



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON  
**OSTROM WORKSHOP**

## TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES

# Roundtable on *Hidden Liberalism: Burdened Visions of Progress in Modern Iran*



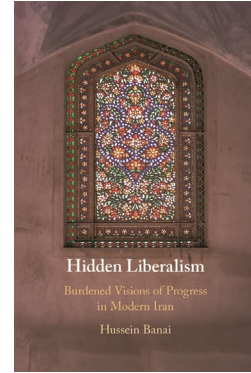
**Huss Banai,**  
*Indiana University*



**Loubna El-Amine,**  
*Northwestern University*



**Rahul Sagar,**  
*NYU-Abu Dhabi*



**Moderator: Professor Aurelian Craiutu,** *Department of Political Science, Indiana University*

Friday, March 19, 2021: 12:00 – 1:30 pm ET

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)

Compared to rival ideologies, liberalism has fared rather poorly in modern Iran. This is all the more remarkable given the essentially liberal substance of various social and political struggles – for liberal legality, individual rights and freedoms, and pluralism – in the century-long period since the demise of the Qajar dynasty and the subsequent transformation of the country into a modern nation-state. The deeply felt but largely invisible purchase of liberal political ideas in Iran challenges us to think more expansively about the trajectory of various intellectual developments since the emergence of a movement for reform and constitutionalism in the late nineteenth century. It complicates parsimonious accounts of Shi'ism, secularism, socialism, nationalism, and royalism as defining or representative ideologies of particular eras. *Hidden Liberalism* offers a critical examination of the reasons behind liberalism's invisible yet influential status, and its attendant ethical quandaries, in Iranian political and intellectual discourses.

Ostrom Workshop  
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*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Ostrom workshop presentations will be virtual until further notice. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu))*