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Human Sciences

McBryde Hall - Room 100
Friday, September 23
3:00 pm



Secularism

&

the World of Islam



Dr. Abdulkarim Soroush

Dr. Abdolkarim Soroush is a leading Iranian philosopher and reformist thinker. He taught at Tehran University and the Iranian Academy of Philosophy, and published on a variety of topics, including the philosophy of science, political philosophy, Sufism, and modern Islamic theology. Since 2000 he has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard and Princeton Universities, teaching courses in Islam and Democracy, Quranic Studies, Islamic Political Philosophy, and the Philosophy of Islamic Law. Dr. Soroush is also a scholar in residence at Yale University.

Dr. Soroush's main contribution to Islamic theology includes a sharp distinction between religion as divine revelation and religion as interpretation of scriptures which is shaped by socio-political factors. In 2004 Dr. Soroush was awarded, along with Sadik al-Azm and Fatema Mernissi, the prestigious Erasmus Prize for his important contributions to the debate on religion and modernity. In 2005 he was selected by the Time Magazine among 100 influential people. His publications in English include *Reason, Freedom, and Democracy in Islam* (2000) and *The Expansion of Prophetic Experience* (2009).

