

Department of Religious Studies

School of International and Public Affairs



Islamic Civilization & Khōjā Studies Series

Islam & Authority in the Global World: Karim Aga Khan and the Ismaili Community

Lecture by Professor Michel Boivin, Director of Research
CNRS Centre d'Études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud in Paris

Thursday, November 13, 2014 | 2:00 - 3:15 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | AHC 3 - 205

Shah Karim al-Husayni, better known as Aga Khan IV, is the 49th Imam of the Nizari Ismaili Shiites, who mainly originate from the Indian Subcontinent. Through colonial trading networks they migrated to East Africa in the 19th century. In the late 20th century, during the postcolonial period, most migrated to Western Europe and North America. The Ismaili community is currently established in tens of countries. This lecture will explore how the Aga Khan exercises his authority towards his followers within this global configuration, focusing on emotive performance. What remains of the Shii imam's traditional authority? Does the global situation favor new interpretations of the imam's authority among his followers? Are there new emergent sources of authority that compete with it?

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 305-348-2186.

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