

ABS Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BAHÁ'Í STUDIES—NORTH AMERICA

ABS 40th Annual Conference

August 11-14, 2016

Conference Statement and Call for Presentations

Since its establishment in 1975, the Association for Bahá'í Studies has served to foster the intellectual life of its members and of the Bahá'í community. The “power of intellectual investigation” is praised by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá as “an eternal gift producing fruits of unending delight.” He says, “It is the very foundation of all individual and national development.”¹ The Bahá'í teachings convey a vision of the future that calls for “profound change not only at the level of the individual but also in the structure of society.”² This concerted effort to transform society is intimately related to advances in thought: “Only as effort is made to draw on insights from His Revelation, to tap into the accumulating knowledge of the human race, to apply His teachings intelligently to the life of humanity, and to consult on the questions that arise will the necessary learning occur and capacity be developed.”³

This year we celebrate the 40th annual conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies. The annual conference has developed as one way in which the Association brings together a growing number of participants to explore the implications of the Bahá'í teachings for a variety of disciplines, professions

and fields of inquiry. Our common purpose is to develop our capacity to examine the ideas, concepts, and theories operating within the scholarly and professional disciplines, and to contribute to the development of a growing body of knowledge associated with Bahá'í thought.

With this purpose in mind, the conference will serve as a venue in which fresh approaches can be taken to generate and apply knowledge related to various disciplines and fields of study. Participants are invited to consider how they can play a role in working with others “to earnestly strive to reflect on the implications that the truths found in the Revelation may hold for their work.”⁴ Plenary sessions will help to raise our vision and frame our thinking, and breakout sessions create spaces where specialized presentations and discussion can proceed. Across these different settings participants will discover new ideas and begin to explore collaborative enterprises that will extend new lines of inquiry. We hope that the format and spirit of the conference will be conducive to participation so that all can see themselves as actively engaged in a vibrant, inclusive and uplifting process of learning.

1 *The Promulgation of Universal Peace: Talks Delivered by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá during His Visit to the United States and Canada in 1912* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1982), p. 50.

2 The Universal House of Justice, *Ridván Message 2010*.

3 The Universal House of Justice, *Ridván Message 2010*.

4 The Universal House of Justice, *Letter to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada*, 24 July 2013.

In this issue . . .

- 2 **Call for Presentations**
- 5 ***Journal of Bahá'í Studies***
- 6 **Schedule of Upcoming Webinars**
- 7 **Conference Registration Form**

Call for Breakout Session Proposals

The deadline for submission of proposals is 15 April 2016

Proposals must be submitted online at

<http://bahai-studies.ca/upcoming-conference-abs-conference-submission-form/>

The Association for Bahá'í Studies welcomes proposals for presentations in breakout sessions focusing on any subject of Bahá'í scholarship. We particularly wish to advance the Association's learning by inviting those which examine some aspect of the discourse in a particular field of study with reference to insights drawn from the Bahá'í teachings. The goal of the breakout sessions is to stimulate and promote intellectual inquiry across a broad range of themes. Proposals from all disciplines and professions are welcome, including the sciences, humanities, and fine arts. The format for breakout sessions lends itself to sharing works-in-progress as well as formal research findings. Breakout sessions are intended for the presentation and discussion of origi-

nal work, as distinct from practical workshops or facilitated discussions that can be found in other community gatherings. Presenters should be prepared to speak for 15-20 minutes, addressing a non-specialist audience with an interest in their field of study, and then respond to comments and questions from the audience afterwards for another 40-45 minutes.

Proposals may be submitted for a single paper (60-minute session), or for an entire panel of up to three people (90-minute session). They should be submitted online and include a very brief summary (up to 200 words) of the proposed presentation(s), accompanied by a 100-word abstract and 50-word bio that can be published in the conference program. Owing to practical constraints, the selection committee cannot accept all proposals. The selection committee will approve proposals on the basis of the following criteria: contribution to knowledge, suitability of the topic for the ABS conference, clarity of the proposal, overall variety of the program, and overall diversity of the presenters. Youth, young adults, and first-time presenters are particularly encouraged to apply.

