

PRACTICES OF DEVOTION TO THE AHL-E BAIT AT HOME AND IN DIASPORA:

MATERIALITY, RITUAL, AND THE DIGITAL SENSES

Tuesday, May 23 2023

9:00 am – 7:00 pm

A one-day workshop co-organized by
Michel Boivin (CNRS-CESAH) and Karen Ruffle (University of
Toronto)



The imambargah of the Samis, New Dumbalo, Badin (Sindh, Pakistan), September 2022 - © Saba Sindhri

Campus Condorcet – Bâtiment de Recherche Sud
Room 0.015 - 5 cours des Humanités - 93300 Aubervilliers



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Program

9:00–9:05 Welcome by Anne Castaing, CESAH Director

9:05–9:15 Introductory comments by Karen Ruffle and Michel Boivin

9:15–11:00 **Panel 1: Text and Performance**

Moderator: Stéphane Dudoignon, CNRS-GSRL.

1. Mohammad Nabeel Jafri, University of Toronto.
“Performing the Qur’an: Urdu Shi‘i *Khiṭābat* in Contemporary Karachi.”
2. Sul-tonbek Aksakolov, University of Central Asia.
“Worshipping and Praising Paj Tani Pak (Five Purified Ones): The Practice of Devotion to the Ahl al-Bayt among Shi‘a Isma‘ilis of Badakhshan.”
3. Vineet Gupta, Vanderbilt University.
“*Mamlūk-e Āle Muḥammad*: Articulating Authority through Servitude among the Da’udi Bohras.”
4. S. Akbar Zaidi, IBA (Karachi).
“Publish and Perish: Denial and Refutation on *tabarra-bazi* in Nineteenth Century North India.”

11:00–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–1:00 **Panel 2: Ritual and Culture**

Moderator: Rémy Delage, CNRS-CESAH.

1. Saba Sindhri, CEIAS-EHESS.
“Devotion to the Ahl-e Bait as a Form of Religious Transformation: Everyday Practices of the Sami People in Sindh, Pakistan.”
2. Zahir Bhalloo, Universität Hamburg.
“Circles of Devotion to the Ahl-e Bait: *Saf Matam* among the Twelver Khojas of South Asia and Beyond.”
3. Gianfranco Bria, University of Roma.
“Alid Piety in Albanian Sufism: A Survey among the Sufi Communities of Kosovo and Albania.”
4. Delphine Ortis, INALCO-CEIAS.
“Devotion to the Ahl-e Bait: A Comparative Study through the Angle of the Social Construction of Emotion and the Worship of Saints in Pakistan.”

1:00–2:00 Lunch

2:00–3:45 **Panel 3: Materiality**

Moderator: Annabelle Collinet, Musée du Louvre.

1. Iqbal Akhtar, Florida International University.
“Everlasting Life with the Infallibles: Examining Graveyard Culture among the Khoja of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania).”

2. Ankita Choudhary, University of Toronto.

“Approaching Shi‘i Religious Life through Devotional Spaces: The Agency and Functions of Lucknow’s Imāmbāras.”

3. Sepideh Parsapajouh, CNRS-CéSor.

“Food, Small Objects, and Supererogatory Prayers as Daily Devotional Supports: Living the Love of the Imams in the Everyday Life of Ordinary Twelver Shi‘as.”

4. Nada al-Hudaid, Lund University.

“In the ‘*Khidma*’ Service of the Ahl al-Bayt: Practicing Piety through Art among Shi‘a in Kuwait and the UK.”

3:45–4:00 Coffee break

4:00–5:45 Panel 4: The Digital Sensorium

Moderator: Pascal Buresi, CNRS-EHESS, CIHAM.

1. Rhys Sparey, King’s College London.

“Livestreaming Islamic Art: Digitisation as Translation in Shi‘i Depictions of Karbala.”

2. Olly Akkerman, Freie Universität Berlin.

“Sensing Secret Manuscripts: Bohra Sacred Manuscript Rituals in the Digital Age.”

3. Babak Rahimi, University of California, San Diego.

“Digital Privatization: The Digital Sensory in the Shaping of Muharram Rituals in COVID Iran, 2020–2021.”

4. Aleeha Zahra Ali, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam.

“Tracing Digital Materiality in Dutch Shi‘a *majalis*: Digital Objects and Embodied Ritual.”

6:00 Book launch

A Neo-Fatimid Treasury of Books in Gujarat. Arabic Manuscripts among the Alawi Bohras of Baroda (Edinburgh University Press, 2022), by Olly Akkerman.

Moderator: Michel Boivin, CNRS-CESAH

Panellists: Olly Akkermann, Freie Universität Berlin; Farès Gillon, University of Aix-Marseille; Eric Vallet, University of Strasbourg.



