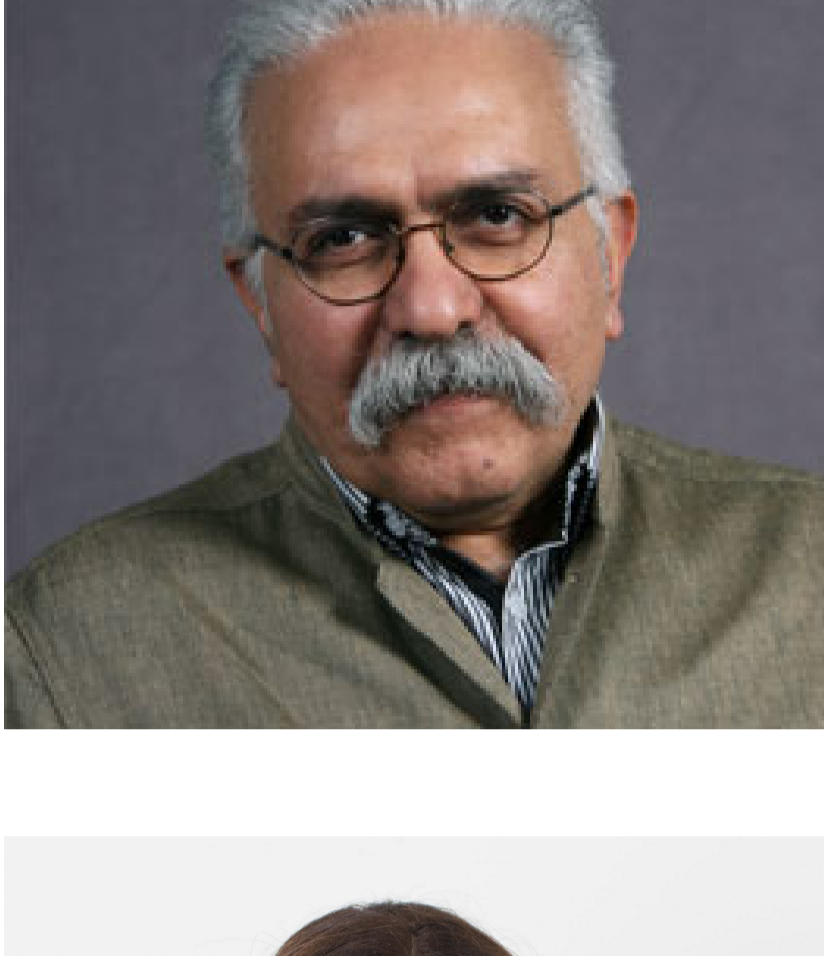
[Learn More](#)

### 11/25 - Seminar: Early Shi' Law and the Construction of the Shari'a

**Robert Gleave**, Professor of Arabic Studies, University of Exeter  
1:00-2:30PM | Wasserstein Hall 3016  
1585 Massachusetts Ave  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Co-sponsors: The Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program, The Law and Religion Lecture Series (The Committee on Study of Religion, The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The Julius-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish & Israeli Law at Harvard Law School, Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World at Harvard Law School) and Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School

## Announcements



### The Project is Proud to Welcome Dr. Amir-Moezzi

**Mohammad Ali Amir-Moezzi** is a specialist of Shi'i Imami theology, Islamic mysticism and classical Persian poetry. He is the Professor of Islamic Studies at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Sorbonne University) and he is currently the holder of the prestigious chair "Exegesis and Theology". He is the author of many books, including *Le Guide divin dans le shi'isme originel* (1992), *(The Divine Guide in Early Shi'ism: The Sources of Esotericism in Islam)*. He will be joining the project as an **Affiliate Scholar**.

[Learn More](#)



### Lebanon, The Sectarian Identity Test Lab

This report by Project Chair [Dr. Melani Cammet](#) explores the rise of sectarian tensions in Lebanon, where the institutionalization of sectarianism in social and political life dates back to the colonial period. Insights from the author's research and from social psychology indicate ways that tensions might begin to be reduced in the Middle East.

[Learn More](#)



### Remarks on the Role of Muslim Scholars in the Contemporary Period

In engaging with global Muslim communities, especially on pressing issues such as sectarianism, it is important to appreciate the impactful role of religious scholars and clergy in affecting attitudes and realities on the ground. In the recently released report [Engaging Sectarian De-Escalation](#), we highlighted the remarks of two leading scholars of Islam in the West, [Dr. Seyed Ammar Nakhjavani](#) and [Sheikh Yasir Fahmy](#), on the issue of Shi'a-Sunni relations and intra-faith dialogue within Islam. Read their remarks [here](#).

