



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

(International) in the United Kingdom

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



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Aga Khan University



Chartered in 1983, Aga Khan University promotes human welfare through research, teaching and community service initiatives. Private, autonomous and not-for-profit, the university has campuses and teaching sites in Afghanistan, Kenya, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

The University is one of eleven agencies comprising the Aga Khan Development Network, working in over twenty countries, with mandates that include:

Developing /Supporting

High quality services for health and education

Microfinance activities

Sustainable rural development

Private sector enterprise

Providing

Emergency relief and disaster reduction

Promoting

Excellence in architecture

The cultural revitalisation of communities

“

Knowledge gaps so often run the risk of becoming empathy gaps. The struggle to remain empathetically open to the Other in a diversifying world is a continuing struggle of central importance for all of us.”

His Highness the Aga Khan, Chancellor,
Aga Khan University, 10 March 2014

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

The University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (ISMC) seeks to provide a multifaceted approach to the study of Muslim cultures utilising the humanities and social sciences. The Institute examines the huge diversity and broad range of contexts that shape Muslim societies today.

Research at ISMC concentrates on three interconnected themes critical to all contemporary societies, particularly those themes that remain relatively unexplored within Muslim environments.



The Construction of Knowledge about Muslim Societies and Cultures

Building on contemporary work in the sociology of knowledge, historiography, education theory and other fields, the Institute seeks to examine the ways that knowledge about Muslim cultures and societies is created, negotiated and legitimised. The diverse effects of this knowledge in social, political and educational realms are also explored.

Understanding the Processes of Change in Muslim Societies and Cultures

The Institute addresses questions pertaining to processes of change and new forms of socio-economic, political and cultural practices in Muslim-majority societies, as well as in Western countries with Muslim populations.

Governance in Muslim Contexts

ISMC's governance initiative aims to address the deeply rooted religious and cultural sensitivities prevalent in matters of governance, an area in which Muslim societies face significant challenges today. By making outputs accessible to wider audiences, the project is committed to encouraging healthy and informed debate among scholars and the public alike.

Publications at ISMC

Muslim societies have become the focus of more international attention than ever before; however, their representation on the world stage has been greatly distorted by the spotlight on violence, extremism and hero/anti-hero politics. The contemporary thinking of Muslims, their intellectual debates and discussions, their dynamic process of intense self-scrutiny and self-renewal and the vibrancy of their cultural expressions are very seldom given voice in this global debate.

ISMC is primarily an educational institution that engages in original academic research. It also functions as a hub for intellectual exchange and dialogue about and between Muslim societies and cultures. The Institute's mandate, implemented in part by its publications programme, is unique in its attempt to respond to current trends of thought about Islam, Muslims and Muslim societies. Its publications seek to have a finger on the pulse of the ways that knowledge is produced in contemporary Muslim societies and cultures.

By publishing in different languages and media, the Institute hopes to broaden the debates within Muslim societies by producing works that contribute to a new consciousness among Muslims at large, and new attitudes towards the issues faced by contemporary societies in an increasingly globalising world.

Publications meet an important objective of the Institute by creating access to scholarship from Muslim societies in the English language and on a global platform. They are a testament to the dynamism of scholarship, the critical reassessment of heritages and histories, the rapidly accelerating impetus towards social change and globalisation, and the urgent upheavals around notions of governance and civil life that are taking place in Muslim communities today.

ISMC publications are an effective vehicle for deepening the understanding of Muslim societies.

Series



In Translation: Modern Muslim Thinkers

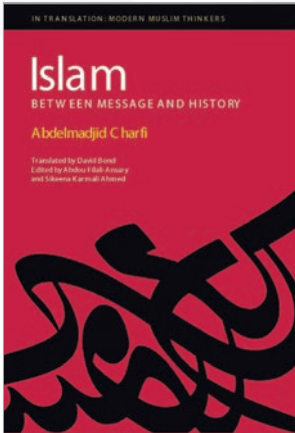
Series Editor: Abdou Filali-Ansary

The remarkable scope of modern scholarship in the Muslim world spans a multitude of languages: not just Arabic and Persian, but also Indonesian, Bengali, Swahili, Russian, Turkish and Urdu for example.

Muslims, who seek new ways of thinking about social, political, and economic conflicts, often lack access to the works of academics or scholars. By translating and making available in English important contributions to the contemporary debates of the Muslim world, this series hopes to encourage greater dialogue and understanding among Muslim and non-Muslim thinkers.