Registration and Hotel Information

Conference registration and hotel information are available on the ABS website: www.bahai-studies.ca/UpcomingConference. For further inquiries, please contact the Association for Bahá'í Studies, 34 Copernicus St., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1N 7K4; tel.: 613-233-1903 or e-mail: <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca>.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the conference hotel, Le Centre Sheraton Montreal, 1201 Boulevard René-Lévesque O, Montréal, QC H3B 2L7. To book your room, please call the Reservations Department at 1-800-325-3535 and refer to the group name "Association for Bahá'í Studies Conference." You can also book online at: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?fid=1601073688&key=35EEC5C>

Room rates are CAD \$159.00 single/double (approx. USD \$115.00). There is an extra charge of CAD \$30 for the 3rd or 4th person sharing a room. There is no extra charge for children under 18 years of age sharing a room with parents. These rates are guaranteed only until Monday, July 11, 2016.



Montreal City Skyline (Courtesy Tourism Montreal)

The *ABS Bulletin* (ISSN 0840-6138) is published quarterly by the Association for Bahá'í Studies, a nonprofit scholarly organization with 1833 international individual memberships and 113 institutional memberships. The Association promotes scholarship on all aspects of the Bahá'í Faith; holds conferences and seminars on promising research fields; and publishes books, as well as the refereed *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*.

© 2014

Association for Bahá'í Studies
34 Copernicus Street
Ottawa, ON
Canada, K1N 7K4
Tel. 613-233-1903
Fax 613-233-3644
E-mail: abs-na@bahai-studies.ca
Web site: www.bahai-studies.ca

40^e Conférence annuelle de l'Association d'études bahá'íes

Du 11 au 14 août 2016

Thème de la conférence et appel de présentations

Depuis sa création en 1975, l'Association d'études bahá'íes a permis de développer la vie intellectuelle de ses membres ainsi que celle de la communauté bahá'íe. 'Abdu'l-Bahá a fait l'éloge du « pouvoir de la recherche intellectuelle » comme étant « un don éternel produisant des fruits aux délices infinis ». « C'est la base même de tout développement individuel et national¹, » dit-il. Les enseignements bahá'ís présentent une vision du futur qui appelle à « un changement profond, non seulement au niveau de l'individu, mais aussi dans la structure de la société »². Cet effort concerté en vue de la transformation de la société est étroitement lié aux progrès réalisés dans le domaine de la pensée : « Ce n'est qu'à mesure que des efforts sont faits pour tirer parti des perspectives offertes par la révélation de Bahá'u'lláh, pour accéder à la connaissance que la race humaine accumule, pour appliquer ses enseignements de façon intelligente à la vie de l'humanité, et pour se concentrer sur les questions qui sont soulevées, que l'apprentissage nécessaire sera réalisé et la capacité sera développée³. »

Cette année, nous célébrons la 40^e conférence annuelle de l'Association d'études bahá'íes. La conférence annuelle est devenue un moyen par lequel l'Association rassemble un nombre de plus en plus grand de participants pour examiner l'impact des enseignements bahá'ís sur différentes disciplines, professions et domaines de recherche. Notre but commun est de développer notre capacité à examiner les idées, les concepts et les théories qui interviennent dans les disciplines

intellectuelles et professionnelles, et de contribuer au développement d'un ensemble de connaissances associées à la pensée bahá'íe.

Dans cette perspective, la conférence servira de cadre à de nouvelles approches pour générer et mettre en application des connaissances liées à différentes disciplines et domaines d'étude. Les participants sont invités à considérer le rôle qu'ils peuvent jouer dans leur collaboration avec les autres, à « concentrer leurs efforts sur l'analyse de l'impact que les vérités trouvées dans la Révélation ont sur leur travail⁴. » Les séances plénières permettront d'élever notre vision et de structurer notre réflexion, et les séances en petits groupes constitueront des espaces destinés à des présentations et à une discussion spécialisées. Durant ces différentes séances, les participants découvriront de nouvelles idées et commenceront à explorer des projets de collaboration qui aboutiront à de nouveaux axes d'analyse. Nous espérons que le format et l'esprit de la conférence seront propices à une participation où chacun se trouvera engagé dans un vibrant et enrichissant processus d'acquisition du savoir, ouvert à tous.

