

MONDAY LECTURES | SOSE 2026

IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

RESEARCH BUILDING "WELTBEZIEHUNGEN" | C19.00.02/03 | 16:15 - 17:45

01.06.2026 | MINOO MIRSHAVALAD

SHIA RITUALS IN ITALY: TRENDS OF CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

This presentation is based on a multi-year study of the changing ritual life of Twelver Shi'a Muslims in Italy by focusing on how commemorative practices, observed in memory of Imam Husayn's martyrdom in Karbala, are transformed within a diasporic context marked by legal constraints, social

This presentation is based on a multi-year study of the changing ritual life of Twelver Shi'a Muslims in Italy by focusing on how commemorative practices, observed in memory of Imam Husayn's martyrdom in Karbala, are transformed within a diasporic context marked by legal constraints, social marginality, and plural religious publics. Based on participant observation and semi-structured interviews conducted between 2017 and 2021 in 13 Italian cities, the study discusses how Pakistani, Iranian, Afghan, and Lebanese Shi'a communities creatively adapt the rituals to new spatial, linguistic, and political environments.

Beyond serving merely as acts of cultural and religious preservation, Shi'a rituals in Italy identify dynamic sites of negotiation in which visibility and belonging are continually undergoing change. The notion of pragmatic adaptation provides an account of these transformations and of the ways in which ritual practices are selectively reencoded by various communities to address public suspicion, intra-Shi'a diversity, and the absence of institutional recognition within the Italian urban context. Particular attention is also given to shifts in public ritual expression, the reconfiguration of gendered roles, and the attenuation of political and religious hierarchies under diasporic conditions.

ORGANIZED BY SEMINAR FÜR RELIGIONSWISSENSCHAFT.

**ALL GUESTS WELCOME.
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY.**



JOIN WEBEX MEETING:

Meeting number: 2787 260 6067

Meeting password: kpGCSGpX537