In Translation: Modern Muslim Thinkers aims to broaden the current debate around Muslim civilisations. Although global in scope, academic and media conversations about Muslims often overlook works of new and original thinking produced in non-European languages. This series aims to identify and translate some of these works, which have engendered important debates within their own indigenous settings, thereby introducing them into the domain of the larger discussion about Muslim civilisations taking place on the world stage.

The texts chosen for the series represent some of the most important, new, and cutting edge thinking from the Muslim world over the past century (1900–2013). Their relevance is universal, addressing salient questions, such as how to live peacefully among divergent cultures and systems of belief, or the impact of religion in the modern world – issues that cut across civilisations and are equally important for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Many of these books and essays are written by specialists, based on a lifetime of scholarship, and are intended for the readership of the general thinking public. They bring their expertise to the treatment of some of the essential questions of our times.



This book could easily be called 'A Guide for the Modern Muslim'; someone for whom the sentiments of his or her ancestors resonate but who cannot accept the canonised formulas of a prescriptive education. Charfi spells out what for him is the essential message of Islam, followed by a history of its unfolding through the person of the Prophet Muhammad, whom he perceives as a visionary seeking to change the ideals, attitudes and behaviours of the society in which he lived. The message and its history are delineated as two separate elements, conflated by tradition.

Charfi confronts with great lucidity the difficult questions with which Muslims are struggling, attempting to reconsider them from a moral and political perspective independent of the frameworks produced by tradition.

Volume 1

Islam: Between Message and History

Author: Abdelmadjid Charfi
Translated by David Bond
Edited by Abdou Filali-Ansary & Sikeena Karmali Ahmed

ISBN: 978 0 7486 3967 0
Price: £70.00

Publication date: 2009

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

“

The core beliefs and initial message of all religions tend to undergo a process of organisation and institutionalisation, and Islam was no exception in this respect. The basic principles of the message of Islam could not take form in the setting of the history of the first/seventh century without undergoing a similar process...”

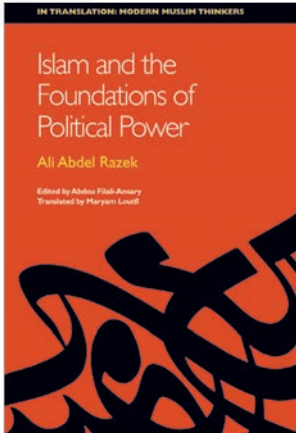
Abdelmadjid Charfi, University of Tunis, Tunisia

“

Charfi's enquiry covers the whole of the Islamic tradition, promoting deeper understanding and attitudes conducive to personal lucidity and responsibility, in harmony with contemporary values.”

Moncef Ben Abdeljelil, University of Sousse, Tunisia

Abdelmadjid Charfi is Professor Emeritus of Arab Civilisation and Islamic Thought at the University of Tunis and is also Director of the collection Ma'alim al Hadatha.



Volume 2 Islam and the Foundations of Political Power

Author: Ali Abdel Razek

Translated by Maryam Loutfi

Edited by Abdou Filali-Ansary

ISBN: 978 0 7486 3978 6 (HB)

Price: £50.00

ISBN: 978 0 7486 8983 5 (PB)

Price: £19.99

Publication date:

2012 and 2013

Co-publisher:

Edinburgh University Press

The publication of this essay in Egypt in 1925 took the contemporaries of Ali Abdel Razek by storm. Challenging fundamental ideas about political power, it gave rise to a series of 'refutations' and unleashed the Arab world's first great public debate with polemics published all over the press.

At a time when there was widespread turmoil over the abolition of the caliphate by Ataturk in Turkey, which had reignited the question of Islam and its relationship to political power, Ali Abdel Razek argued in favour of secularism. His arguments are most concisely expressed in his own formula, *risala la hukm, wa-din la dawla* ('[Islam is] a message, not government; religion, not a state').

Translated into English for the first time, the essay's historical and continuing significance is expounded in a 17-page introduction which draws particular attention to the importance of the author as representing a liberal-modernist current of modern Islamic thought often overlooked by readers in the West.

