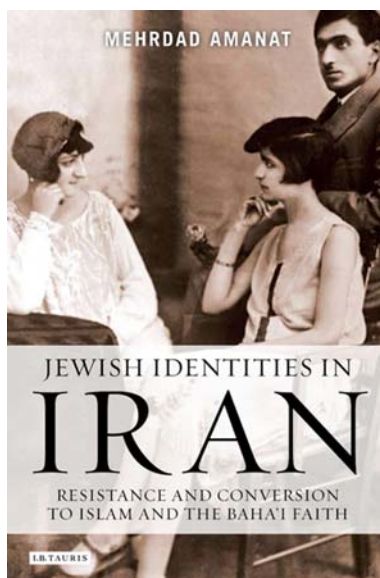


IRAN COLLOQUIUM

***Negotiating Identities:
Iranian Jewish Conversions to Islam
and the Baha'i Faith***

Mehrdad Amanat, Ph.D.

History, University of California, Los Angeles ('06)



For minority faith groups living in nineteenth-century Iran, religious conversion to Islam—both voluntary and forced—was the primary means of social integration and assimilation. However, why was it that some Persian Jews instead embraced the emergent Baha'i Faith, which was subject to harsher persecution than Judaism? Mehrdad Amanat explores the conversion experiences of Jewish families during this time, and examines the fluid, multiple religious identities that many converts adopted. The religious fluidity exemplified in the widespread voluntary conversion of Iranian Jews to Baha'ism presents an alternative to the rejectionist view of religion that regards millennia of religious experience as inherently coercive, oppressive, rigidly dogmatic and a consistently divisive social force.

**Tuesday, 11th October
12:00 pm
Room 203, Luce Hall, 34 Hillhouse Ave**

Light lunch will be provided

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