



PROJECT ON SHI'ISM & GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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Our Upcoming Events

Next week, [the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs](#) will be hosting **Maryam Alemzadeh**, a research fellow at Brandeis University, as she joins us in a discussion on the roots and contemporary significance of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. Additionally, a [video recording](#) of **Hassan Abbas's** talk on the protests in Iraq as well as a [supplementary podcast](#) is now available.



12/09 - The Other Iranian Army: Understanding the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was established shortly after the Iranian Revolution as a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces. Since its inception, it has served as a key component of Iran today, yet much about the Corps' structure and function is unknown to most of the world. The Project on Shi'ism is proud to invite **Maryam Alemzadeh** as she leads a discussion on understanding the IRGC and its importance.

[Learn More](#)

Past Events



Iraq and the Geopolitics of Protest

Hassan Abbas discussed some of the major trends facing Iraqi society in light of the current wave of protests ongoing in the country. For a summary of the event, click below.

[Read More](#)

Podcast on the Geopolitics of Protest in Iraq



In this timely podcast, Project Undergraduate Researcher **Michel Nehme** interviews **Hassan Abbas** to discuss the complicated factors surrounding the recent protest movement in Iraq. Importantly, Abbas argues that the Iraqi protests differ from other cases in the Arab Spring due to the non-sectarian nature of the protests and lack of centralized authoritarianism in post-2003 Iraq along with parallel state institutions. The interview also highlights how the outcome of the protests will not necessarily diminish Iran's role in Iraq or the larger region – the legacy of the protests may in fact lead to unexpected long-term changes in the Middle East which will complicate current geopolitical calculations.

[Listen Now](#)

Event Video



For a video of **Hassan Abbas's** remarks and presentation at Harvard University, you can refer to the Project's YouTube channel [here](#).

[Watch Now](#)

News & Engagement



Project Team Visits Masjid al-Hayy

Project Director **Payam Mohseni** and Associate **Mohammad Sagha** visited Masjid al-Hayy in Sanford, Florida to give a presentation on "Pluralism and Islam in the United States." The interactive discussion focused on how Muslims, as minorities within the United States, can envision their identities in rich and manifold ways and undertake meaningful civic engagement within a pluralistic environment in which a variety of ethnic, religious, and linguistic identities co-exist.



Resources for Engaging with Difference: Theology, Literature and the Arts

This panel discussion from the Symposium on Sectarian De-Escalation recalls and analyzes the resources which emphasize peace and toleration within internal Islamic traditions. Featuring **Ali Asani**, **Nicholas Boylston**, **Mohd Faizal Musa**, **Shenila Khoja-Moolji**, and **Mohammad Sagha**.

[Read Now](#)



Image

The **Ma'rifa** 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 work, please email 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. We look forward to receiving your responses.

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



Research

The Project on Shi'ism & Global Affairs pursues advanced research on four inter-disciplinary studies in an effort to re-focus scholarly research 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.

[See Our Research](#)



Visions

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.

[Read Our Blog](#)



For more on our project and research, visit shiism.wcfia.harvard.edu and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). If you are interested in contributing or getting involved with this initiative, please email Project Director Dr. Payam Mohseni at pmohseni@fas.harvard.edu, or click the button below.

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