¹ *The Promulgation of Universal Peace: Causeries prononcées par 'Abdu'l-Bahá pendant son voyage aux États-Unis et au Canada en 1912* (Wilmette: Bahá'í Publishing Trust 1982), p. 50

² La Maison universelle de justice, message du Ridván 2010

³ La Maison universelle de justice, message du Ridván 2010

⁴ La Maison universelle de justice, lettre à l'Assemblée spirituelle nationale des bahá'ís du Canada, 24 juillet 2013

Appel à propositions pour les séances en petits groupes

La date limite pour soumettre les propositions est le 15 avril 2016

Les propositions devront être soumises en ligne

<http://bahai-studies.ca/upcoming-conference-abs-conference-submission-form/>

L'Association d'études bahá'íes désire recevoir des propositions de communications destinées aux séances en petits groupes, sur n'importe quel sujet d'érudition bahá'íe. Nous désirons notamment développer le savoir de l'Association en invitant ceux qui examinent certains aspects du discours dans un domaine d'étude spécifique en se basant sur les idées tirées des enseignements bahá'ís. Le but des séances en petits groupes est de stimuler et de promouvoir le questionnement intellectuel par un large éventail de sujets. Les propositions provenant de toutes les disciplines et professions sont les bienvenues, y compris les sciences, les sciences humaines et les beaux-arts. Le format des séances en petits groupes se prête à la présentation des travaux, ceux en cours ainsi que les résultats officiels de recherche. Elles sont destinées à la présentation d'un travail original et à sa discussion, contrairement aux ateliers pratiques ou aux discussions encadrées par un animateur que l'on peut trouver dans d'autres rassemblements communautaires. Les conférenciers devront se préparer à parler pendant 15 à 20 minutes,

devant un public amateur, mais intéressé par leur domaine de recherche, et répondre ensuite pendant 40 à 45 minutes aux commentaires et aux questions du public.

On peut soumettre des propositions pour une communication unique (séance de 60 minutes), ou pour un panel ne dépassant pas 3 personnes (séance de 90 minutes). Elles devront être envoyées en ligne et comprendre un très bref résumé (pas plus de 200 mots) de la (des) communication(s) proposée(s), accompagné d'un condensé de 100 mots et d'une biographie de 50 mots destinés à être publiés dans le programme de la conférence. Pour des contraintes d'ordre pratique, le comité de sélection ne peut pas accepter toutes les propositions. Il acceptera les propositions sur la base des critères suivants : apport de connaissances, conformité du sujet à la conférence de l'AES, clarté de la proposition, diversité générale du programme et des conférenciers. Les adolescents, les jeunes et ceux qui n'ont encore jamais participé à la conférence sont particulièrement encouragés à soumettre une proposition.

Inscription et hébergement

Les informations pour l'inscription à la conférence et pour les réservations d'hôtel sont accessibles sur le site web de l'AEB : www.bahai-studies.ca/UpcomingConference.

Pour des informations supplémentaires, veuillez contacter l'Association d'études bahá'íes, 34 rue Copernicus, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1N 7K4; tél. : 613-233-1903 ou par courriel : abs-na@bahai-studies.ca.

Les réservations d'hôtel doivent être faites directement à l'hôtel de la conférence, Le Centre Sheraton de Montréal, 1201 Boulevard René Lévesque O., Montréal, QC H3B 2L7. Pour réserver votre chambre, appelez le service des réservations au 1-800-325-3535 et indiquez la référence « Conférence de l'Association d'études bahá'íes. » Vous pouvez aussi faire vos réservations en ligne à :

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1601073688&key=35EEC5C>

Le prix des chambres est en devise canadienne, 159 \$ CAN pour une chambre simple ou double (approximativement 115 \$ US). Un supplément de 30 \$ est demandé pour un 3^e ou un 4^e occupant. Il n'y a pas de supplément pour les enfants de moins de 18 ans qui occupent la chambre avec leurs parents. Ces prix sont garantis seulement jusqu'au lundi 11 juillet 2016. Après la date limite, les réservations seront faites en fonction de la disponibilité et au prix en vigueur au moment de la réservation. Les prix « spécial conférence » resteront en vigueur jusqu'à trois jours avant et après la conférence, selon la disponibilité.



