

In addition to all of the informative plenary addresses, this year's Annual Meeting features quite a few sessions highlighting special invited guests. Specific session information will be available in the *Program Planner*, the online *Program Book*, and the October *RSN*. Below you will find information on our special invited guests.



**Abdul Karim Soroush** is an Iranian thinker, philosopher, reformer, Rumi scholar, and former professor at the University of Tehran. He is a well-known figure in the religious intellectual movement in Iran. After the Revolution, Soroush returned to Iran and published his book *Knowledge and Value*

— the writing of which he had completed in England. He then went to Tehran's Teacher Training College, where he was appointed director of the newly established Islamic Culture Group. While in Tehran, Soroush established studies in both history and the philosophy of science. During the 1990s, Soroush gradually became more critical of the political role played by the Iranian clergy. The monthly magazine that he cofounded,

*Kiyan*

, soon became the most visible forum ever for religious intellectualism. In this magazine, he published his most controversial articles on religious pluralism, hermeneutics, tolerance, and clericalism. The government clamped down on the

*Kiyan*

staff in 1998 — as well as many other magazines and newspapers — by the direct order of the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic. Over the next year, Soroush lost his three senior academic appointments, including a deanship. He was forbidden from making public appearances and from publishing new articles. Since 2000, Soroush has lived in the United States and Europe and has taught at Harvard University, Princeton University, and Georgetown University.



