

Call for Papers

The American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies (ACSIS) will be hosting its 34th annual conference on the topic of "Sectarianism in the Islamic World," on April 21-22, 2017, at Villanova University, Villanova, PA.

Media headlines constantly reference "sectarian tensions" in the Islamic world, creating impressions of "sectarian identities" as fixed historically and necessarily hostile. The goal of this conference is to provide resources for more nuanced analyses of these assumptions and the issues they raise, both between Muslims and other groups, and within Muslim communities themselves.

Papers should address the origins of sectarian identities and conflict where they exist, both internal and external; opportunities for conflict resolution and reconciliation; and cross-sectarian and inter-sectarian case studies of both success and failure.

Proposals dealing with the following subtopics are particularly encouraged:

1. Theoretical analyses of "sectarian identity" as a construct
2. Doctrinal and theological roots of sectarian identity in the Islamic world and their implications
3. Doctrinal and theological tools for encouraging cross-sectarian cooperation, conflict resolution, and reconciliation in the Islamic world
4. Examination of internal and external influences in the creation of sectarian identity, even if only as imagined communities
5. Sectarian identity in diaspora
6. Sectarian identities as projected by external entities onto internal communities, whether as part of those communities or external to them, such as by minority populations living in diaspora onto "home" communities
7. Sectarian identities as projected by inward communities onto external communities, such as by "home" communities onto diaspora populations
8. Historical development of sectarian communities and identities in specific locations
9. Cross-disciplinary approaches to the formation and expansion of sectarian identities
10. Impact of invasions by foreign entities in the creation or solidification of sectarian identities, whether historical or

- contemporary
11. Challenges of sectarian identities in contemporary nation-states
 12. Challenges of sectarian identities in an era of globalization
 13. Case studies highlighting aspects of sectarian identity, whether imagined or real
 14. The relationship between sectarian identification and gender constructs
 15. Legal implications of sectarian identities and communities
 16. Racial and minority dimensions of sectarian identities
 17. Media constructions of sectarian identities

Scholars from all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences are encouraged to submit proposals. Please send proposal abstracts (maximum 250 words) and contact information to: Natana DeLong-Bas delongba@bc.edu

Deadline for submission of proposal abstracts is January 31, 2017.
(Completed papers will be due April 1, 2017.)