

Justice and Ethics

INVITED SPEAKERS



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John L. Esposito
Professor of Islamic Studies
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Jochen Schmidt
Professor of Systematic Theology
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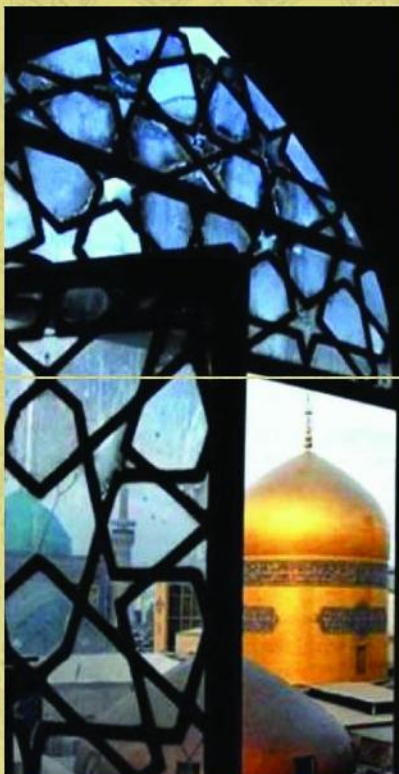
Andrew Newman
Professor of Shiism & Iranian History
The University of Edinburgh



Heidi Hadsell
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Hartford Seminary



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Research Fellow in Islamic Law
Al-Mahdi Institute



International Conference on



The Contributions of the Ahl al-Bayt

with special emphasis

on

Imam 'Ali b. Musa al-Ridha

Contact

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Abrahamic religions are highly committed to the creation of a just polity on earth which would reflect their doctrinal emphases on fairness in politics, economy, and society as a whole. However, as the Muslim community witnesses the unfolding of intra- and interfaith conflicts in different parts of the world, the application of Islamic teachings at both domestic and global levels tends to be a main subject of discussion. What does Islam teach about a just polity? What are the ways through which Islamic teachings about justice and ethics can be practically implemented? Ethics in this conference serves to underscore applied ethics in all areas of human interaction.

The Islamic notion of justice is not to be approached as an abstraction. Throughout Islamic history, the Qur'anic and Prophetic teachings undertook to develop ethical principles from which practical rulings have been derived in the areas of social relationship and organization. Most importantly, Prophetic teachings were preserved and advanced in the form of traditions by members of the Prophet's Household (the Ahl al-Bayt). Largely from a Shi'ite perspective, the Imams or the rightful successors of the Prophet, further elaborated by their example the ethics of just human relationships. In fact, according to the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt, the significance of justice is manifested in its paradigmatic role in formulating dominant structures within social life, as well as its relationship to ethics and morality. Today, the Muslim community needs to turn again to these teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt, especially the heritage left by Imam 'Ali al-Ridha, who lived in remarkable times and provided many indicators for future retrieval and application; the heritage which relates to contemporary issues faced by the Umma.

Considering the realization of such justice in all spheres of social life, what kind of ethical values should be promoted and what practical patterns for human behavior and interaction are to be associated with justice? How can the moral and ethical teachings of Islam as narrated by the Ahl al-Bayt lead to justice in society? What are the models to be reproduced from the history of the Ahl al-Bayt's efforts -especially that of Imam 'Ali al-Ridha - in providing the cultural and spiritual setting for fair interaction and coexistence among different religions? How can this model contribute to the establishment an Islamic civilization founded upon justice and ethics?

Hence, the conference encourages prospective participants to closely discuss the topics in light of the overall contribution of the school of the Ahl al-Bayt in advancing the ethics of justice. Following are our suggested topics:

Conference Themes

1. Islamic (re)sources for justice and ethics

Religious (re)sources in the modern discourse of justice
Revelation and reason in the development of Islamic ethics of justice
Islamic heritage in Imam al-Ridha's teachings on justice and ethics
Justice and relational ethics in the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt
Distributive justice in the jurisprudential heritage of the Ahl al-Bayt

2. Justice and ethics from the perspective of theology, jurisprudence, and philosophy

Theological ethics of human responsibility
Jurisprudential and legal implications of justice
Responsible choice by the citizen in preserving just polity
The ethical philosophy of the just society
The purpose of human life: a just society?

3. Islamic ethical discourse and legal justice discourse

Ethical values and the paradigms of justice
Contemporary globalization of the culture of justice
Sources for and barriers against the growth of indigenous culture of justice
Problematizing the application of justice in contemporary society
Various areas of applied ethics of justice in the Ahl al-Bayt school

4. The ethics of dialogue and just coexistence in the teachings of Imam al-Ridha

Important aspects of Imam al-Ridha's life as sources of unity among Muslims
The possibility and realization of true interfaith dialogue

The Razavi paradigm of coexistence
The future of intra- and inter-religious relations within the Islamic world
Religious conflict resolution in the teachings of Imam al-Ridha

5. Justice and the civilizational interaction of Islam with other civilizations

The role of justice in the flourishing of Islamic civilization
Justice as a criterion in the civilizational structure of Islam
Ethics founded upon Islamic justice in civilizational interaction
The significance of justice in the convergence of civilizations
Justice as a characteristic of Islamic politics and state
Justice and the new Islamic civilization

6. Mashhad as a source of cultural unity and Islamic spirituality

The main characteristics of Mashhad as potential sources of unity
Spiritual and intellectual (re)sources in Mashhad in the field of Islamic studies
Mashhad as the beating heart of peace-based Islamic Revival
Notable scholars and intellectuals from Mashhad

All abstracts and full paper submissions will be peer reviewed and evaluated based on originality, research content and depth, relevance to conference, innovative contributions, and readability.

The working language of the conference is English, but contributions in Persian and Arabic are also possible. Please use our online submission form to submit your abstract proposals by November 5, 2016.

For full details,
please see the conference website:
<http://icjca.um.ac.ir/>