

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUNNI-SHIA CONTEMPORARY RELATIONS

Brussels – Sep.30th – Oct. 2nd 2009

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30th 2009: EVENING OPENING SESSION

Palace of the Academies (Throne Hall, Hertogstraat/Rue Ducale 1)

- Plenary session (18.00-20.00)
 - **Amine Aït-Chalaal** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium): Welcoming remarks.
 - **Brigitte Maréchal** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium) & **Sami Zemni** (Ghent University, Belgium): General introduction.
 - **Sabrina Mervin** (CNRS, France): On Sunni-Shia doctrinal and contemporary geopolitical tensions.
- 20.00-21.00: Reception

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1st 2009

University Foundation (Egmonstraat/Rue d'Egmont 11)

- **Geopolitical tensions, conflicts and changing Sunni-Shi'ite relations I (9.00-12.00)**
 - **Jean-François Legrain** (CNRS, France): The Shi'ite threat in Palestine, between phobias and propagandas.
 - **Joseph Alagha** (Radboud University, Holland): Ideological tensions between Hizbullah and jihadi salafism: mutual perceptions and fears.
 - **Mariam Abou Zahab** (CERI, France): The Sunni-Shia conflict in Pakistan in the post 9/11 environment.
 - **Mohammad Amer** (PhD Candidate, Holland): Shia-Sunni harmony and sectarian politics: the case of Minhajul Quran in Pakistan.
 - **Bayram Balci** (IFEAC, Azerbaijan): Islamic renewal in post-Soviet Azerbaïdjan and the redefinition of the relations between Shiism and Sunnism.
- **Geopolitical tensions, conflicts and changing Sunni-Shi'ite relations II (14.00-18.00)**
 - **Stéphane Dudoignon** (CNRS, France): Sunnis and Shiites in Iran since 1979: confrontations, exchanges and convergences
 - **Reidar Visser** (NIIA, Norway): The Shia-Sunni Divide and the question of state structure in Iraq since 2003.

- **Thomas Pierret** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium): Ashura in the Umayyad mosque. Shi'ite shrines, Iranian pilgrims and Sunni resentment in Syria.
- **Stéphane Lacroix** (Sciences-Po, France): Saudi islamists and the Shia question.
- **Laurence Louër** (Sciences-Po, France): A comparative perspective on Sunni Shia relations in Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2nd 2009

University Foundation (Egmonstraat/Rue d'Egmont 11)

- **Intellectual exchanges, centers of knowledge, public debates and media interfaces I (9.00-10.30)**
 - **Azzam Tamimi** (Director Institute for Islamic Political Thought, UK): The political and the religious in Sunni-Shi'ite disputes.
 - **Mohsen Kadivar** (Visiting Professor, Duke University, USA): Shi'ite intellectual debates.
 - **Yousif Al-Khoei** (Director of the Al-Khoei Foundation): Development of Shi'a-Sunni relations in the UK with special Reference to the Middle East
- **Intellectual exchanges, centers of knowledge, public debates and media interfaces II (11.00-12.00)**
 - **Rainer Brunner** (CNRS, Paris): The Azhar and Shiism: a complicated relationship between practical recognition and principal rejection
 - **Farian Sabahi** (University of Turin, Italy): The representation of Sunnism in the Iranian press.
- **Concluding discussion (14.00-16.00)**
 - **Chair:** Amine Aït-Chalaal (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium)
 - **Discussants:** Sabrina Mervin (CNRS, France), Felice Dassetto (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), Brigitte Maréchal (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), Sami Zemni (Ghent University, Belgium), Johannes Den Heijer (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium).

REGISTRATIONS:

- September 30th 2009 opening session: FREE ADMISSION
- Conference days: (includes midday lunch and coffee breaks)
One day: 15 €, Two days: 25€ (Students & Unemployed: 8€/13€).

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