UNIVERSALITY IN ISLAMIC THOUGHT

Eighteenth Giorgio Levi Della Vida Award and Conference In Islamic Studies

Honoring Wilferd Madelung
Recipient of the Levi Della Vida Prize

UCLA, May 10-12, 2007

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, MAY 10
Humanities Conference Room, 314 Royce Hall

3:00 pm WELCOME
Leonard Binder, Director
Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA

3:10 pm AWARD PRESENTATION
Eighteenth Giorgio Levi Della Vida Award in Islamic Studies
Scott Waugh, Acting Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCLA

3:20 pm KEYNOTE LECTURE
The Mu’azila and Rational Theology
Wilferd Madelung
Laudian Professor of Arabic, Emeritus, University of Oxford

4:15 – 5:30 pm RECEPTION
FRIDAY, MAY 11
UCLA Faculty Center, Sequoia Room

9:20 am  WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
Leonard Binder, Director
Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA

9:25 am  SESSION I
Chair: Susan Slyomovics, Anthropology & Near Eastern Languages and
Cultures, UCLA

9:30 am  The Universal and Universality: The Search For Truth in Islamic
Philosophy
Hossein Ziai, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA

10:15 am  Universality in Islamic Historiography
Michael Morony, History, UCLA

11:00 am  Break

11:15 am  Discussion
Amir Hussain, Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University
Michael Cooperson, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA

11:45 am  Lunch

1:30 pm  SESSION II
Chair: Claudia Rapp, History, UCLA

Humanism in Ismaili thought: The case of the Rasa'il Ikhwan al-Safa'
Ismail Poonawala, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA

2:15 pm  Empiricism in Avicenna
Dimitri Gutas, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Yale
University

3:00 pm  Break

3:15 pm  Discussion
Abbas Hamdani, History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Hossein Ziai, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA
SATURDAY, MAY 12
UCLA Faculty Center, Sequoia Room

10:00 am  SESSION III
Chair: Nikki Keddie, History, UCLA

*Cultic acts: their cosmic causes and legal conditions*
Baber Johansen, Islamic Religious Studies, Harvard Divinity School

10:45 am  The Limits of Universalism in Islamic Thought: The Case of Indian Religions
Carl Ernst, Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

11:30 am  Break

11:45 am  Discussion
Khaled Abou El-Fadl, Law, UCLA
Sanjay Subrahmanyan, History, UCLA

12:15 pm  Lunch

2:00 pm  SESSION IV
Chair: Osman Galal, Public Health, UCLA

The (relative) universality of a literary theme: Indian, Persian, and Arabic tales of the death of kings
Michael Cooperson, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA

2:45 pm  The Universality and Neutrality of Science
Emilie Savage-Smith, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford

3:30 pm  Break

3:45 pm  Discussion
Ali Behdad, Comparative Literature, UCLA
Azim Nanji, Director, Institute of Ismaili Studies

4:15 pm  Wrap-Up

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  CNES 50th Anniversary Celebration