



## International Seminar

### Sunni and Shi'a: political readings of a religious dichotomy

Casa Árabe, Córdoba, Spain

October 21-22, 2013

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This seminar will delve into the Sunni-Shia dichotomy with the purpose of analyzing the causes and consequences of the widening gap between these two Islamic branches, as well as trying to counter reductionist arguments. Sessions will be organized in 90-minute slots, with a dedicated 30 minutes for debate, and will be moderated by Casa Árabe. Each speaker will have 20-30 minutes.

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#### Monday, October 21

- 19:30 Inaugural conference: *The rebirth of sectarianism in the Middle East*, by Geneive Abdo
- 21:00 *Dinner* with Casa Árabe's director-general, Eduardo López Busquets and UNESCO's Chair in Conflict Resolution, Manuel Torres Aguilar

#### Tuesday, October 22

- 10:15 1<sup>st</sup> session: BACKGROUND AND STATE OF THE QUESTION
- a. Old and new sectarianisms. Hierarchy and authority in the Sunni and Shia systems. Speaker: Geneive Abdo (Stimson Center)
  - b. Geopolitics of disagreement. Speaker: Barah Mikail (FRIDE)
- 11: 45 *Coffee break*
- 12: 15 2<sup>nd</sup> session: POLITICAL ACTIVISM, MILITANCY AND DIALOGUE
- a. Iran, Iraq and the expansion of militant sectarianism throughout the Levant. Speaker: Hayder al-Khoei ( Chatham House)
  - b. Sunni and Shia dialogue experiences: Egypt, Bahrain, Syria, Iraq. Speaker: Mohamed Okda (Al Watan Party, Egypt)
- 13: 45 *Lunch break*

- 15:00            3<sup>rd</sup> session: CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES
- a. The role of media in sectarian divide. Speaker: Khaled Hroub (Northwestern University in Qatar)
  - b. The fight for economic hegemony and strategic investments. Speaker: Thierry Coville (IRIS)
- 16:30            *Coffee break*
- 17:00            4<sup>th</sup> session: BALANCE OF POWER AND MEDIATION
- a. Regional balance of power: Saudi Arabia vs. Iran. Speaker: Fatiha Dazi-Héni (Institut Politique de Lille)
  - b. Mediation and future scenarios. Speaker: Oliver McTernan (Forward Thinking)
  - c. Conclusions
- 20:00            *Dinner offered by UNESCO's Chair in Conflict Resolution*