

# Western Indian Ocean Studies

Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs



## **Rāhe Najāt (The Path of Salvation)** **Religious and Social Dynamics Amongst** **Mercantile Communities of the Western Indian Ocean**

Friday, November 13, 2015 | 4 PM - 5 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | GL 220

This all-day workshop will explore religious and social transformations that occurred as a result of migration and cosmopolitanism, such as transformative cosmologies and transnational endowments. It attempts to transcend the transatlantic divide among scholars of medieval and modern trading communities of the west coast of the Subcontinent. For example, early modern Sindh and Baluchistan were home to a diverse array of religious communities from Ibādī Omanis to vāṇiyō Jain and Hindu merchants as well as numerous mercantile caste communities, such as the Khōjā and Bhāṭiyā. These South Asian communities were intimately linked to their settlements throughout the western Indian Ocean, particularly East Africa. This conference will explore how processes of migration transformed social dynamics and communitarian identities.

Co-sponsored by the **Department of Religious Studies, American Institute of Pakistan Studies, The World Federation, The Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Foundation, The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Miami, Jain Studies Program, African and African Diaspora Studies Program, and Center for the Humanities in an Urban Environment.**

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-348-7266.