“

It is somewhat astonishing that Ali Abdel Razek's *al-Islam wa-usul al-hukm*, one of the most significant books of early twentieth-century Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic intellectual history, should have gone so long without a translation into English. [...] This is, then, a valuable contribution to scholarship.”

James McDougall, Trinity College, University Oxford

“

There could not be a more propitious time for this translation that – almost a century after its publication – raises issues still relevant to the governance of Muslim societies and authority.”

Azim Nanji, Stanford University

Ali Abdel Razek (1888–1966) was born in Egypt and graduated from Al-Azhar University as an 'alim (cleric) in 1915 and later became a judge (qadi) in the traditional Islamic courts of Alexandria.



Exploring Muslim Contexts

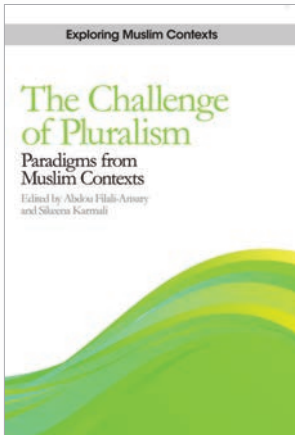
Series Editor: Farouk Topan

Rapid political, demographic, technological and cultural transformations are shaping the power relations, self-perceptions and religious sensibilities of many Muslim societies today. The Exploring Muslim Contexts (EMC) series examines the processes and forces that drive these changes both in Muslim majority societies and Western countries with Muslim populations. While the focus of research will be on Muslim contexts, it is obvious that no such undertaking is possible without taking into account change at the global level. Muslim cultures and societies are integrally linked to and embedded in the processes and impacts of globalisation and transnational exchanges.

The contemporary social sciences and humanities provide sound intellectual tools to study the ways in which Muslim populations participate in and engage with local and global transformations. The EMC series addresses questions pertaining to social change, development and new forms of socio-economic, political and cultural practices and differentiations in Muslims contexts.

This multitiered, interdisciplinary approach concentrates on the production, negotiation and expressions of social, political, and religious forms and practices, in relation to the processes of change in Muslim cultures and societies.





This volume discusses the notion of pluralism and its specific relevance to Muslim societies. Current popular and academic discussions tend to make certain assumptions regarding Islam and its lack of compatibility with notions of pluralism. Some notable liberal thinkers have even argued that pluralism itself is inherently antithetical to Islam.

Volume 1 of the Exploring Muslim Contexts series challenges these assumptions by bringing clarity to some key suppositions and conjectures. Eight eminent scholars from around the world explore notions of pluralism. They discuss the broad spectrum of its relevance and application to modern day societies, examining secularism, multiculturalism, democracy, globalisation and the pivotal role of civil society.



Pluralism has very quickly joined the group of major notions discussed by various thinkers interested in issues related to norms of political and social life, such as liberty, sovereignty and toleration... Even by discussing a concept like pluralism, we have already moved away from the idea that what is true or good can be defined and expressed in a single 'orthodox' way."

Abdou Filali-Ansary, ISMC

Volume 1
The Challenge
of Pluralism:
Paradigms from
Muslim Contexts

Edited by Abdou Filali-Ansary
& Sikeena Karmali Ahmed

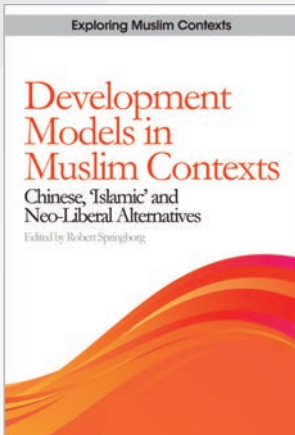
ISBN: 978 0 7486 3969 4

Price: £70.00

Publication date: 2009

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

Abdou Filali-Ansary is the founding Director of ISMC; Sikeena Karmali Ahmed is a former Manager of Publications at ISMC.



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Volume 2
Development Models
in Muslim Contexts:
Chinese, 'Islamic' and
Neo-liberal Alternatives

Edited by Robert Springborg

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ISBN: 978 0 7486 3968 7

Price: £80.00

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Publication date: 2009

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Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

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Recent discussions of the 'Chinese economic development model', the emergence of an alternative 'Muslim model' over the past quarter century and the faltering globalisation of the 'Washington Consensus' all point to the need to investigate more systematically the nature of these models and their competitive attractions. This is especially the case in the Muslim world, which both spans different economic and geographic categories and is itself the progenitor of a development model.

