



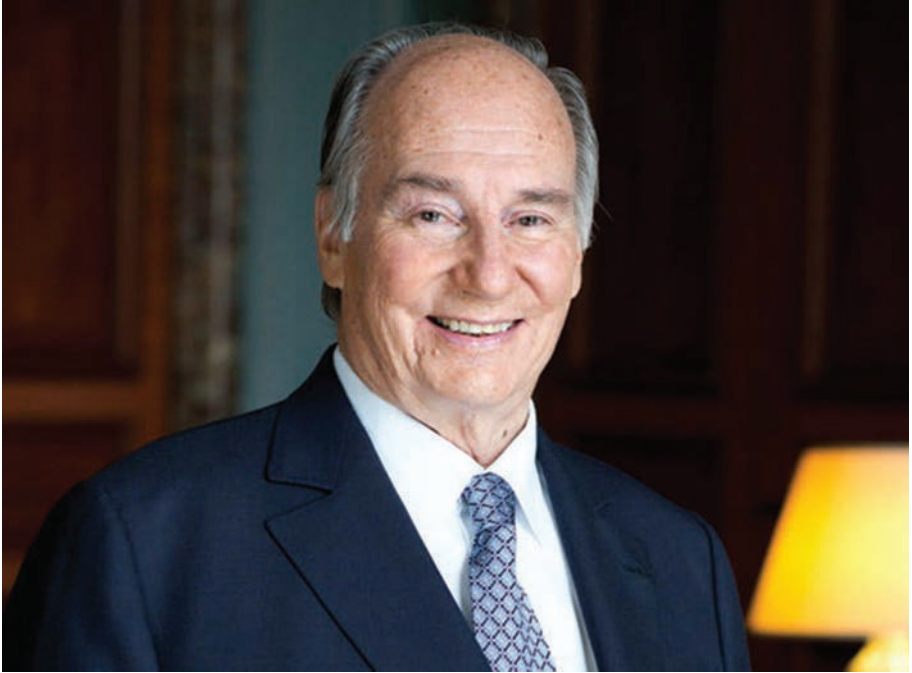
The Institute of Ismaili Studies

IIS Short Courses 2023



Welcome	02
The Institute of Ismaili Studies	03
IIS Short Courses	04
Introduction to Islam	05
Shari'a: Development of Fiqh and Ethics in Muslim Contexts	06
The Qur'an and its Interpretations	07
Shi'i Islam: Thought, Beliefs and Practices	08
Exploring Ismaili Traditions	09
Religious Symbolism in Art and Architecture	10
Exploring Ismaili History: Walking in the Footsteps of the Fatimids	11
Ismaili Communities in Migration: The East African Experience	12
Understanding Culture	13
The Programme Team	14
Course Directors' Profiles	15
Victoria Hall Accommodation	19
Key Dates to Remember	20





“ What some describe as a clash of civilisations in our modern world is, in my view, a clash of ignorances. This is why education about religious and cultural heritage is so critically important – and why we will continue to invest in these institutions. We deeply believe that scholarship, publication and instruction – of high quality and generous breadth – can provide important pathways towards a more pluralistic and peaceful world. ”

His Highness the Aga Khan
Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, UK
3 July 2008



Welcome

The Institute of Ismaili Studies continues to provide exciting educational opportunities through its short courses for adult members of the global Ismaili community. Over the past few years, we have expanded our course offerings to both online and face-to-face formats, allowing us to extend our reach and introduce new courses that are of interest and relevance to the Jamat.

Participants in our short courses are exposed to an intellectually stimulating curriculum with access to expert faculty and resources to explore and understand important themes related to Islam and Muslim societies. These courses are open to all adult members of the Jamat and are particularly relevant to leaders and professionals, as well as volunteer educators, such as teachers and waezeen, affiliated with institutions of the Ismaili community.

The IIS is delighted to launch the 2023 cycle of short courses, of which three are online, two are face-to-face offered at the Aga Khan Centre in London, and four are field-based offered in Egypt, Portugal, Tanzania and Tunisia.

We are confident that your participation in the IIS Short Courses will be an enriching experience, and we look forward to welcoming you.

Dr. Farhad Daftary
Co-Director
The Institute of Ismaili Studies



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) was established in London with the objective of promoting scholarship and learning on Muslim cultures and societies, historical as well as contemporary, and a better understanding of their relationship with other societies and faiths.

The IIS's founding aim was defined by a basic and continuing re-assessment of existing scholarly endeavours in the field of Islamic Studies. As part of this aim, the Institute seeks to draw the most effective tools developed in modern academic scholarship over the past century. Simultaneously, in actively seeking to bring the fruits of such scholarship to bear on the conditions and aspirations of Muslim societies today (including, present-day Ismaili communities), the Institute's programmes are attuned to the principles of

objective inquiry and research while reflecting an additional normative purposiveness.