ABS Conference Workshop Participants (Photo by Vik Voytek)

The Journal of Bahá'í Studies

The latest issue of *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies*, Vol. 25, no. 4 (forthcoming April 2016) includes the following articles:

Achieving Universal Participation of Older Adults: An Exploration of its Challenges and Spiritual Foundations
Catherine Bigonnesse and Jean Marc Bigonnesse

Depression: Biological, Psychosocial, and Spiritual Dimensions and Treatment
Abdu'l-Missagh Ghadirian

Spirituality in Medicine: Reflections of a Bahá'í Physician
Sharon N. Hatcher

Valleys, Mountains, and Teacher Preparation
Barbara Johnson

Poems:
Fadwa Says
J.C. Todd

One Month after Returning from China
Elinor Mattern

The ABS Online Book Review Repository has recently posted Michael Penn's review of *Toward a Socially Responsible Psychology for a Global Era* edited by Elena Mustakova-Possardt, Mikhail Lyubansky, Michael Basseches, and Julie Oxenberg, New York: Springer, 2014, xxi + 289 pages, including references and index. The book is available through Springer and at Amazon.com.

Publications of Interest to ABS Associates

Jewels of Allah: The Untold Story of Women in Iran by Nina Ansary (Lightning Source Inc., 2015)

The Triad: Three Civic Virtues That Could Save American Democracy by Brian Aull (2015)

Islam at the Crossroads by Lamah Fananapazir (George Ronald Publisher, 2015)

The Last Refuge: Fifty Years of the Universal House of Justice by Shahbaz Fatheazam, (Irfan Colloquia, 2015)

The Covenant and You by John Kolstoe (George Ronald Publisher, 2015)

Religious Difference in a Secular Age: A

Minority Report by Saba Mahmood (Princeton University Press, 2015)

The Bahá'ís of America: The Growth of a Religious Movement by Mike McMullen (NYU Press, 2015)

The Bahá'í Communities of Iran, 1851-1921 by Moojan Momen (George Ronald Publisher, 2015)

The Woman Who Read Too Much by Bahiyyih Nakhjavani (Redwood Press, 2015)

Shoghi Effendi through the Pilgrim's Eye: Volume 1 Building the Administrative Order, 1922-1952 by Earl Redman (George Ronald Publisher, 2015)

Champions of Oneness: Louis Gregory and His Shining Circle by Janet Ruhe-Schoen (Bahá'í Publishing, 2015)

Theory of Religious Cycles: Tradition, Modernity, and the Bahá'í Faith by Mikhail Sergeev, (Brill, 2015)

No Jim Crow Church: The Origins of South Carolina's Baha'i Community by Louis Venters (University Press of Florida, 2015)

Friendship, Fellowship and Transformation by Michael Winger (George Ronald Publisher, 2015)

Schedule of Upcoming ABS Webinars

The Association is continuing to schedule webinars to engage both ABS associates and the community at large in the study and discussion of scholarly topics. For the list of upcoming webinar sessions go to the ABS website at: <http://bahai-studies.ca/major-initiatives/webinars/>

Thursday, March 31, 2016 - 8:00 p.m. EST with Navid Sabet

Topic: Participating in Public Policy Discourses: Insights from the Revelation

Today, we live in an age of transition characterized by increasing social, political and economic instability. And as policy makers and academics attempt to offer solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, the models and paradigms that shape much of the discourse on public policy issues do not take into consideration the spiritual or moral dimensions of human existence. Accordingly, one may be led to question the value of participating in discourses aimed at informing policy decisions: after all, such discourses often rely on theories and models which are simplifications of the world around us and social reality is anything but simple. How, then, can the Revelation guide our participation in discourses where policy evolves? The goal of this webinar is to explore these questions by thinking in terms of the conceptual framework that guides the Bahá'í activity around the world.

Navid Sabet holds an MPA in Public and Economic Policy from the London School of Economics. Prior to his studies, he served for four years in the Office of Social and Economic Development at the Bahá'í World Centre.

