

*North American Association of Islamic and
Muslim Studies (NAAIMS)*

*Presents
44th Annual Conference*

“Sectarianism in Islam and Muslim Communities”

*Cosponsored By:
Middle East Studies
Brown University, Providence, RI
Saturday, September 19, 2015*

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcoming and Introductory Remarks

[Brown University – Metcalf Research Building
Friedman Auditorium, 190 Thayer Street, Providence, RI 02912]

Beshara B. Doumani, Brown University, Providence, RI
(Program Chair)

Jon Mandaville, Portland State University, Portland, OR
(NAAIMS President)

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Panel 1

[Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]

Rhetorics of Sectarianism

Chair: Faiz Ahmed, Brown University, Providence, RI

Discussant: Nancy Khalek, Brown University, Providence, RI

Adam Gaiser (Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL): “A Narrative Identity Approach to Islamic Sectarianism”

Michael E. Pregill (Boston University, Boston, MA): “Sects That Feign Forgetting: Anti-Sunnism and Anti-Judaism in Early Shii Propaganda”

Michael Dann (Princeton University, Princeton, NJ): “Modern Islamic Scholarship between Sectarian History and Histories of Sectarianism”

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m - 12:45 p.m.

Panel 2

[Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]

Sect, State, and Security

Chair: Chair: Maria R. Volpe, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, NY

Discussant: Nathaniel Berman, Brown University, Providence, RI

Alexander Henley (Georgetown University, Washington, DC): “New Roles of Religious Leaders at the Interface between Sect and State in Lebanon”

Natana J. DeLong-Bas (Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA): “Between Conflict and

Coexistence: Saudi Shi'is as Subjects, Objects, and Agents in Wasatiyya and Wataniyya”

Sarah A. Tobin (Brown University, Providence, RI): “Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Carriers of Sectarianism”

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Luncheon Keynote Address

[Brown University: The Faculty Club, One Magee Street, Providence, RI 02912]

Keynote Speaker: M. Nazif Shahrani

[Professor of Anthropology, Central Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN]

Keynote Address: “Why Muslim Sectarian Politics of Rage in the Age of ‘Empires of Trust’? ”

2:15 – 3:45 p.m.

Panel 3

[Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]

Contemporary Militant Sectarianism

Chair: Maria Massi Dakake, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Discussant: Corri Zoli, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Mohammad Hassan Khalil (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI): “Radical Discourse and the Killing of Civilians: Al-Qaeda and ISIS as Case Studies”

Isaac Kfir (Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY): “Human (In)Security and Social Identity Group: The Case of Jihadi Terrorism in Africa”

Nader Hashemi (Denver University, Denver, CO): “Toward a Political Theory of Sectarianism in the Middle East: The Salience of Authoritarianism over Theology”

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Break

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Panel 4

[Metcalf Research Bldg. - Friedman Auditorium]

Sectarianism and the Transnational

Chair: Sherine Hamdy, Brown University, Providence, RI

Discussant: Pelin Kadercan, Brown University, Providence, RI

Alexander B. Stewart (University of California, San Diego, CA): “Where is Allah? Sectarian Debate, Ethnicity, and Transnational Identity among the Salafis of Northwest China”

Faegheh (Fawn) Shirazi (University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX): “Mandaeans of Iran and Iraq”

Lior B. Sternfeld (Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA): “Religious Minorities, Ethnic Minorities, Political Minorities: Jews in the Iranian Tudeh Party”

5:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Jon Mandaville, Portland State University, Portland, OR