The Institute achieves its overarching aims through research and publication activities, and in particular through its educational programmes, which at present are focused on the study of Ismaili Jamats and the complex Shi'i traditions within Islam, of which the Ismaili traditions are a part.



IIS Short Courses

Our Approach

IIS Short Courses are designed to introduce participants to a social, cultural and civilisational approach to the study of Islam and Muslim societies, with a particular focus on Ismaili contexts. The IIS will offer three online, two face-to-face courses at the Aga Khan Centre in London, and four field-based short courses. Online short courses will be offered on alternate days with each day lasting around four hours using the Zoom platform. Faculty for all courses will be drawn primarily from the IIS and, where relevant, from external academic institutions. Key course information such as session descriptions, schedules, and readings will be shared with participants closer to the start date. Descriptions of the nine courses on offer in 2023 can be found on pages 6-16.

Accommodation

For face-to-face short courses held in London, the majority of participants will stay at our Victoria Hall student accommodation in King's Cross. Where accommodation at Victoria Hall is not available or for field-based courses, participants will be housed at hotels.

Eligibility

IIS short courses are only open to members of the Ismaili community. Participants will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis with a maximum of 25-30 places on each course. The selection of participants will be needs-blind. However, preference will be given to applicants affiliated with Ismaili community institutions.



Application Form

The application form can be accessed at <https://iis.ac.uk/short-courses>.

Criteria for participants' eligibility are:

- ◆ An undergraduate degree
- ◆ Proficiency in English language
- ◆ Potential to apply learning from the course(s) in their work

Programme Cost, Course Fees and Visas

A contribution from participants is required for all short courses, that covers the cost of course materials and, where applicable, lodging, breakfast, lunch and tea breaks. This contribution is **non-refundable** and must be paid within two weeks of receipt of the course acceptance email from the IIS.

Limited financial assistance is available for participants' contributions for IIS Short Courses and will be determined on a case-by-case basis (please select the appropriate option on the application form).

Participants of face-to-face and field-based courses will be responsible for expenses related to flights, visas, COVID testing, local transportation (including airport transfers), evening meals and insurance.

Where required, participants must apply for visas well in advance. The IIS will provide the necessary information and guidance for applications but cannot assure the issuance of necessary visas.

Introduction to Islam

This online interactive course will bring together participants from diverse backgrounds in an engaging environment, to discuss key issues faced by Muslims around the globe. A pluralistic and civilisational approach will be adopted, highlighting the role of human agency, creativity and imagination in devising new solutions to the challenges encountered by contemporary Muslims.

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Introduce participants to some critical and analytical tools to address cultural, political and intellectual issues.
- ◆ Facilitate the development of a historical understanding of the evolution of various Muslim communities, including the Ismailis, through time, and a nuanced understanding of the consequent diversity of beliefs, practices, and ethics.
- ◆ Discuss key concepts such as secularisation, authority and leadership, politics and the state, good governance and civil society, pluralism and cosmopolitan ethics, situating these ideas within their historical, cultural and geo-political contexts, drawing on perspectives articulated by critical thinkers and leader as well as the Ismaili Imam.
- ◆ Explore the role played by art, architecture and literature in the development of Muslim civilisations, past and present.

Programme date:

26 April – 11 May 2023

Programme venue:

Online course delivered via Zoom

Application deadline:

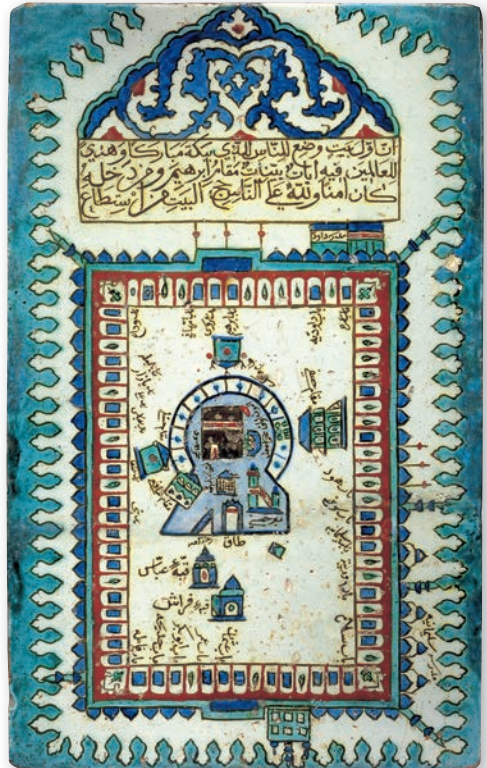
28 February 2023

Programme fees:

£175

Course director:

Dr Daryoush Mohammad Poor,
Senior Research Associate in the Department
of Academic Research and Publications, IIS
(for a brief profile, see p.15)



Shari'a: Development of Fiqh and Ethics in Muslim Contexts

This online interactive course is designed for individuals in leadership roles within Jamati and Imamat institutions, educators, professionals and others interested in learning about this theme. The course will provide an understanding on how what has come to be called *shari'a* developed and evolved in Muslim history. Taught by specialists from different schools of thought in Islam, the online course will focus on contemporary manifestations and interpretations of *shari'a* through an analysis of case studies. It will provide a perspective to show that what is understood as *shari'a* is not an exclusive marker of Muslim identity nor an ubiquitous symbol of Islam at the cost of other aspects of the faith. Special emphasis will be placed on Shi'i approaches to law and, more particularly, on Ismaili approaches to *shari'a* under the guidance of a living hereditary Imam. The course will also encourage a discussion on various approaches to ethics and its relationship to *shari'a* as Muslims, like others, confront new issues in the present globalised world.

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Engender an understanding of the many meanings of the term *shari'a* and how this notion has evolved historically in Muslim

Programme date:

8 May – 26 May 2023

Programme venue:

Online course delivered via Zoom

Application deadline:

28 February 2023

Programme fees:

£175

Course director:

Dr Mohamed Keshavjee, author, mediation specialist, and a Senior Research Scholar affiliated with the Institute of Ismaili Studies (for a brief profile, see p.15)

societies in all its diverse manifestations and interpretations.

- ◆ Introduce participants to Shi'i approaches to law and the role of the Imam in the development of Shi'i *fiqh* (jurisprudence).
- ◆ Explore contemporary debates on *shari'a* in the context of the call for its return, and Muslim responses to the challenges of modernity.
- ◆ Show how ethical ideals have always underpinned *shari'a* discourse.



The Qur'an and its Interpretations

This is an intensive online course for those who wish to become familiar with the Qur'an and the complexities that surround it. Taught by specialist faculty from the IIS's Qur'anic Studies Unit, the course looks at the Qur'an from various angles: it introduces participants to the necessary conceptual tools to deal with the complexities related to the Qur'an and its interpretations. The course will analyse the concept of revelation, prophethood and scripture, all within the historical, intellectual, religious and socio-political context in which the Qur'an emerged. Students will be exposed to the genre of *tafsir* as a repository of opinions by authors from various persuasions and schools. Interpretation will be explored as a product of its time focusing on questions such as: How are so many interpretations possible? How are interpretations actually produced? Further, the course will tackle some contemporary concerns like: What is the relevance of reading the Qur'an today? How is it used to justify such things as gender relations, political claims and the like?

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Facilitate a nuanced awareness of the Qur'an as a historical phenomenon, as a concept and as a text.
- ◆ Explore the complexities of interpretation and the reasons behind the existence of a plurality of interpretations (including Ismaili interpretations) by examining selected Qur'anic verses.
- ◆ Introduce participants to the role of the Imam in Shi'i contexts vis-à-vis the Qur'an.

Programme date:

05 June - 16 June 2023

Programme venue:

Online course delivered via Zoom

Application deadline:

28 February 2023

Programme fees:

£175

Course director:

Dr Omar Ali-de-Unzaga,
Head of Qur'anic Studies Unit, in the
Department of Academic Research and
Publications, IIS
(for a brief profile, see p.16)



- ◆ Develop an appreciation for the non-textual and non-theological expressions inspired by the Qur'an (such as in art, literature, and so on).

Shi'i Islam: Thought, Beliefs and Practices

This five-day course will bring together participants from diverse backgrounds to discuss, in an engaging and enabling environment, some of the key questions about Shi'i Islam such as: How did it develop from its roots in 7th-Century Arabia to the highly elaborated tradition with its rich doctrinal, artistic, performative and intellectual heritage? What are the major branches of Shi'i Islam today, and what are their key figures, beliefs and practices? What are the commonalities as well as distinctive features of Ismaili beliefs and practices vis-à-vis other Shi'i traditions? Answers to such questions are important to anyone seeking to broaden their understanding about Shi'i Islam and its past that is intimately linked to its present. Further, Secondary teachers and wazeens will find this course particularly useful. This course will be delivered by specialist faculty from the IIS using case studies that are relevant to contemporary contexts and will adopt an interdisciplinary and civilisational approach to achieve its aims.

The Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Introduce participants to sources and structures of religious authority, highlighting commonality of beliefs across major contemporary Shi'i traditions (Isma'ili, Ithna 'Ashari, Zaydi, etc.).
- ◆ Discuss the commonality and diversity of doctrines, practices and law among Shi'i communities to help participants develop a better understanding of what it means to be a Shi'a Muslim in the modern world and situate the Ismailis in this context.
- ◆ Explore the rich intellectual and artistic heritage of Shi'i Islam from its foundational period to contemporary times to enable participants to identify distinctive characteristics of Shi'i heritage and note how

Programme date:

23 March – 27 March 2023

Programme venue:

Aga Khan Centre, London, UK

Application deadline:

03 January 2023

Programme fees:

£750 (excluding cost of flights, visas, COVID testing, local transportation, dinner and insurance)

Course director:

Dr Shainool Jiwa, Head of Constituency Studies Unit in the Department of Academic Research and Publications, IIS
(for a brief profile, see p.16)



these resonate in the intellectual and artistic heritage of the Ismailis, past and present.

- ◆ Facilitate a nuanced understanding of the status and role of the Shi'a in the cotemporary world, their geographical placement and some of the challenges ensuing from their minority status in the modern world, including those related to the current sectarian and geopolitical conflicts.

Exploring Ismaili Traditions

This five-day course offers a unique opportunity to learn about Ismaili traditions that encompass a diversity of communities, languages, cultures, and practices. Participants will be exposed to the current scholarship on Ismailis in different parts of the world to highlight the key figures, modern developments, and contexts that have shaped Ismaili traditions to the present day. Faculty members from diverse Ismaili contexts will explore different ways of thinking about Ismaili traditions in a globalised world in order to illustrate how these traditions have evolved and been reinterpreted over time. Central to this course is understanding the role that Ismaili communities and key figures of authority have played in shaping their traditions within the dynamic environments of their societies. Participants will therefore be able to appreciate, discuss and develop new perspectives about the issues faced by Ismaili communities and Imamat institutions of anchoring Ismaili traditions in contemporary contexts.

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Understanding perspectives of approaching the diversity of Ismaili traditions in their historical and contemporary contexts.
- ◆ Examining how Ismaili traditions have been shaped by communities and figures of authority during key moments in Ismaili history.
- ◆ Exploring the ways that Ismaili communities living in a globalised world embody and reinterpret their traditions.

Programme date:

21 July – 25 July 2023

Programme venue:

Aga Khan Centre, London, UK

Application deadline:

21 March 2023

Programme fees:

£750 (excluding cost of flights, visas, local transportation, dinner and insurance)

Course director:

Dr Laila Halani, Head of Department of Graduate Studies, IIS
(for a brief profile, see p.17)



- ◆ Develop an informed understanding and appreciation for the diversity as well as commonalities between Ismaili traditions reflected in the beliefs, practices, and material culture of communities that comprise the global Ismaili Jamat.

Religious Symbolism in Art and Architecture

This five-day course will aim to explore the role of symbols and religious symbolism within the art and architecture of diverse faith communities, with a particular reference to symbolism in Muslim contexts. Participants will have an opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to examine different symbolic forms in material culture through lectures by leading scholars, group discussions, museum and site visits, and other educational encounters. During the course, participants will be able to draw from vibrant historical and cultural encounters and explore the cross-fertilization of symbols in a variety of religious and public spaces. Exploring the ways shared spaces, both public and religious, are steeped in the cultures of Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities will highlight the continuous sharing and borrowing of symbolic forms across the traditions of these faith communities. Moreover, the course will aim to stimulate participants to reflect and develop their own answers to the following questions: What makes a symbol 'Islamic', or for that matter 'religious'? How have religious symbols been used in art and architecture? How does religious symbolism shape the lives and expressions of identities of faith communities in the past and present?

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Explore the complexities and interpretations of symbolic language in art and architecture through different intellectual perspectives and traditions.
- ◆ Create an awareness that symbols are grounded within a context, environment and culture that express broader complex ideas and themes that evolve over time.
- ◆ Developing skills of “reading” symbols embodied in material culture for participants to better understand the creation and use of symbols in a diversity of religious traditions, including in Muslim contexts.

Programme date:

09 September - 13 September 2023

Programme venue:

Lisbon, Portugal

Application deadline:

21 March 2023

Programme fees:

£1100 (excluding cost of flights, visas, COVID testing, local transportation, dinner and insurance)

Course director:

Dr Ulrike Al-Khamis, Director and CEO of Aga Khan Museum
(for a brief profile, see p.17)



Exploring Ismaili History: Walking in the footsteps of the Fatimids

This field-based course offers a unique opportunity to learn about Fatimid history, culture and architectural heritage, as well as experience some of the major developments shaping present-day Tunisia. The course, taking place in Tunisia, will include interactive guided tours and presentations over five days. The programme will be led by specialist faculty from the IIS and field specialists in Tunisia. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the key Fatimid monuments in Mahdiyya, the first purpose-built Fatimid capital city, and its surrounding regions. They will also learn about the dynamics that led to the founding of the Fatimids as a 10th-Century Mediterranean empire which flourished for over two centuries (909-1171 CE) across large areas of the Muslim world.