Thursday, April 28, 2016 - 8:00 p.m. EST with Lawrence Miller

The Path to Spiritual Economy and Spiritual Enterprise

The relationship between money or financial/material assets and the size and success of a business is not what it used to be. Other forms of "cultural capital" are now considered more important than money. Businesses that prosper in the future will master the skills of employing and growing cultural capital which is comprised of spiritual, social, and human assets. In this presentation, Mr. Miller will explain how we are moving away from an economy based on materialism, toward one based on the development of spiritual, social and human capital. Your personal success will be determined by your own development of these assets.

Lawrence Miller has been consulting with major corporations on their culture and leadership with emphasis on developing team based, highly participative, organizations for the past forty years. He is the author of ten books on leadership and management, including *Spiritual Enterprise: Building Your Business in the Spirit of Service*, published by George Ronald. His website is ManagementMeditations.com.

**To listen to recordings of past webinars, go to:
<http://bahai-studies.ca/major-initiatives/webinars/>**

39th ABS Conference Audio and Video Recordings Available

The audio CD (MP3 format) of all the plenary talks are available for purchase for \$20.00. You can order the CDs at our online store at <http://bahai-studies.ca/product/cd-2015-abs-conference-all-plenary-sessions/>

Video recordings of the 39th annual conference as well as some past conferences are also available for free viewing or download on the ABS Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/absna>.

ASSOCIATION FOR BAHÁ'Í STUDIES

40th Annual Conference, 11–14 August, 2016
Le Centre Sheraton, Montreal, Canada

Please register for EACH person attending the conference by *fax*: 1-613-233-3644, by *phone*: 1-613-233-1903, *online* at <http://www.bahai-studies.ca> or by *mail*: 34 Copernicus Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N 7K4.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____

Country _____ Postal/ZIP Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

If this registrant is a child, please indicate age _____ Do you have any special needs? _____

Please circle one fee.

		Full Conference Fee (4 days)		One-Day Fee
		Associates	Non-Assoc.	All categories
Individual Adults	By May 31	\$100	\$170*	\$50**
	By July 31	\$110	\$180*	\$50**
	After July 31	\$120	\$190*	\$50**
Seniors (65+)	By May 31	\$80	\$120*	\$40**
Students (15+)	By July 31	\$90	\$130*	\$40**
	After July 31	\$100	\$140*	\$40**
Children (ages 5–14) <u>must</u> be registered by July 31		\$70		\$35
Family discount		20% off total registration fee***		

← ALL CONFERENCE FEES ARE IN CANADIAN DOLLARS

*This fee includes a 1-year membership in the Association, including a year's subscription to *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies* and ABS Bulletin, and discounts on ABS publications. US and International memberships are charged at the US currency rate.

**This fee does not include membership.

***Parents and dependent children living at the same address (minimum 3 registrants)

Total Fees: _____

Scholarship Contribution: _____

International Membership S&H † _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

Method of Payment

- Cheque Money Order Discovery
 VISA MasterCard American Express

† Non-associates residing outside North America, please add \$30 for shipping.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Registration fees are refundable, less 10% administrative fees if the Association is notified by July 31, and less 20% administrative fees if notified after July 31.

Registrants from outside Canada, please note: fees paid by credit card are processed in Canada. Some credit card companies apply a service charge for transactions taking place in another Country.

Credit Card Number

Credit Card Expiration Date

Cardholder's Name (please print clearly)

Cardholder's Signature

HOTEL AND RESERVATIONS

Le Centre Sheraton

1201 Boulevard Rene-Levesque West,
Montreal, QC, Canada
Tel: (514) 878-2000

Single/double occupancy —
 CDN \$159 per night (plus tax)
Each additional occupant —
 CDN \$30 per night (plus tax)
Maximum occupancy: 4 persons per room.



Toll-free reservations: 1-800-325-3535

Online booking:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1601073688&key=35EEC5C>

Conference attendees must make hotel reservations directly with the hotel. To receive the special rate ask for the Association for Bahá'í Studies special conference rate when making your reservation.



PLEASE NOTE: these rates are guaranteed **only until the room-block is filled or until July 11, 2016, whichever comes first.** Reservations made after the cut-off dates will be based on availability at the Hotel's prevailing rates. **The conference rates are extended to three days before and three days after the conference dates.**

Detailed information regarding program, directions, public transportation, restaurants and fast food options, and meeting rooms layout can be found on our website:

bahai-studies.ca/upcomingconference