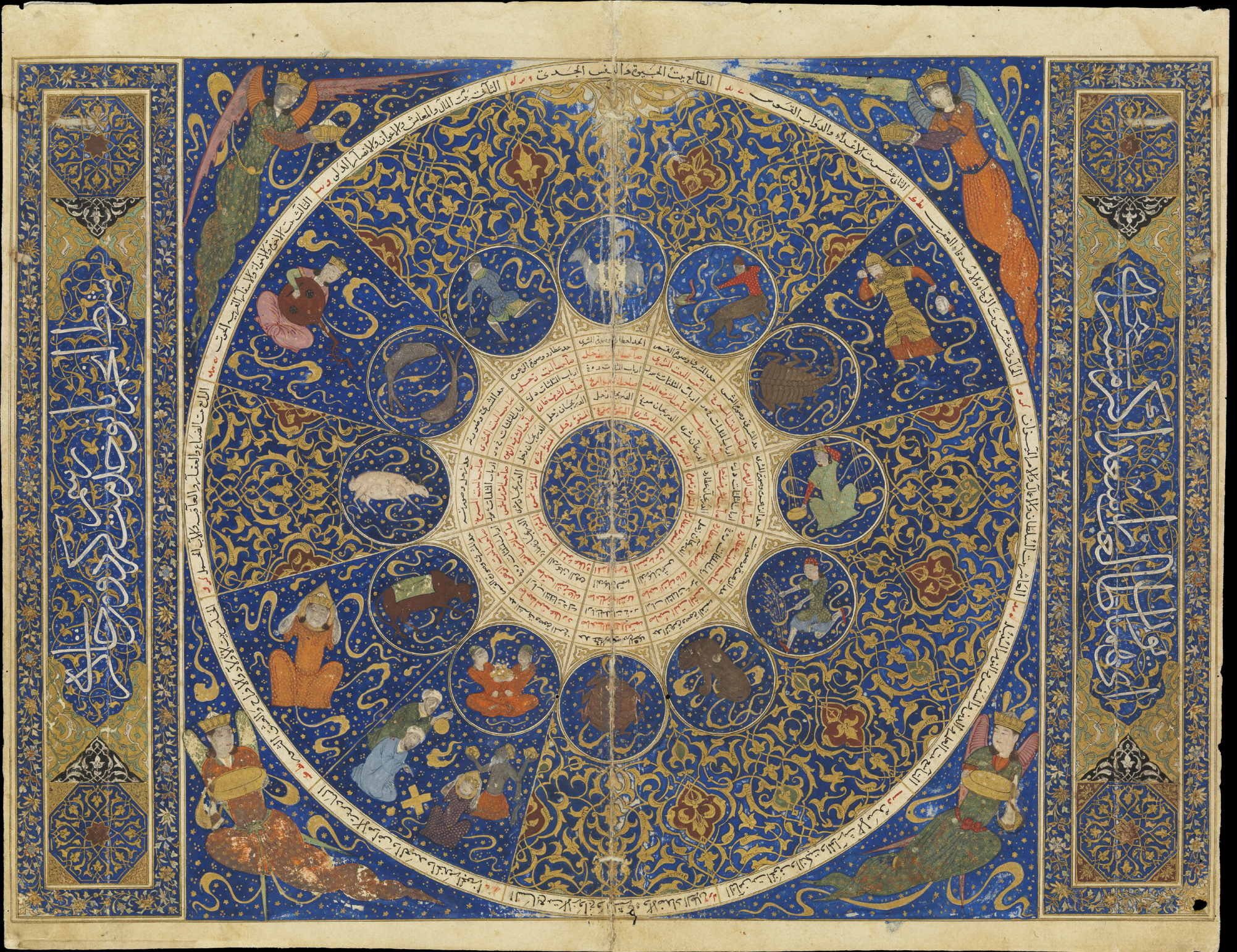


THE RENAISSANCE STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENT:



Sovereignty as a Work of Art

THE DEBATES ON POLITICAL AUTHORITY IN FIFTEENTH-CENTURY IRAN & CENTRAL ASIA

Recent debates on the concept of sovereignty in the early modern period have reminded us of the importance of politics and constitutional ideas for changes in intellectual and cultural life. In the Islamic context of fifteenth century Iran and Central Asia, intellectual life was clustered around certain regions with strong urban cultural centers, such as Herat, Shiraz, or Khwarazm, and they were connected to each other by strong informal and formal intellectual networks. The intellectual activity in these regional centers was supported by the corporate dynastic politics and the appanage system of the Timurid polity.

In this lecture, **EVRIM BINBAŞ** (Universität Bonn) will contribute to the ongoing debates on sovereignty by focusing on the competing ideas of sovereignty and different constitutional principles that emerged from this very process of competition of the regional centers and appanages. He will show how these ideas were integral to the development of a vibrant Timurid intellectual and cultural life. Timurid intellectuals formulated novel approaches to sovereignty by combining various strains of intellectual thought and practice. This paper will argue that interregional competition, far from being the product of dynastic power struggles between competing appanage holders, was indeed a reflection of competing notions of sovereignty expressed in the language of contractualism and eschatological absolutism, among other constitutional paradigms.

This is the first talk in the “OTHER RENAISSANCES” lecture series. The talk will be followed by a roundtable featuring IU’s **PAUL LOSENSKY** (Comparative Literature), **WINNIFRED FALLERS SULLIVAN** (Religious Studies), and **ANDREW ARCHEY** (History).

Thursday, February 28, 2019, 4PM

THE DOGWOOD ROOM · INDIANA MEMORIAL UNION

Evrin Binbaş’s visit is made possible through the support of the College Arts and Humanities Institute, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Islamic Studies Program, the Sinor Research Institute, the Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies, and the Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center. A reception will follow.