Programme date:

6 October – 11 October 2023

Programme venue:

Mahdiyya, Tunisia

Application deadline:

21 March 2023

Programme fees:

£1100 (excluding cost of flights, visas, COVID testing, local transportation, dinner and insurance)

Course director:

Dr Shainool Jiwa, Head of Constituency Studies Unit in the Department Academic Research and Publications, IIS
(for a brief profile, see p.16)

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Expose participants to the rich intellectual and architectural heritage of the Ismailis during the Fatimid period and germinate an understanding of the role of art, architecture and literature in the shaping of Muslim civilisations, historically and in present times.
- ◆ Initiate an experiential and informed understanding of a major period and region that is significant in Ismaili history, while also gleaning the key challenges and opportunities that prevail in contemporary Tunisia.
- ◆ Introduce participants to the major figures and developments that have shaped Ismaili history, thought and practice in Fatimid North Africa (present-day Tunisia and north-west Algeria) and to contextualise these as a part of the larger mosaic of Muslim traditions and heritage.
- ◆ Facilitate the development of critical, analytical analytical and historical skills, and an understanding of the relationship between the past and the present, and how these inform our beliefs, interpretations and values today.



Ismaili Communities in Migration: The East African Experience



This five-day course in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, will explore the history of East African Ismaili Muslims from the 19th century to the present day. Migrating from the Indian subcontinent to the East African coast via steamship and dhows, from the coast to inland via railroad and caravan, and from settled, prosperous life to cities worldwide via air - participants will have a unique opportunity to learn about the lived experiences of East African Ismailis through different perspectives, in particular, architecture and cultural heritage. Deeply connected with the experience of the community is its relationship to its local Jamatkhana; participants will examine how the form and function of the Jamatkhana have been shaped by the community and its changing needs, and the aspirations of the Ismaili Imams. Being a field-based course, participants will also engage in stimulating discussions on East African Ismaili life to examine how key events and transformations in the region shaped the opportunities and challenges faced by the community. Field trips to heritage sites and Jamatkhana, presentations and discussions will provide key learning experiences for participants to deepen their understanding of the issues of migration, modernity, and identity shaping the East African Ismaili experience.

Programme date:

26 October - 30 October 2023

Programme venue:

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Application deadline:

21 March 2023

Programme fees:

£1100 (excluding cost of flights, visas, COVID testing, local transportation, dinner and insurance)

Course director:

Dr Aliaa Remtilla, social anthropologist, filmmaker, and research consultant with the IIS.
(for a brief profile, see p.18)

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Explore how socio-political, economic and religious factors have shaped the Ismaili community's identity in East Africa.
- ◆ Examine the role of the Jamatkhana through its architecture and its evolving relationship with the community over time.
- ◆ Appreciate the East African Ismaili Muslim experience by understanding the opportunities as well as the challenges that the community has encountered as a result of modernity and migration over the past two centuries.

Understanding Culture

As a result of globalisation, ways of life and cultural expressions have become more widely shared than ever before. Forms and ideas in the visual arts, music, literature and the performing arts traverse cultural boundaries at an unprecedented pace. We have become ever more conscious of cultural borrowings across geographical, religious, and ethnic boundaries. However, we also see many conflicts arising in the name of preserving perceived cultural purity.

This course is designed to explore different understandings of the notion of culture: both as ways of life and as the products of intellectual and artistic creativity, and why they need to be nurtured, renewed and passed on to future generations. Aspirations to the beautiful and the good in architecture, urban planning and music, the three key domains in which the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) operates, mirror human aspirations for the good life. In this context, using case studies, the course will introduce participants to the philosophical underpinnings, methods and impacts of the work of the AKTC.

In addition to lectures, discussions, and workshops, the course will include guided visits to sites of relevance to Fatimid history as well as the Museum of Islamic Art and Al-Azhar Park.

Aims of the Programme:

- ◆ Examine the complex range of meanings of the term 'culture'.
- ◆ Understand that beauty in the arts is not purely functional or meant only for the enjoyment of the educated few; it has intrinsic value, for spiritual and ethical reasons.
- ◆ Understand the contributions of AKTC to architecture, urban heritage, and traditional

Programme date:

09 November - 14 November 2023

Programme venue:

Cairo, Egypt

Application deadline:

21 March 2023

Programme fees:

£1300 (excluding cost of flights, visas, COVID testing local transportation, dinner and insurance)

Course director:

Professor Yudhishthir Raj Isar,
Education Director, Aga Khan Trust for Culture
(for a brief profile, see p.18)



music in the Muslim world as key components of the cultural heritage of humanity.