[Read Now](#)



### Hassan Abbas at the U.S. Congress on "Protecting Houses of Worship and Holy Sites"

[Dr. Hassan Abbas](#) gave a statement at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing at the U.S. Congress on "Protecting Houses of Worship and Holy Sites" delivered on October 23, 2019. His statement examined the causes of the recurring brutal attacks on the sacred religious spaces of Christians, Buddhists, Jews and Muslims. See his statement [here](#).

[Read His Statement](#)

## News & Community Engagement



### Intrafaith Outreach

Project Associate [Sayed Ali Shabbaz Razawi](#) visited [Shahzada Dr. Qaidjoher Ezzudin](#) and other senior religious leaders and scholars from the Isma'ili Dawoodi Bohra community at [Masjid al Husayni in London](#) on Nov. 2 for a historic meeting and constructive dialogue on intrafaith efforts and shared Islamic heritage within Muslim diasporic communities.



### Dr. Mohseni speaks at World Federation of Shia Communities Conference

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Project Director [Dr. Payam Mohseni](#) spoke at the [World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities Conference](#) in Birmingham, UK on the academic study of Shi'ism and the importance of scholarly research on global Muslim diaspora communities.

Masjid Al Hayy features The Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs Harvard University

# PLURALISM AND ISLAM IN THE UNITED STATES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH  
12PM - 5:15PM  
MASJID AL HAYY  
786 MYRTLE ST, SANFORD, FL 32773

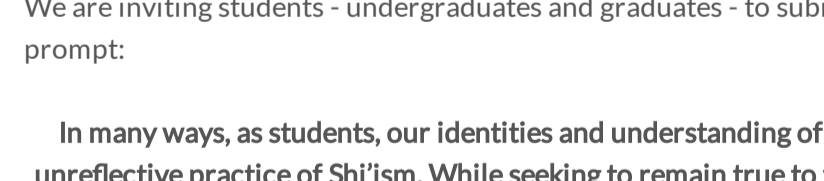
Dr. Payam Mohseni, Director of the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

Mohammad Sagha, Associate of the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs, Harvard University, PhD Candidate, University of Chicago

### 11/24 - Pluralism and Islam in the United States

The Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs is honored to be hosted by [Masjid Al Hayy](#) for a workshop on "Pluralism and Islam in the United States". The program intends to engage the Shi'a community in Central Florida by presenting such contemporary issues in an academic and interactive setting.

[Register Now](#)



Image

The [Marifa](#) conference is organized by the Harvard Islamic Society and the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs at Harvard University. The conference seeks to address the issues of Shi'a identity, spirituality, activism, and community.

We are inviting students - undergraduates and graduates - to submit a 1-2 page paper to the prompt:

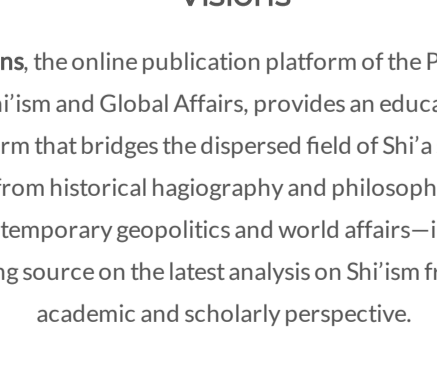
**In many ways, as students, our identities and understanding of religion can be limited by our unreflective practice of Shi'ism. While seeking to remain true to the message of Shi'ism, how can we use creative imagination to enable the heart to move beyond these limitations and understand the path to self discovery?**

The deadline to submit the response is **January 7th, 2020**. To submit your response, please email [marifaconference@gmail.com](mailto:marifaconference@gmail.com) with a PDF of your work. The responses must include your name, email address, college institution, and undergraduate, graduate, or recent alumni status. The writer of the winning piece will

- be featured in the [Visions](#) blog, an online publication and multimedia platform for the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs at Harvard University
- have his/her transportation and lodging covered
- be recognized at the conference

We encourage students to answer this question in creative and personal ways. For any inquiries, please email [marifaconference@gmail.com](mailto:marifaconference@gmail.com). We look forward to receiving your responses.

To learn more, visit the conference [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.



### Visions

**Research**

The Project on Shi'ism & Global Affairs pursues advanced research on four inter-disciplinary studies in an effort to re-focus scholarly attention on the strategic transformations happening across the Shi'a worlds on both a socio-political level as well as the cultural values and ideology that drive these larger phenomena.

**Visions**, the online publication platform of the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs, provides an educational platform that bridges the dispersed field of Shi'a studies—from historical hagiography and philosophy to contemporary geopolitics and world affairs—into a leading source on the latest analysis on Shi'ism from an academic and scholarly perspective.

[See Our Research](#)

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