

# Shiism in the Public Sphere: Transnational Perspectives from Europe and the Middle East

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Soho House Barcelona (Plaça del Duc de Medinaceli, 4), Screening room

19:00-21:00 Screening "[The sky wept for forty days](#)" by Sabrina Mervin

Friday, March 3, 2023

Centre Cívic Convent Sant Agusti (Carrer del Comerç, 36), Sala Calidoscopi

9:30-10:00 **Opening remarks**  
Oliver Scharbrodt & Avi Astor

10:00-11:00 **Intersections of religion and politics**  
Chair: Sabrina Mervin

***"My heart beats Hussain": Prophetic charisma, humanitarian ethics, and the re-enchantment of Shi'a populist thought***

Emanuelle Degli Esposti

***Resisting the "Resistance" in Dahiye: Religious subcultures in Beirut's Shia neighbourhoods***

Yafa Shanneik and Oliver Scharbrodt

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 **Space, social position, and aesthetic practice**  
Chair: Mar Giera

***In the "Khidma" (service) of Ahl al-Bayt: Transnational art among Pious Shia in Kuwait and the UK***

Nada Al-Hudaid (online presentation)

***Urban space and public ritual among Shia in Barcelona and Birmingham***

Avi Astor, Guillermo Martín-Sáiz, Víctor Albert-Blanco, Rosa Martínez-Cuadros

***Soundscapes of devotion: Sonic-relationality and intra-religious encounters in Turkey***

Stefan Williamson Fa

13:00-14:30 Group lunch

14:30-16:00 **New Shia diasporic formations**  
Chair: Rosa Martínez-Cuadros

***Trends in Iraqi Shia political and religious transnationalism since 2003***  
Oula Kadhum

***Shi'a women in Italy: Between tradition and traditionalism***  
Minoos Mirshahvalad

***Terms, terminologies and techniques: Understanding the formation of Mourning  
Legions within the Shia Punjabi diaspora***  
Ali Abbas

*Saturday, March 4, 2023*

*Centre Cívic Pati Llimona (Carrer del Regomir, 3), Sala Joan Maragall*

10:00-11:30 **Material culture and civic engagement**  
Chair: Oliver Scharbrodt

***Beyond Karbala: New approaches to Shii materiality***  
Fouad Marei

***Shia civic engagement amid heightened securitization in Birmingham***  
Guillermo Martín-Sáiz and Avi Astor (online presentation)

***A portfolio of Ashura in Barcelona: Epistemological and methodological notes on  
using pictures in the sociology of religion***  
Víctor Albert-Blanco

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-13:00 **Concluding discussion: Exploring new directions in Shia transnationalism and the  
public space**

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 **Walking tour of the Born neighborhood (location of Barcelona's main  
imambargah)**  
Victor Albert-Blanco