

Middle East Studies Lecture  
Fall 2008

# Islam and the Modern World

**Akbar S. Ahmed**

Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, American University in Washington, D.C.

**Thursday, 6 November**

**3:00 P.M.**

**238 HRCB**



Akbar S. Ahmed is Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at the American University in Washington, D.C., and in September 2008, he also was appointed the first Distinguished Chair for Middle East/Islamic Studies at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Ahmed is currently on sabbatical conducting a study of American society through the experiences of the Muslim community. He is touring the U.S. with his American assistants, and their journey with accompanying film footage may be seen on <http://journeyintoamerica.wordpress.com>. Ahmed previously served as the high commissioner of Pakistan to Great Britain and has advised Prince Charles and met with President George W. Bush on Islam. His numerous books, films, and documentaries have won awards, and his books have been translated into many languages, including Chinese and Indonesian. According to the BBC, Ahmed is “the world’s leading authority on contemporary Islam.” He received a bachelor’s degree in social sciences from Birmingham University, an MA in education from Cambridge University, and a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University.