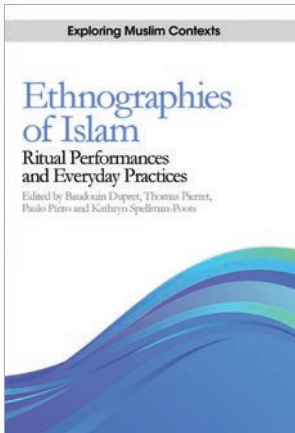
The 'Chinese model' has attracted the greatest attention in step with that country's phenomenal growth and therefore provides the primary focus for this book. This volume examines the characteristics of this model and its reception in two major regions of the world – Africa and Latin America. It also investigates the current competition over development models across Muslim contexts. The question of which model or models, if any, will guide development in Muslim-majority countries is vital not only for them, but for the world as a whole. This is the first political economy study to address this vital question as well as the closely related issue of the centrality of governance to development.



Taking stock of the attraction and utility of development models is an important intellectual undertaking. Competition between development models is not just a struggle between ideas; it also reflects competition for economic and political power. The models themselves may well play a major role in shaping the objective outcomes of that competition."

Robert Springborg, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey

Robert Springborg is Professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.



Volume 3

Ethnographies of Islam: Ritual Performances and Everyday Practices

Edited by Baudouin Dupret,
Thomas Pierret,
Paulo G. Pinto &
Kathryn Spellman-Poots

ISBN: 978 0 7486 4550 3 (HB)
Price: £60.00

ISBN: 978 0 7486 8984 2 (PB)
Price: £24.99

Publication date: 2012
and 2013

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

This comparative approach to the various uses of the ethnographic method is particularly relevant in the current climate. Global political discourses and stereotypical media portrayals of Islam as a monolithic civilisation have prevented the emergence of cultural pluralism and individual freedom. This book counters such discourses by showing the diversity and plurality of Muslim societies, and promoting reflection on how the ethnographic method assists in the description, representation and analysis of their social and cultural complexity.

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A collective volume of rare intellectual and methodological coherence... This is a landmark volume that marks the coming of age for the study of Islam through ethnography.”

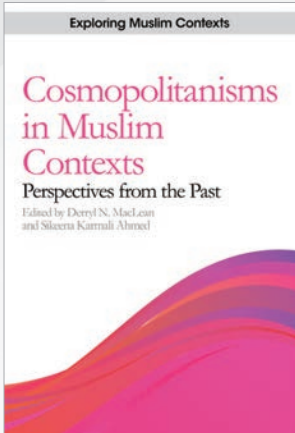
Nile Green, *Anthropos*

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The ethnographic studies comprising this book are a timely corrective to common perceptions of Islam and Muslims in current public discourse as a unitary and uniform body. The ethnographies show the diversity of the ways in which the religion is lived in different contexts, times and places: not so much a unitary Islam, but a diversity of Muslims adapting and constructing elements of the common religious corpus to their particular social relations and beliefs. This is an enlightening approach which yields many vivid portrayals of communities and cultures.”

Sami Zubaida, *Birkbeck College, University of London*

Baudouin Dupret is Director of the Centre Jacques-Berque in Rabat, Morocco; Thomas Pierret is Lecturer in Contemporary Islam at the University of Edinburgh; Paulo G. Pinto is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Middle East Studies, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil; Kathryn Spellman-Poots is Associate Professor at ISMC.



Volume 4
Cosmopolitanisms
in Muslim Contexts:
Perspectives from the Past

Edited by Derryl MacLean
& Sikeena Karmali Ahmed

ISBN: 978 0 7486 4456 8 (HB)
Price: £60.00

ISBN: 978 0 7486 8985 9 (PB)
Price: £24.99

Publication date: 2012
and 2013

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

Cosmopolitanism is a key concept in social and political thought, standing in opposition to ideologies such as tribalism, nationalism and fundamentalism. Much recent discussion of this concept has been situated within Western self-perceptions, with little inclusion of information from Muslim contexts.

This volume redresses the balance by focusing on instances in world history when cosmopolitan ideas and actions pervaded specific Muslim societies and cultures, exploring the tensions between regional cultures, isolated enclaves and modern nation-states. Models are chosen from four geographic areas: the Swahili coast, the Ottoman Empire/Turkey, Iran and Indo-Pakistan.