- ◆ Explore the importance of cultural literacy in avoiding conflicts, facilitating dialogue, enhancing creativity, and promoting the spirit of pluralism.

The Programme Team

IIS Short Courses Director

Zulfiqar Khimani

email: zkhimani@iis.ac.uk

telephone: +44 (0) 7435 982 392

Academic Coordinator

Hussain Daya

email: hdaya@iis.ac.uk

telephone: +44 (0) 20 7756 2737

Programme Coordinator

Umar Farooq

Email: ufarooq@iis.ac.uk

telephone: +44 (0) 20 7756 2770

Programme Support

Malika Pallaeva

email: mpallaeva@iis.ac.uk

telephone: +44 (0) 207 756 2700

Naheed Hussain

email: dcr@iis.ac.uk

telephone: +44 (0) 777 187 7110

Course Directors' Profiles

Dr Daryoush Mohammad Poor is a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Academic Research and Publications at The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London, and a lecturer for the Department of Graduate Studies. His first monograph, *Authority without Territory: The Aga Khan Development Network and the Ismaili Imamate* (2014) is a fresh theoretical engagement with contemporary institutions of the Ismaili imamate. His most recent book, *Command and Creation: A Shi'i Cosmological Treatise*, is a Persian edition and English translation of Muhammad al-Shahrastāni's *Majlis-i maktub* (2021). He is also a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in the UK.



Dr Mohamed M. Keshavjee is a South African born-lawyer called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1969. He completed his LLM at London University and his PhD at SOAS with a focus on Islamic Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). He has practised law in Kenya, Canada and the United Kingdom. He has spoken on ADR at conferences in Europe, North America and Asia, and has trained family mediators in the EU countries and imams and pastors in mosque and church conflicts in the UK and the USA, respectively. In 2016, he was awarded the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Peace Award by the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia, for his work on peace and human rights education.



Course Directors' Profiles

Dr Omar Ali-de-Unzaga is Head of Qur'anic Studies Unit in the Department of Academic Research and Publications. Dr Ali-de-Unzaga was a recipient of the Institute's Doctoral Scholarship and is currently involved in a number of research programmes and publications at the IIS. He completed a PhD at the University of Cambridge on the use of the Qur'an in the Epistles of the Pure Brethren (Ikhwan al-Safa). He obtained a BA in English Philology from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid and graduated from the Institute's Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and Humanities in 1997. He completed his MPhil at the University of Cambridge. Dr Ali-de-Unzaga has taught courses in STEP and GPISH. He has also taught a course at the University of Cambridge on the Ethics of the Ikhwan al-Safa. He is the editor of a book titled *Fortress of the Intellect: Ismaili and other Islamic Studies in Honour of Farhad Daftary* and is currently



preparing a critical edition of the Arabic text, and an English translation, of the Epistle on Character Traits (*Al-Risala fi'l- Akhlaq*) of the Ikhwan al-Safa for the IIS/OUP Brethren of Purity Series.

Dr Shainool Jiwa is Head of Constituency Studies Unit as well as a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Academic Research and Publications. Dr Jiwa has over 25 years of teaching experience at several academic institutions including at the University of Edinburgh, International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) and has also served as an Associate Assessor with Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education, Scotland. Dr Jiwa is also a lecturer on the IIS graduate programmes (GPISH & STEP) and contributes to the development of the IIS Secondary Curriculum.

Dr Jiwa completed her Master's degree from McGill University and her doctorate from the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests include Islamic history in general and Fatimid history in particular.

Dr Jiwa has written several journal articles, chapters and books. Her latest publication is *The Fatimids: The Rise of a Muslim Empire*, which is a



World of Islam series title. Dr Jiwa's other recent publication include *The Fatimid Caliphate: Diversity of Traditions*, which she has jointly edited with Dr Farhad Daftary.

Course Directors' Profiles

Dr Laila Halani is the Head of the Department of Graduate Studies at the IIS overseeing all aspects of the IIS' postgraduate programmes GPISH and STEP and Postgraduate Preparatory Programmes around the world. She lectures over a wide range of IIS educational programmes on subjects related to her research interests, which include contemporary Islamic movements, gender and representation in Muslim societies and Ismailis in contemporary times. Dr Halani completed her MPhil and PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Oxford and was a research fellow at the University of Edinburgh before joining the IIS. Her doctoral research aimed to understand the space occupied by Muslim women in Gujarat, India, in light of the ideologies and practices of competing modern social and religious movements. Over the years, she has undertaken a number of anthropological field research and surveys on



behalf of a wide range of institutions, including the Aga Khan Foundation and the IIS.

