

CONFERENCE PROGRAM FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Legacy of ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib

Exploring his Teachings in the Foundational Texts of Arabic-Islamic
Knowledge and Culture

9-11 July 2025, St John’s College, Oxford

*funded by the AlBabtain Laudian Chair of Arabic in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern
Studies, organized by Tahera Qutbuddin*

Conference meetings and refreshment breaks in St John’s College’s **New Seminar Room** (Canterbury Quad, no. 5 on map, 1st floor, up a flight of stairs). The Gardens are just beyond the Canterbury Quad and quite lovely if you want to stroll there in the breaks or at other times!

Internet: via Eduroam or connect to “The Cloud” network (free one-time registration required)

Time allotment 45 mins. per participant: 20 mins. presentation, 20 mins. Q&A, 5 mins. buffer

Tuesday, 8 July

Participant arrivals. Check into St John’s College accommodation after 2PM at Porter’s Lodge

Porter’s Lodge: St Giles’, Oxford OX1 3JP, phone: +44 1865 7300

TQ: mobile +44 7438 690829, WhatsApp +1 (773) 234 5150

7 – 9 **Dinner** St Giles House, Dining Room (16 St Giles’, no. 17 on map, entrance from street)

Wednesday, 9 July

8 – 9 Breakfast, St John’s College, Hall (no. 1 on map, individual walk-in, open timing)

8.45 – 9 **Refreshment**

9 – 9.15 *Welcome Remarks*, Tahera Qutbuddin, University of Oxford

9.15 – 10 Maria Massi Dakake, George Mason University
‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib and his Historical Influence on Qur’anic Exegesis

10 – 10.45 Robert Gleave, University of Exeter
*Imam Ali and the His Legal Judgments: Uncovering Processes of Attribution and
Canonisation in early Shii Conceptions of Law*

10.45 – 11.15 **Refreshment**

11.15 – 12 Devin J. Stewart, Emory University
‘Ali b. Abī Ṭālib and Biblical Typology in Medieval Shiite Texts

12 – 12.45 Seyfeddin Kara, University of Groningen
The Sword and the Book: Reconstructing ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib’s Scroll in Early Islamic Tradition

1 – 2.45 **Lunch** St Giles House, Dining Room (16 St Giles’)

3 – 3.45 Bernard O’Kane, American University in Cairo
The Name of ‘Ali in Architectural Inscriptions

3.45 – 4.30 Tynan Kelly, Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University, Khobar, Saudi Arabia
‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib’s Ḥadīth in Classical Arabic Lexicography

- 4.30 – 5 Refreshment**
- 5 – 6.45 Oxford walk (casual, for any who are interested!)
- 7 – 9 Dinner** St John's College, Hall (Formal)

Thursday, 10 July

- 8 – 9 Breakfast, St John's College, Hall
- 9 – 9.15 Refreshment**
- 9.15 – 10 Tahera Qutbuddin, University of Oxford
Tawhīd, the Afterlife, and Sacred Knowledge: Imam 'Alī's Legacy in al-Mu'ayyad al-Shīrāzī's Majālis Mu'ayyadiyya
- 10 – 10.45 Aziz Qutbuddin, Fatemi Academy, Boston/ Mumbai
The Voice of 'Alī in the Fatimid-Ṭayyibī Tradition: The Ethos of a Virtuous Society in the Tanbīh al-Ghāfilīn of Dā'ī Ḥātim b. Ibrāhīm
- 10.45 – 11.15 Refreshment**
- 11.15 – 12 Hassan Ansari, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton
The Problem of Divine Attributes: Alī's Perspective and its Reception in Mu'tazili and Shi'i Thought
- 12 – 12.45 Sean W. Anthony, The Ohio State University
The Emirate of 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib and the Threat of the Ṭulaqā'
- 1 – 2.45 Lunch** St Giles House, Dining Room (16 St Giles')
- 3 – 3.45 Nebil Husayn, University of Miami
Debates on the Preeminence of 'Alī in the Court of al-Ma'mūn
- 3.45 – 4.30 Suleiman Mourad, Smith College
The Legacy of 'Alī ibn Abī Talīb & His Descendants in 12th Century Damascus
- 4.30 – 5.00 Refreshment**
- 5.15 – 6.15 Bodleian Manuscripts** with Alasdair Watson (Weston Library on Broad Street)
- 7.15 – 9.15 Dinner** St John's College, Hall (Formal)

Friday, 11 July

- 8 – 9 Breakfast, St John's College, Hall
- 9 – 9.15 Check out from College accommodation by 10 AM at Porters' Lodge (leave bags there)
- 9 – 9.15 Refreshment**
- 9.15 – 10 Vinay Khetia, Shia Research Institute, Toronto
Spawning Wonder: An Exploration of Du'ā' al-Ṣabāḥ, Du'ā' Kumayl, and al-Munājāt
- 10 – 10.45 Omar Alí-de-Unzaga, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London
Alī, the Imamate and the Sovereign Bee: Ethics, Politics and Allegory in the Epistles of the Pure Brethren (Rasā'il Ikhwān al-Ṣafā')
- 10.45 – 11.15 Refreshment**
- 11.15 – 12.45 Group discussion for volume publication
- 1 – 2.45 Lunch** St Giles House, Dining Room (16 St Giles')

End of conference