

Preamble: This conference has been conceived as an entirely apolitical event, and is intended to celebrate Shi'i Islam as one expression of faithful Islam, not to focus on differences or divisions that may exist in some places with our Sunni brothers and sisters. The diversity of our invited speakers and participants is a reflection of our desire for inclusivity and harmony among Islam's legal and theological traditions.

*Conference sponsored by*



**Hartford**  
SEMINARY

*Exploring Differences, Deepening Faith*

**JAFARIA ASSOCIATION OF  
CONNECTICUT**

**The Islamic Institute of  
Ahl'albait**

### Conference Fees

Registration:  
\$15 per person  
*(International students  
with ID are free)*

Banquet:  
\$40 per person

### To Register

[www.imamaliconference.org](http://www.imamaliconference.org)  
860.869.8662

For reservations at a special group rate, please call the Hartford Plaza Hotel at 1.888.530.9703, or go to [www.hartfordplazahotel.com](http://www.hartfordplazahotel.com) and use "HAZ" to access this special rate.

This conference will bring together leading scholars of Shi'i Islam to share perspectives on their rich heritage within the broader Islamic world, and to identify efforts to increase interest in the study of Shi'i Islam in North America. The conference will also launch a campaign to endow a chair for the study of Shi'i Islam at Hartford Seminary, the first such chair in North America.

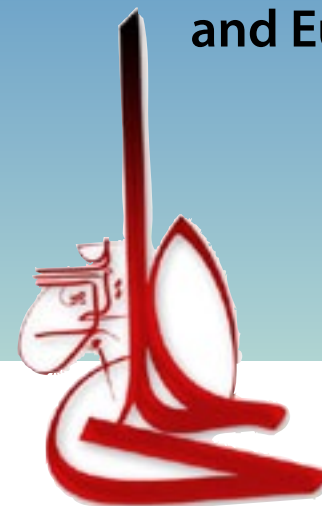


Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr

*The Prophet said, "I am the city of knowledge and 'Ali is its gate."*

## The State of the Study of Shi'ite Islam

**in North America  
and Europe**



**October 8, 2011**

Hartford Plaza Hotel  
100 East River Drive  
East Hartford, CT



# Conference Schedule

## REGISTRATION 8:00 - 9:00am

Continental breakfast

## Welcome 9:00 - 9:30am

Recitation from the Noble Qur'an

Welcome and introduction of honored guests

Dr. Ingrid Mattson

*Director of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary*

## Session 1 9:30 - 11:00am

The study of Shi'ite Islam in the universities, colleges and seminaries of Europe and North America

Dr. Andrew J. Newman

Dr. Liyakat Takim

## Session 2 11:15am - 12:30pm

Shi'i contributions to the disciplines of fiqh and kalam

Dr. Hamid Mavani

Dr. Abdolkarim Soroush

## LUNCH 12:30 - 2:00pm

## Session 3 2:00 - 3:30pm

Shi'i contributions to the disciplines of philosophy and mysticism

Dr. Mohsen Kadivar

Dr. Hossein Kamaly

## Session 4 4:00 - 5:30pm

Launching the chair for the study of Shi'ite Islam at the Hartford Seminary

Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub

Dr. Heidi Hadsell

## BANQUET 6:30 - 8:00pm

Keynote Address

Dr. Sayyed Hossein Nasr

*Professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University*

## Conference Participants

### Session Discussants

Dr. Vernon Schubel  
Kenyon College

Dr. Lynda Clarke  
Concordia University

Dr. Maria Massi Dakake  
George Mason University

### Conference Moderator

Dr. Hassan Abbas  
South Asia Institute, Columbia University

### Conference Director

Syed A. Raza  
Imam Ali Foundation



On behalf of the organizers and sponsoring organizations, we welcome you to the conference on the 'The State of the Study of Shi'ite Islam in North America and Europe.' The life and faith-commitment, justice, divine knowledge and unmatched bravery of the Imam remain an example for all those who seek to fulfill their true humanity. These and other virtues of Imam 'Ali speak to us today as they did to his own time and subsequent centuries. May he forever continue to live in the hearts and minds of all Muslims, and particularly in our troubled times.