

[Webinar - "Baraka Bodies: Presence, Absence, and Object Agency in South Asian Shi'i Materiality" \(NYU Silsila\) - October 12](#)

Discussion published by Ashley Dimmig on Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Submitted by Barry Flood:

New York University, *Silsila*: Center for Material Histories

"BARAKA BODIES: PRESENCE, ABSENCE, AND OBJECT AGENCY IN SOUTH ASIAN SHI'I MATERIALITY"

[Silsila Fall 2022 Series]

Karen Ruffle, University of Toronto

Wednesday, October 12th, 12:30pm EDT

[Webinar] *Silsila* Fall 2022 Lecture Series, *Body and Senses*

Shi'i image-objects capable of engaging in the production of acts such as *ta'ziyas* (replicas of Imam Husain's shrine-tomb in Karbala), *'alams* (metal standards representing the Imams or family of the Prophet Muhammad, the Ahl-e Bait), *tabuts* (coffin replicas), *jhulas* (the cradle of Husain's infant son 'Ali Asghar), and Husain's battle horse Zuljanah are visual images that stimulate acts of religious seeing for South Asian Shi'a, making present the absent Imams and Ahl-e Bait.

As forms of Shi'i materiality, image-objects such as the *ta'ziya* and *'alam*, are focal objects that promote reciprocal visual exchange, creating cultural memory and social interaction. Through acts of reciprocal gazing, the image-object is transformed from object to subject, endowed with agency to work miracles, to intercede for devotees, and to hear devotees' prayers.

Full details of the event and a link to register as an attendee can be found at:

<https://as.nyu.edu/silsila/events/2022-2023/baraka-bodies--presence--absence--and-object-agency-in-south-asi.html>

Only registered attendees will be able to access this event.

Citation: Ashley Dimmig. *Webinar - "Baraka Bodies: Presence, Absence, and Object Agency in South Asian Shi'i Materiality" (NYU Silsila) - October 12*. H-Islamart. 10-05-2022.

<https://networks.h-net.org/node/7636/discussions/11151098/webinar-%E2%80%93-baraka-bodies-presence-absence-and-object-agency-south>

Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License.