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Bilingual Lecture Series on Iran

present

Imagining a Modern Iran and the Human Sciences



A Lecture by Ali Mirsepassi, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Director, Iranian Studies Initiative, New York University

Why the “human sciences” have become the target of a major government crackdown in Iran today. This talk will focus upon a specific intellectual shift in contemporary Iran. Today’s intellectual environment draw its vision of social change from the social sciences rather than philosophy, reflecting complex underlying conceptual and practical shifts since the long struggle for modernity and democracy that shaped the twentieth century. The terms of public discourse has shifted from the post-revolutionary worldview grounded in the Bazghash be khish (return to roots) and Gharbzadegi (Westoxication) to an open-ended pragmatic politics. Human sciences, in this context, embody ideas of azadi (liberty) and jam’eh-e madani (civil society).

Monday, April 27, 2015 | 2:00PM | 10383 Bunche Hall

***Lecture in English**

Ali Mirsepassi is professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Sociology and Director of the Iranian Studies Initiative at New York University. He is the author of *Islam, Democracy, and Cosmopolitanism* (Cambridge University Press, 2014); *Political Islam, Iran and Enlightenment* (Cambridge University Press, 2011); *Democracy in Modern Iran* (New York University Press, 2010); *Intellectual Discourses and Politics of Modernization: Negotiating Modernity in Iran* (Cambridge University Press, 2000); and *Truth or Democracy* (published in Iran); coeditor of *Localizing Knowledge in a Globalizing World* (Syracuse University Press, 2002); and guest editor of “Beyond the Boundaries of the Old Geographies: Natives, Citizens, Exiles, and Cosmopolitans” in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* (CSSAAME), spring 2005

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