

ASU Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies presents

Women and Local Pilgrimage in Iran: Insights from Letters to a Saint

Annual Lecture Series featuring

Dr. Anne Betteridge

Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies
The University of Arizona

Organized and moderated by Dr. Souad T. Ali, CAIS Founding Chair

Thursday, Sept 28, 2017
3:00 – 4:30 P.M.

LL 103

ASU Tempe Campus

Free & open to all ASU students, staff, faculty, & the public

Pilgrimage to local shrines has long been important to many women in Iran.

This presentation outlines the pattern of visits to local shrines in the city of Shiraz, discusses the role of women in local pilgrimage, and explores what it is that women seek in visiting shrines.

Insight into what women seek is drawn in part from letters sent to Shah Cheragh, an important local saint, in 1976.

The presentation concludes with remarks about the place of shrines in contemporary Iran.



An anthropologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Anne H. Betteridge is Director of the University of Arizona (UA) Center for Middle Eastern Studies and a faculty member in the UA School of Middle Eastern & North African Studies. She served as Executive Director of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) from 1990-2002. Her research interests focus on Iranian culture and society, and women and ritual in particular. Anne H. Betteridge is currently Co-Chair of the Council of National Resource Center Directors (CNRC); the CNRC includes 100 Title VI National Resource Centers in all world areas, funded by the US Department of Education. She was recently elected Vice-President of the American Institute for Iranian Studies. Anne H. Betteridge previously served on the Board of the American Council of Learned Societies; on the Academic Steering Committee of the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University; on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Persianate Studies; and chaired the National Council of Area Studies Associations.

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