The fall of the castles of Alamut and Maymundez to Hülegü’s army in 1256 pronounced the end of political power for the Isma'ili state of Iran. This event is usually interpreted as the unavoidable knock-out blow of the unstoppable Mongol armies to a rather insignificant local government en route to their prize conquests in the West, notably the Baghdad Caliphate. In this talk I propose a reinterpretation of the nature and limits of Hülegü’s Western campaign against the Nizari Isma'ilis, based on new discoveries in the classical sources of the history of that period, employing the methods of textual criticism as well as juxtaposing the accounts produced by various players in the events.

Hadi Jorati
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Hadi Jorati studies the social and intellectual history of the Islamic Civilization and in particular Persianate societies in the Medieval and Pre-Modern period. The focus of his work is the interaction between the scholar and the society and how the political and societal patterns interact with intellectual trends, and the modes of production of intellectual material. Topics within this genre include education, institutions of learning, the movement of scholars, patronage, circles of scholars, and scholarly correspondence.

Friday, January 24, 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Luce 203, 34 Hillhouse Ave.
Light lunch will be provided

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