

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)

- **Brigitte Maréchal** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium) & **Sami Zemni** (Ghent University, Belgium): General Introduction.
- **Sabrina Mervin** (CNRS, France): on contemporary Shiite geopolitical revival.

- 20.00-21.00: Reception

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1st 2009 - University Foundation

(Egmonstraat/Rue d'Egmont 11)

- **Power politics, geopolitical tensions and conflicts (9.00-12.00)**

- **Jean-François Legrain** (CNRS, France): The Shiite 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.
- **Stéphane Lacroix** (Sciences-Po, France): Saudi Islamists and the Shia Question.
- **Thomas Pierret** (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium): Ashura in the Umayyad Mosque. Shiite Shrines, Iranian Pilgrims and Sunni Resentment in Syria.

- **Local tensions, conflicts and changing Sunni-Shiite relations (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.
- **Mohammad Amer** (PhD Candidate, Holland): Shia-Sunni harmony and Sectarian Politics: a case of the Minhajul Quran in Pakistan.

- **Bayram Balci** (IFEAC, Azerbaijan): Islamic renewal in post-Soviet Azerbaïdjan and the redefinition of the relations between Shiism and Sunnism.
- **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 (9.00-12.00)**

- **Azzam Tamimi** (Director Institute for Islamic Political Thought, UK): The political and the religious in Sunni-Shiite disputes.
- **Mohsen Kadivar** (Visiting Professor, Duke University, USA): Shiite intellectual debates.
- **Gino Schallenberg** (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium): Images of Shiite 'expansionism' in the Arab press.
- **Farian Sabahi** (University of Turin, Italy): The representation of Sunnism in the Iranian press.

- **Attempts to bring Shiites and Sunnites closer to each other (14.00-16.00)**

- **Rainer Brunner** (University of Freiburg, Germany): The Azhar and Shiism: A complicated relationship between practical recognition and principal rejection.
- **Hisham A. Hellyer** (Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, UK): The Amman message.

- **Concluding remarks**

16.00: Farewell drink

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€).

Information and registration : Mrs. E. Lallemand
(Eliane.Lallemand@uclouvain.be - +32 10 47 42 46)



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