

# Changing Paradigms Society, Democracy, and Theology in Contemporary Iran

A two-day conference

Day 1, Panel in English, Saturday, February 20, 2010, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Royce Hall 314 UCLA

Day 2, Panel in Persian, Sunday, February 21, 2010, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Royce Hall 314 UCLA

The unfolding events in Iran and the creation of a remarkable grass-roots movement that encompasses all social groups and includes people of all ages and educational backgrounds, have led many to seek new analysis on contemporary Iran. The processes that have rapidly engulfed almost the entire nation since the June 12, 2009, rigged election, have gained intensity and are defining a new socio-political paradigm for Iran. The implications of the events in Iran observed by millions in the new social media in addition to the traditional ones, reach beyond geographical borders of Iran. The triumph of the Green movement in Iran will have the potential of changing political systems in the entire Middle East, and may change the current culture of 'hate and death' to that of tolerance, democracy, rule of law, and equal opportunity for all in the pursuit of equality, justice, and happiness. What the Iranian people have accomplished so far by pouring into the streets to legally demonstrate for their constitutional upheld rights is huge. The very fact that they have continued to demonstrate in view of the harsh and brutal clampdowns by the Islamic Republic is in itself remarkable. The movement despite the draconian measures has not died out, and is a genuine, widespread, and spontaneous national upheaval resulting from the collective Iranian reaction to thirty years of lies and torture and mismanagement of the national wealth. Iranians are also fed up with the culture of death and the morbid ideology of martyrdom and killing. They desire essential and fundamental change.

The current movement in Iran must be analyzed in multiple ways, and one of the ways we can do this is to provide forums for free discussion and debate on current issues. The *Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Chair in Iranian Studies* is sponsoring the two-day conference.

## **Day 1, Panel in English**

Saturday, February 20, 2010

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Royce Hall 314 UCLA

Roger Cohen, New York Times: Search for a new Iranian Modernity

Ramin Jahanbegloo, University of Toronto: The Civic Movement and the Crisis of Theological Politics in Iran

## **Day 2, Panel in Persian**

Sunday, February 21, 2010

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Royce Hall 314 UCLA

Kazem Alamdari A Cultural Approach to the Current Democracy Movement in Iran

Shirin D. Daghighian: Relations Between Secularism and Democracy

Hasan Yousefi Eshkevari: Legitimacy and the Guardianship of The Jurist

Ramin Jahanbegloo: Theological Politics

Nayereh Tohidi: *Will MC the Panel*

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