Political Theologies of Medieval and Early Modern Islam: A Workshop  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
October 30 – 31, 2015  
McCune Room, Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Room 6020

October 30

9:45 AM  Greetings and Introduction

10:00 – 10:50  Bilal Orfali (American University of Beirut), "Mystical Poetics: Courtly Themes in Early Sufi Akhbār" (via Skype)

11:00- 11:50  Adam Sabra (University of California, Santa Barbara), "The Cosmic State: Ibn al-'Arabi's Political Theology"

12:00 – 12:50  Richard J. McGregor (Vanderbilt University), "Sufi Apocalypse and the Limits of Language"

1:00 – 2:00  Lunch

2:00 – 2:50  Manuela Ceballos (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), "Speaking for Others: Sufism and the Politics of Representation in Early Modern Morocco"

3:00 – 3:50  Cornell Fleischer (University of Chicago), "The Mystic and Lettrist 'Abd al-rahman al-Bistami (d. 1454) and the Origins of Ottoman Historical Consciousness"

4:00 – 4:50  İlker Evrim Binbaş (Royal Holloway, University of London), "The Problem of Sovereignty in the Fifteenth Century Islamic World: The View from Ethics"

7:00  Dinner for presenters and invited guests

October 31

10:00 – 10:50  Matthew Melvin-Koushki (University of South Carolina), "Starlord, Letterlord: Astrology and Lettrism in the Construction of Post-Mongol Persianate Imperial Ideologies"

11:00 – 11:50  A. Azfar Moin (University of Texas, Austin), "Saint Shrines as Objects of Imperial Veneration and Desecration in the Post-Mongol Empires"

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch

1:00 – 1:50  Daniel Sheffield (University of Washington), "Political Theurgy: Stars and Sovereignty in the Safavid-Mughal World"
2:00 – 2:50  Kathryn Babayan (University of Michigan), "Sovereignty and Amity: Masculinity at the Safavi Court in Isfahan"

3:00 – 4:00  Concluding discussion

The workshop is open to interested faculty and graduate students. If you would like to join us at lunch, please contact Adam Morrison at cmes@cmes.ucsb.edu so that we can get an accurate head count.

Sponsors:
King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic Studies
Center for Middle Eastern Studies
College of Letters and Sciences
Program in Medieval Studies
UCSB Department of History