Please Join Us for the Seventh Annual Victor Danner Memorial Lecture

“Circumscribing the Sacred: The Limits of the Law in Eighteenth Century Islamic Traditions of Reform”

Presented by:
Professor Ahmad Dallal
Georgetown University

7:30 p.m.
March 25th, 2009
University Club, IMU

Reception to follow

In a forthcoming book on traditions of reform in the eighteenth century, Professor Dallal offers a revision of both traditional historiography of the Muslim World in the eighteenth century and of the more recent attempts to revisit this historiography. In this lecture, he will further explore this theme through the prism of eighteenth-century Islamic legal theory. Whether through a deliberate and conscious reconfiguring of choice juristic symbols and idioms, or through an academic attempt to order and classify the cumulative outcomes of a gradually emerging legal tradition, the legal writings of eighteenth-century reformers were also historical writings that reflected on the historical contexts in which the law was articulated, and commented on the social and political crises of their times. As such, the legal writings of eighteenth-century reformers were sites in which traditional notions of authority were assessed, contested and restructured.