

THE CENTRE FOR ARAB & ISLAMIC STUDIES  
(THE MIDDLE EAST & CENTRAL ASIA) PRESENTS:



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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# IRAN: AN ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT IN CRISIS?

Amin Saikal

Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies



Wednesday 22 July 2009, 5.30–6.30pm

Coombs Lecture Theatre, HC Coombs Building 8a, Fellows Road  
The Australian National University

This lecture is free and open to the public  
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## The Lecture

The Islamic government of oil-rich Iran is faced with its worst crisis since the Iranian revolution that toppled the Shah's pro-Western monarchy and replaced it with an Islamic regime thirty years ago. While it has the capacity to survive the crisis, it may find itself weakened to the extent that it may not be able to cope effectively with mounting domestic problems and foreign policy pressures. Not only is the Iranian population bitterly polarised, but a serious split has also developed within the ruling clerical elite. If the Iranian leadership fails to accommodate an Islamist path of reform and inclusion, it could seriously imperil the survival of the current regime in the long run.

This lecture seeks to discuss the roots of the political upheaval confronting the Iranian government and to assess its future direction.

## The Lecturer

Amin Saikal is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia) at the Australian National University.

Professor Saikal was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University, Cambridge University and the Institute of Development Studies (University of Sussex), as well as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in International Relations (1983–1988). In April 2006, he was appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to the international community and to education, and as an author and adviser. He is the author of numerous works on the Middle East, Central Asia, and Russia, including *The Rise and Fall of the Shah: Iran – From Autocracy to Religious Rule*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009); *Modern Afghanistan: A History of Struggle and Survival*: (London, I.B. Tauris, 2004); *Islam and the West: Conflict or Co-operation?* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003); co-editor, *Democratization in the Middle East: Experiences, Struggles, Challenges* (New York: United Nations University Press, 2003); co-editor, *Islamic Perspectives on the New Millennium*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2004. Professor Saikal has also published numerous articles in international journals, as well as many feature articles in major international newspapers, including the *International Herald Tribune* and *The New York Times*. He is also a frequent commentator on radio and television.

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