

The Oneness of Being (*Waḥdat al-Wujūd*): Interpretation, Reception, and Implications

22 – 23 April 2024

DAY ONE

10:30 – 11:00	Registration
11:00 – 11:15	Welcome Remarks by Dr Zoheir Esmail
11:15 – 12:15	PANEL ONE: Interpreting <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> (Chair: Zoheir Esmail) Gregory Vandamme (University of Louvain) <i>Huwa-lā-Huwa</i> : the circle of being and the correlative ontology of Ibn ‘Arabī Muhammad Sami (University of Oxford) A Theological Translation of <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> : Rereading Jāmī’s <i>al-Durra al-Fākhira</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Tea/Coffee Break
12:30 – 13:30	PANEL TWO: <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> and Qur’ānic Exegesis (Chair: Wahid Amin) Halim Calis (Respect Graduate School) Reading Akbarī Scriptural Hermeneutics in Light of <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> Zoheir Esmail (Al-Mahdi Institute) Sayyid Ḥaydar Āmulī and the Oneness of Being in <i>al-Muḥīṭ al-A’ẓam</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch and Prayers
14:30 – 15:30	PANEL THREE: Integrating <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> (Chair: TBC) Joseph Lumbard (Hamad bin Khalifa University) <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> and the Path of the Wayfarer in Works of Ibn ‘Ajība Alireza Asghari (University of Leiden) A Safavid Philosopher’s Treatise on Oneness Uncovered: Lesser-Known Manuscripts on <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Tea/Coffee Break
15:45 – 16:45	PANEL FOUR: <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> in Shī‘ī Sufism (Chair: TBC) Seyed Amir Hossein Asghari (Baylor University) From Text to Transcendence: Exploring Khwāja Khurd’s <i>‘Risāla-yi Nūr-i Waḥdat’</i> and Its Influence on Shia Sufism Mina Khadem Alfoghara (Azad University) & Reza Tabandeh (Brock University) Muẓaffar ‘Alī Shāh: A Ni‘matullāhī Sufi Master, Shi’ite Philosopher and Akbarian Philosopher
16:45 – 18:00	Drinks & Dinner

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10:30 – 11:00	Registration
11:00 – 12:30	PANEL FIVE: Subcontinent Receptions of <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> (Chair: Lloyd Ridgeon) Sajjad Rizvi (University of Exeter) The Flowing Sands of Being in Mughal Poetry Shabbir Aga Abbas (University of Arizona) The Akbarian-Amulian School of North India Shazad Khan (University of Birmingham) Exploring Qāsim Nānotwī's Engagement with the Akbarian Tradition: Interpreting <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i>
12:30 – 12:45	Tea/Coffee Break
12:45 – 13:45	PANEL SIX: Shi'ī Critique of <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> (Chair: Haidar Hobballah) Ahab Bdaiwi (University of Leiden) The Imām vs the Sufi: Shi'ī Opposition to Sufism Amir Mohammad Emami (University of Exeter) God or the Light of Existence: Mīrzā Mahdī Ṣfahānī on the Unity of Existence (<i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i>)
13:45 – 15:15	Lunch and Prayers + Optional tour of AMI
15:15 – 16:15	PANEL SEVEN: More Criticisms of <i>Waḥdat al-Wujūd</i> (Chair: Joseph Lombard) Zacky Khairul Umam (Universitas Islam International Indonesia) Heretics and Sufi Theology of Tolerance Arif Abdulhussain (Al-Mahdi Institute) Ibn Arabian notion of the Unity of Being: its Incompatibility with the emanationist Notion of God and the Lack of Distinction between God and the World
16:15 – 16:30	Closing Remarks
16:30 – 18:00	Prayers and Dinner