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Cosmopolitanisms in Muslim Contexts exceeds all previous efforts to address the intersection of Islam and cosmopolitan norms, values and options. Against the backdrop of Islamicate civilization and contemporary global challenges, its contributors accent cosmopolitanism as both a political ideal and a social practice in several contexts. At last one can, and does, grasp the critical cosmopolitan element of the Muslim world throughout the Afro-Eurasian ecumene.”

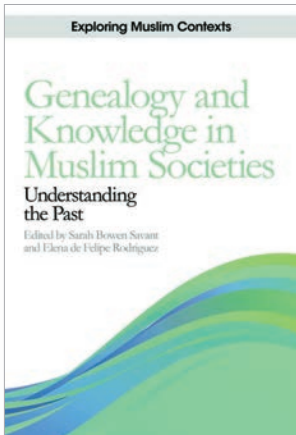
Bruce B. Lawrence, Duke University

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MacLean and Ahmed are to be commended for bringing together such a wide range of scholarship under the same theoretical umbrella.”

Ian Campbell, Georgia State University, Middle East Media and Book Reviews

Derryl N. MacLean is Associate Professor in the Department of History and Director of the Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures (CCSMSC) at Simon Fraser University, Canada; Sikeena Karmali Ahmed is a former Manager of Publications at ISMC.



Genealogy is one of the most important and authoritative organising principles of Muslim societies. Throughout history, ideas about kinship and descent have shaped tribal, ethnic, sectarian and other identities.

Today, ideas about kinship and descent continue to shape communal and national identities in virtually every Muslim country, where they permeate at the very highest levels of state and religion. An understanding of genealogy is therefore vital to our understanding of Muslim societies particularly in terms of the generation, preservation and manipulation of genealogical knowledge. This book addresses the subject through a range of case studies that link genealogical knowledge to the particular circumstances in which it was created, circulated and promoted. They stress the malleability of kinship and memory, and the interests this malleability served.

Volume 5 Genealogy and Knowledge in Muslim Societies: Understanding the Past

**Edited by Sarah Bowen Savant
& Helena de Felipe**

ISBN: 978 0 7486 4497 1

Price: £70

Publication date: 2014

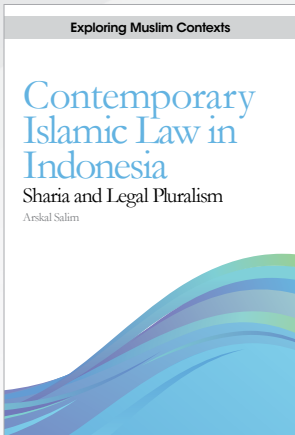
**Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press**



Sarah Bowen Savant and Helena de Felipe have collected an excellent series of chapters in this volume, which considers the diverse role that genealogy has played and the uses it has been put to in Muslim societies...The articles collected here move across a wide geographic area of the Muslim world. Syria, Iran, al-Andalus, the Maghreb and other regions are considered. The chronological range of the articles is also considerable, going from the very first decades of Islam to the close of the twentieth century. By providing such a broad spectrum, the book has quite a lot to offer to the reader and allows for an extensive comparison of the notions of genealogy and the uses to which it has been put."

Stephen Donnachie, University of Swansea,
Al-Masaq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean

Sarah Bowen Savant is Associate Professor at ISMC; Helena de Felipe is Lecturer at the Universidad de Alcalá.



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Volume 6
Contemporary Islamic Law in Indonesia:
Sharia and Legal Pluralism

Arskal Salim

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ISBN: 978 0 7486 9333 7

Price: £70

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Publication date: 2015

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Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

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Indonesia has probably the fastest changing legal system in the Muslim world. This ethnographic account of legal pluralism in the post-conflict and disaster situation in Aceh addresses changes in both the national legal system and the regional legal structure in the province. Focusing on the encounter between diverse patterns of legal reasoning advocated by multiple actors and by different institutions (local, national and international; official and unofficial; judicial, political and socio-cultural) it considers the vast array of issues arising in the wake of the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami in Aceh.