Dr Ulrike Al-Khamis is the Director and CEO of the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada. She is a well-known figure in the field with over 20 years of experience as a curator and senior advisor for museum and cultural projects. She holds a PhD in Islamic Art from the University of Edinburgh and served as Co-Director at the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization as well as Senior Strategic Advisor to the Sharjah Museums Department in the UAE from 2007 to 2017. She began her career in Scotland, where she worked as Principal Curator for South Asia and the Middle East at the National Museums of Scotland from 1999 to 2007 and Curator for Muslim Art and Culture at Glasgow Museums from 1994 to 1999. In her role, Dr Al-Khamis leads a team of subject-matter specialists and program managers to establish a strategically cohesive and sustainable set of audience-focused programs and initiatives devised to further the



Museum's mandate and role locally, nationally, and internationally within the framework of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) more generally.

Course Directors' Profiles

Dr Aliaa Remtilla is an anthropologist and filmmaker who received her MA and PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester. Originally trained as a filmmaker at Harvard University, Aliaa is currently the CEO and Co-Founder of StoryTiling, a platform that uses anthropological science to help people capture and share their family's life experiences through video stories and video messages. Through her work at the IIS and Simon Fraser University, Aliaa has examined the confluence of religion, economics and politics and conducted research in over 20 countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Portugal, Tajikistan and Tanzania. Aliaa has also contributed significantly to shaping the strategic direction of community organisations from a grassroots level by supporting youth navigating their Muslim identity living in a Western context and establishing strategic partnerships with government and civic entities at an institutional level. She has served extensively with the Shia Ismaili Muslim



community through the Aga Khan Councils in Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Her forthcoming book on the Jamatkhana and the Jamat in East Africa will be published in the IIS Living Ismaili Traditions series in 2023.

Professor Yudhishtir Raj Isar is currently the Education Director of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. He is also Emeritus Professor of Cultural Policy Studies at The American University of Paris; Distinguished Scholar/Robert Schuman Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy in 2018-19 and Visiting Professor, Ahmedabad University. From 2011 to 2016, he was 'Eminent Research Visitor' and adjunct professor at the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. Founding co-editor of the *Cultures and Globalization Series* (SAGE), published between 2007 and 2012; principal investigator and lead writer for the *United Nations Creative Economy Report 2013*; team leader of the European Union's inquiry 'Culture in EU External Relations' and editor of UNESCO's two reports (2015 and 2017) entitled *Re/Shaping Cultural Policies*. An official of UNESCO from 1973 to 2003, Isar was notably Executive Secretary of the



World Commission on Culture and Development (1994-95). He is also a past President of the platform organization *Culture Action Europe*.

Victoria Hall Accommodation

During the residential sessions held in London, we aim to accommodate participants at the dedicated student accommodation in the Victoria Hall King's Cross. The building has 198 individual rooms, primarily for the accommodation of graduate students of The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) and Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University.



The design for this new residential building draws on the solidity of the brick-built architecture of the Middle East and aims to provide a stimulating and collegiate environment for students in the urban setting of King's Cross.

The building has been conceived as a form carved from a single block, creating two 12-storey 'bookend' wings above a ground-floor plinth, flanking a central south-facing 8-storey element set back from the street.

Central to the building's character is the Garden of Reflection on the 1st floor and the Terrace of Unity on the 8th floor. Their design is inspired by the Islamic gardens of Andalusia in southern Spain, and the courtyard gardens of Morocco. These generous communal spaces consist of lush planting, water features and high quality stonework and are designed to provide opportunities for recreation and social interaction.

Key Dates to Remember

Course Titles	Programme Dates* (both days inclusive)	Application Deadline**
Introduction to Islam	26 April - 11 May 2023	28 Feb 2023
Shari'a: Development of Fiqh and Ethics in Muslim Contexts	08 May - 26 May 2023	
The Qur'an and its Interpretations	05 Jun - 16 Jun 2023	
Shi'i Islam: Thought, Beliefs and Practices	23 Mar - 27 Mar 2023	3 Jan 2023
Exploring Ismaili Traditions	21 Jul - 25 Jul 2023	21 Mar 2023
Religious Symbolism in Art and Architecture	9 Sept - 13 Sept 2023	
Exploring Ismaili History: Walking in the Footsteps of the Fatimids	6 Oct - 11 Oct 2023	
Ismaili Communities in Migration: The East African Experience	26 Oct - 30 Oct 2023	
Understanding Culture	9 Nov - 14 Nov 2023	

*For face-to-face and field-based courses, check-in for the accommodation will be one day before the course start date, and check-out will be one day after the course end date. For example, the check-in date will be 20 July for a course starting on 21 July, and the check-out date will be 26 July for a course ending on 25 July.

