

# IDENTITY AND CONFESSIONAL MOBILIZATION IN MEDIEVAL BAGHDAD: A MICROHISTORY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OF BAB AL-BASRA AND AL- KARKH (945–1258)



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THE GARDEN ROOM, STANFORD HOUSE, 65 HIGH STREET, OXFORD  
5.00PM WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

Nassima Neggaz's paper explores the construction of distinct sectarian identities in medieval Baghdad, in particular a Twelver Shi'i identity and a Sunni identity. It investigates how these identities were expressed through celebrations and rituals that were provocatively performed, in a dialectic manner and in a spirit of competition, often encouraged by the political authorities of the time.

'The Long History of Ethnicity & Nationhood Reconsidered' Seminar aims at systematically rethinking the history and theory of ethnicity, nationhood and nationalism. The full programme of the seminar is available at [torch.ox.ac.uk/identity](http://torch.ox.ac.uk/identity).

*The Long History of Identity, Ethnicity and Nationhood Research Network is convened by  
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