


SEMPOZYUM TANITIMI
Eleventh Annual ASMEA Conference
Tradition, Evolution, and Revolution in the Middle East and Africa
November 1-3, 2018
Washington, D.C

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ASMEA
RESEARCH SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY
OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

ASMEA is pleased to present
the inaugural
**Workshop on
Alevi Society**

In conjunction with the
Eleventh Annual ASMEA Conference

November 2-3, 2018
Key Bridge Marriott Hotel
Washington, D.C.

To find out more, visit:
www.asmeascholars.org/conferences
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Artwork by Hergea Canefe.

ASMEA, whose founders are Prof. Bernard Lewis who passed in 2018 and Prof. Fouad Ajami, is presented with these words on its official website: “*ASMEA is an academic society dedicated to promoting the highest standards of research and teaching in Middle Eastern and African studies, and related fields. It is a response to the mounting interest in these increasingly inter-related fields, and the absence of any single group addressing them in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary fashion.*”

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ASMEA is, first and foremost, a community of scholars concerned with protecting academic freedom and promoting the search for truth. The Association advances the discourse in these fields by providing its members with new opportunities to publish and present ideas to the academic community and beyond.

ASMEA assists scholars, including tenured and un-tenured faculty, graduate students, and those in related fields, to expand the body of knowledge. Through its annual conference, peer-reviewed journal, newsletter, and website, ASMEA strives to become the professional association of choice for discerning scholars and interested members of the public. Please join us in creating a community that serves as the bedrock for the next generation of scholars upon which our collective future depends.”

ASMEA held its 11th Annual Conference on November 1-3, 2018, and this year’s conference featured:

- KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Iraqi parliamentarian, the Honorable Mithal Al-Alusi, delivered the keynote address at the Annual Conference.
- Roundtable discussions such as The Enduring Legacy of Prof. Bernard Lewis.
- Workshop on Alevi Society.
- Panel presentations on scholarly topics from Middle Eastern and African studies, and related disciplines.
- Banquet luncheon and professional networking reception.
- Film screenings.
- Publishers’ displays of the latest academic titles.

Within the conference, where scholars from different countries presented their papers, an Alevi Workshop was held for two days, and consisted of two sessions and featured six scientific papers. Prof. Nergis Canefe, from York University, coordinated the Alevi Workshop.

The first session was held on November 2nd, 2018, under the title of “Histories of Alevi in Turkey”. The aim of this session is expressed as follows: This session aims to explore the development of the Alevi community over time and investigates some of the unique elements that are central to Alevi worship practices. As can be seen in the schedule below, I attended the 11th ASMEA conference with the paper

on institutionalisation of Cemevis as a religious worship house in the cities. The scholars, who presented their papers on the first session, are as follows:

Dr. Reyhan Erdoğan Başaran, “Alid Cause or Shi’ite Resentment: A Comparative Approach to the Alevi Buyruk Texts”

Prof. Dr. Ali Yaman, “Cemevis: A Brief History of the Rebirth Process of a Religious Worship House.”

Prof. Dr. Harun Yıldız, “The Historical Roots of the Alevi Community and its Current Situation.”

As for the second session, held on November 3rd, 2018, under the title of “Critical Debates on Contemporary Alevi Identity”, its aim is expressed as follows: This session will cover the ongoing debate over the components of Alevi identity and the strategies employed by Alevi to preserve their traditions in the face of dynamic events in Turkey and the region.

The scholars, who presented their papers on the second session, are as follows:

Dr. Besim Can Zırh, Dr. Ceren Lord, “Remapping the Sectarian Map and the Alevi of Turkey in the Wake of the Syrian War”

Prof. Dr. Kıvanç Ulusoy, “Manipulative Deliberation in Turkey: Alevi’s Defective Political Engagement and Remedying Strategies”

Dr. Rıza Yıldırım, “Neither Orthodox, nor Heterodox: How to Conceptualize Alevi Religiosity?”

The papers, presented on both sessions, opened productive discussions. Numerous questions about history of Alevism and its current aspect were directed to scholars after their presentations. Discussing Alevism from different aspects in the form of a special workshop on such a distinguished scientific platform, is highly pleasing. The participants agree that the papers presented in this workshop should be published. This way the scientific community will have access to these scientific studies.

