



Now at Harvard's Weatherhead Center

We are excited to launch a new—and highly timely—initiative at Harvard University's [Weatherhead Center for International Affairs \(WCIA\)](#): [the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs](#). This Project will engage in a multidisciplinary study of Shi'ism, the second largest denomination in Islam, at a crucial historical moment in which Shi'a majority states, actors, and social movements are gaining increasing prominence and relevance in world affairs.

Our research focuses on the intersection of [Shi'ism and geopolitics](#) and also moves beyond to incorporate traditionally disjointed subjects relating to the study of Shiism. These topics range from the [Shi'a global diaspora](#) to inter-faith dialogue and [sectarian de-escalation](#) to [Shi'a thought, history, and identity](#), and the rich diversity of confessional groups within Shi'ism itself (including Twelver, Ismaili, Zaydi, Alevi, Alawite, and other groups).

Funded in part through a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs conducts a rich content-based study of transnational Shi'a thought and societies across national, ethnic, denominational, and other diverse contexts.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of [Visions](#), the online publication and multimedia platform for the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs. It features the best analysis and commentary on the diverse aspects of Shi'ism on contemporary and historical issues from an interdisciplinary perspective.

For more on our project and research, visit [shiism.wcfa.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.

Contact Us

Our Upcoming Events

09/30 - The Spirituality of Imam Ali and the Perfect Man in the Philosophy of Ibn Arabi

Imam Ali is a key personality and authority in Shi'a, Sunni, and Sufi Islamic thought. How have Muslims approached Imam Ali from a philosophical perspective throughout time? This talk engages with the spirituality of Imam Ali and brings into conversation the spiritual status of Imam Ali with the idea of the Perfect Man in the thought system of Ibn Arabi, a 14th century Muslim mystic, scholar, and poet.

Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi is a British scholar and religious leader with a research interest in Islamic philosophy, mysticism, and comparative religion. View Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi's full profile [here](#).

Learn More

10/10 - Re-Drawing the Rules of the Game? Iran, Israel, and the Geopolitics of the Levant

The 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon forged a new political dynamic in the Middle East. Israel and Hezbollah established unofficial rules of engagement that secured peace through the logic of deterrence. These rules are now under question as decision-makers grapple with new regional dynamics and we are witness to military escalation across the Levant and the Middle East. Join us for a round table conversation for what these dynamics portend for Iran, Israel, and the region with [Daniel Sobelman](#), Assistant Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and [Hussein Kalout](#), Project Associate and Research Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.

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Our Past Events

Islamic Pluralism: Addressing Diversity within Islam

Project Director [Dr. Payam Mohseni](#) held a discussion about plurality within Islam, along with related topics on Islam, sectarianism, and Shi'ism in the Islamic world and the West.

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Inaugural Event: Ashura and Contemporary Shi'a Thought

Research Director on the Global Shi'a Diaspora, [Dr. Seyed Ammar Nakhjavani](#), led a discussion on contemporary Shi'i thought during our inaugural event.

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Community Engagement

By engaging Shi'a communities in the country, the Project hopes to research and gain a deeper understanding of contemporary Shi'ism in the United States. Most recently, Project Director [Dr. Mohseni](#) and Project Associate [Mohammad Sagha](#) traveled to Dearborn, MI to conduct an interactive workshop to discuss the study of Shi'ism in America and the role of inter-faith dialogue and civic pluralism in the country.

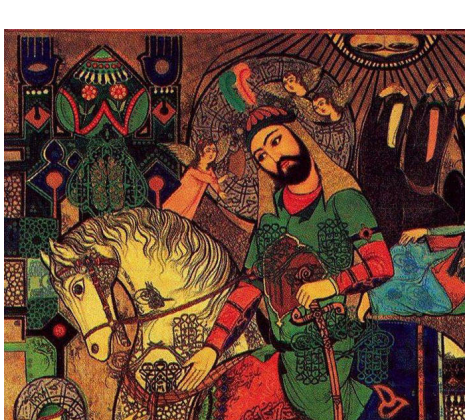
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Research

The Project on Shi'ism & Global Affairs pursues advanced research on four interdisciplinary 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.

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

