PHENOMENOLOGY OF ISLAMIC PRAYER

How and why was the commandment of prayer established? What is its significance in connection with the Prophet’s Ascent (Mi’raj)? How should we comprehend the time of prayer as different from the serial time of our works and days? How should we understand also the different times of the five prayers? For example the systematic grouping of zuhr and asr on the one hand, maghrib and isha on the other hand by Shi’i Muslims while such a grouping is exceptional among Sunni Muslims? What interpretations for the very gestures accomplished during a prayer? How do we decipher the signs that are written by the praying body? These are some of the questions that will be raised.

APRIL 26, 2013
9:00AM – 6:45PM
509 KNOX HALL

First panel: 9am to 11am
Souleymane Bachir Diagne: words of welcome and “The prayer of a bergsonian philosopher”.
Abdou Filali-Ansari: "The prayer of a rationalist"
Ali Benmakhlouf: "Philosophical comments on the verse 4 of the surah 55: "The plants and the trees bow down in adoration".

Second Panel: 11:15am to 12:45pm
Abdelmajid Charfi: ”Performing prayer and praying”.
Hamid Dabashi: “"Expanding the idea of Prayer beyond Juridicalism"

Third Panel: 3pm to 4:30pm
Rudolph Ware: “Embodying Revelation: Salat and Supplication in West Africa”
Paola Abenante: "Let your body iefrah (enjoy)": ritual aesthetics and Sufi modernity in contemporary Egypt.

Fourth panel: 4:45pm to 6:45pm
Niloofar Haeri: “Images that come bidden: Technics of concentration in the performance of salat/namaz prayers”
Seloua Luste-Boulbina: "The zebiba as stigma"
Najam Haider: “On the Qunut Prayer”.

This event is co-sponsored by: The Institute of African Studies | Partner University Fund | Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life | Middle East Institute | The Department of French and Romance Philology | Institute for Comparative Literature and Society | Heyman Center | Maison Francaise | Alliance Program | Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies