

بنیاد مطالعات ایران  
Foundation for Iranian Studies  
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March 7, 2017

Dear friends,

We are delighted to announce that the Foundation for Iranian Studies 2017 Annual Norûz Lecture by a Distinguished Scholar of Iranian Studies will be delivered by Professor Touraj Atabaki, Honorary Fellow at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam and Emeritus Professor of Social History of the Middle East and Central Asia at the School of the Middle East Studies of Leiden University. This year's lecture is titled "What Is 'To Be Iranian': The Politics of Crafting Identity." The video and text of the lecture will be placed on the FIS Website [www.fis-iran.org](http://www.fis-iran.org) the first day of spring and will be accessible to all.

The FIS annual Norûz Lecture is a collaborative project of the Foundation for Iranian Studies and the George Washington University. We regret that this year's lecture and the post-lecture Norûz celebration, a tradition honored since our first lecture in the series twenty six years ago, will not be held at the George Washington University. The reason is the uncertainties surrounding the reception Iranian born travelers, even scholars as distinguished as Professor Atabaki, may encounter on arrival in the United States. We regret that despite certain improvements to make it legally more palatable, the revised presidential order retains the basic flaws of the original. We look forward to the day more rational and humane policies prevail.

Touraj Atabaki is Honorary Fellow at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam and Emeritus Professor of Social History of the Middle East and Central Asia at the School of the Middle East Studies of Leiden University. His fields of research encompass Social History of the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Labor and Subaltern Studies, Migration and post-Colonial Historiography. He has served as President of the International Association for Iranian Studies and President of the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS), and as member of the academic board of the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), Board of Consulting Editors of the International Labor and Working-Class History, Editorial Board of the International Journal of Iranian Studies, and the Editorial Board of the Journal of Central Asian Survey.

A more detailed account of Dr. Atabaki's academic activities may be viewed at [www.atabaki.nl](http://www.atabaki.nl)

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