**The selection of participants is needs-blind. Applications for all courses are considered on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Captions and Credits

Inside front cover: Alam, (safavid) Iran, 16th century. The Aga Khan Museum, AKM679. Image credit: The Aga Khan Museum.

Page 2: Dr Farhad Daftary, Co-Director of The Institute of Ismaili Studies. Image credit: The Institute of Ismaili Studies.

Page 3: Aga Khan Centre. Image credit: Edmund Sumner.

Page 5: Painted Qibla tile, Turkey, 17th century. The Aga Khan Museum, AKM587. Image credit: The Aga Khan Museum.

Page 6: A Court manuscript workshop. Folio from the manuscript of Akhlaq-i Nasiri (Ethics of Nasir) by Nasir al-Din Tusi (d.1274). Lahore, Pakistan, 1590-95. The Aga Khan Museum, AKM288.12. Image credit: The Aga Khan Museum.

Page 7: A folio from the manuscript of the Blue Qur'an. North Africa, Iraq, or Iran. The Aga Khan Museum, AKM248. Image credit: The Aga Khan Museum.

Page 8: MS Per 96 [MS 934] *Dīwān-i Nasir-i Khusraw* copied during the Qājār period in Iran (late 18th/early 19th century). Image credit: Rahim Kara.

Page 9: Mausoleum of Aga Hasan Ali Shah; Aga Khan I Mumbai, March 2018. Image Credit: Sameer Noorani.

Page 10: Pendant of the Nasrid Period in Al-Andalus. The Aga Khan Museum, AKM954. Image credit: The Aga Khan Museum.

Page 11: The Fatimid congregational mosque of Mahdiyya, in which early Fatimid Imam-caliphs led prayers. Image credit: Russell Harris, Institute of Ismaili Studies.

Page 12: Jamatkhana in Morogoro, Tanzania. Image credit: Aliaa Remtilla.

Page 13: The Al Azhar mosque, commissioned by Fatimid Imam-caliph Al-Mu'izz li-Din Allah. Image credit: The Institute of Ismaili Studies.

Page 19: Exterior and interior of student halls of residence in King's Cross. Image credit: The Institute of Ismaili Studies.

How to find us

The Institute of Ismaili Studies

Aga Khan Centre,
10 Handyside Street
King's Cross, London
NIC 4DN
United Kingdom

Email: shortcourses@iis.ac.uk

Website: www.iis.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 207 756 2700

Nearest Rail

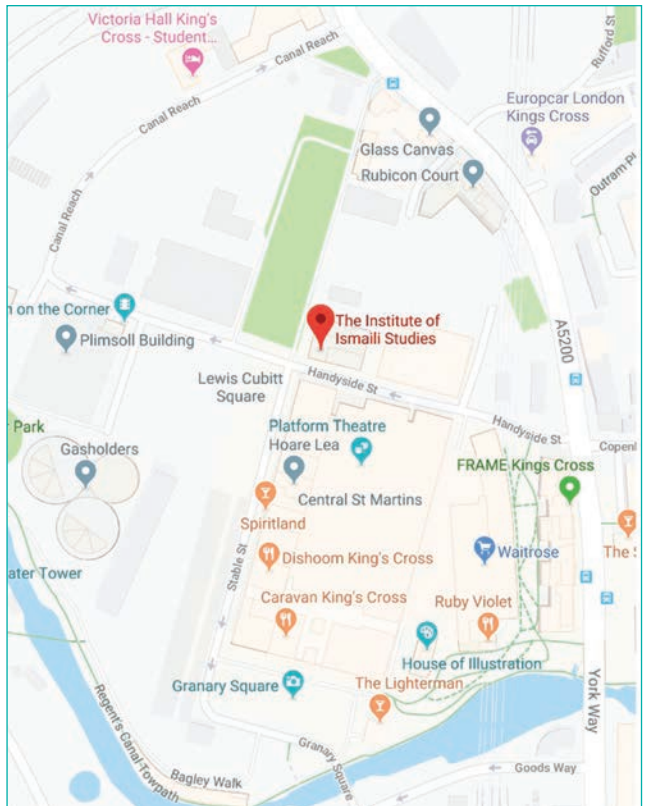
King's Cross mainline station and
St. Pancras International

Underground

King's Cross:Victoria, Northern,
Circle, Metropolitan and
Hammersmith & City Lines

Bus

10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 59, 63, 73, 91,
205, 214, 259, 390 and 476





The Institute of Ismaili Studies

www.iis.ac.uk