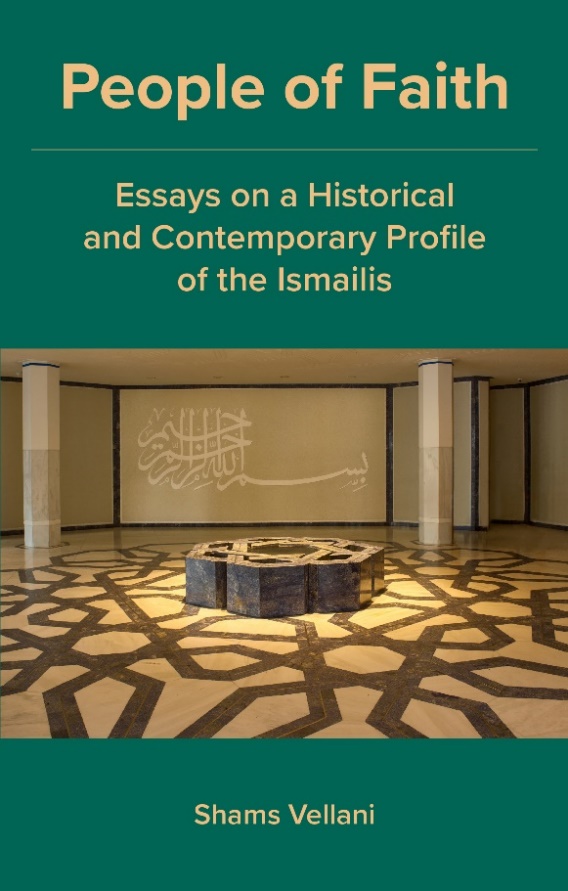
06 September 2020   
16:00 BST

**Author and book talk**. Join author Mr Shams Vellani in conversation with Dr Wafi Momin in what promises to be a lively, timely and insightful exploration of his recent publication ***People of Faith – Essays on a Historical and Contemporary Profile of the Ismailis***.

This collection of essays seek to illustrate how Shi‛a Ismaili Muslims unite their spiritual traditions with the demands of living in the modern world according to the ethics of Islam. The author imparts good sense on topics including an overview of Shi‛i Islam, a profile of the Ismaili Jamat and models for contemporary living. Under the guidance of the hereditary Imam of the Time, Aga Khan IV, the Jamat embraces a rich diversity of traditions which collectively strive towards the betterment of self and society. These clearly written essays highlight the crucial Ismaili traditions of philanthropy, voluntary service and self-reliance, while touching on the activities and achievements of the institutions of the Ismaili Imamat.

The book also quotes a plethora of beautiful Qur'anic verses and ḥadīths and will be of great interest and use to scholars, students as well as general readers, as a demonstration as to how the majestic sayings of the Prophet (*pbuh*) can be used to give meaning and depth to our life in these modern times.

As a highly respected and veteran Jamati leader, who has also worked at the Institute of Ismaili Studies for over 40 years, Shams Vellani offers a unique perspective on the faith. Readers will benefit from the careful observations and keen insights shared by the author from a lifetime of service in the Ismaili community.

*Author Bio*

**Shams G. Vellani**

Shams qualified as a teacher in Kenya and taught for just under five years in Tanzania, the last two as a principal of an Aga Khan School. He then graduated from the London School of Economics and returned to Tanzania to work in the development field. Later, he took up a two year appointment at Oxford University for research into development issues, followed by a spell in Vancouver, Canada, at the Industrial Development Bank, a subsidiary of the Bank of Canada. He then joined an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network there (invited to help start a business loan guarantee and information programme), moving to London to help in the establishment of The Institute of Ismaili Studies, which he headed up in the early years. Currently, Shams directs special studies at the Institute, including those which have a bearing on the interface between Islam and society, and also contributes similarly within the Aga Khan Development Network.

*Moderator Bio*

**Dr. Wafi Momin**

Wafi Momin is Head of Ismaili Special Collections Unit at the Institute of Ismaili Studies, and in this role he has the overall responsibility for the Institute’s special collections, their development, preservation, as well as conceptualising and overseeing research projects and educational activities pertaining to these collections. He holds a doctorate in South Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago. His doctoral dissertation examined the formation of the Satpanth Ismaili tradition in South Asia.