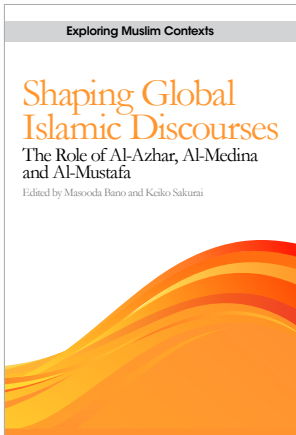
It investigates disputes about rights to land and other forms of property, power relations, the conflict of rules, gender relationships, the right to make decisions, and prevailing norms. These disputes are presented on multiple levels and in various forums, either through negotiation or adjudication, regardless of whether they are settled or not. The cases involve various actors from villages, the courts, the provincial government and the legislature, the national Supreme Court and the central government of Indonesia.



Legal pluralism in Aceh has transformed from sociological fact to legal reality, thus demonstrating how two different types of legal pluralism are not mutually exclusive, but that they are, in fact, dynamic and interactive."

Arskal Salim, UIN Jakarta

Arskal Salim is Head of Research and Development at UIN Jakarta.



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Volume 7
Shaping Global
Islamic Discourses:
The Role of al-Azhar,
al-Medina and al-Mustafa

Edited by Masooda Bano
& Keiko Sakurai

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ISBN: 9780748696857

Price: £70

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Publication date: 2015

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Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

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Claims abound that Saudi oil money is fuelling Salafi Islam in cultural and geographical terrains as disparate as the remote hamlets of the Swat valley in Pakistan and sprawling megacities such as Jakarta. Similarly, it is often regarded as a fact that Iran and the Sunni Arab states are fighting proxy wars in foreign lands. This study challenges the assumptions, prevalent within academic as well as policy circles, about the hegemonic power of such Islamic discourses and movements to penetrate all Muslim communities and societies. Through case studies of academic institutions, the volume illustrates how the transmission of ideas is an extremely complex process, and that the outcome of such efforts depends not just on the strategies adopted by backers of those ideologies but equally on the characteristics of the receipt communities. The volume focuses on the workings of three universities with global outreach (al-Azhar University in Egypt, International Islamic University of Medina in Saudi Arabia, and al-Mustafa International University in Iran) whose graduating students carry the ideas acquired during their education back to their own countries, along with, in some cases, a zeal to reform their home society.



Makes a serious contribution to ongoing debates about the changing nature of authority and the shifting discourse on Islam in the modern world through masterful case studies that examine how the global is negotiated in the local.”

Sajjad H Rizvi, University of Exeter

Masooda Bano is Associate Professor at the Oxford Department of International Development, University of Oxford; Keiko Sakurai is Professor at the Faculty of International Research and Education, Waseda University, Tokyo.

Muslim Civilisations Abstracts

Series Editor: Aptin Khanbaghi

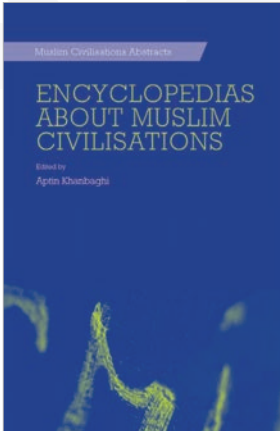
Global understanding depends crucially on the sharing of knowledge across linguistic and cultural divides. There is a need for equal access to scholarly resources and a common understanding of where the frontiers of knowledge lie. Much valuable and original work published in societies with a significant Muslim presence remains largely unknown in the West.

In addition, Muslims themselves are often not informed of the intellectual endeavours of their colleagues elsewhere in the Muslim world. Indeed, many Muslim academics only have access to scholarship produced in their own indigenous language and to some extent in European languages. As such, scholarship about Islam and about Muslims has proceeded without taking due account of the scholarship produced in Muslim societies.

The Muslim Civilisations Abstracts (MCA) Project was conceived as a response to this intellectual gap. It identifies and collates a database of abstracts about works produced in Muslim-majority contexts organised around specific themes. The abstracted titles represent selected works of scholarship involving original research and analysis, advances in relevant methodology, and creative contributions to the debate around the specified theme.

The MCA aspires to include abstracts of titles relevant to Muslim civilisations from around the world. The initial focus will be primarily on Muslim majority contexts, expanding to China, India, Russia, and South Eastern Europe, where large Muslim communities have been living for centuries. The abstracts, written by scholars from a variety of backgrounds, are submitted in eight languages: Arabic, English, French, Indonesian/Malay, Persian, Russian, Turkish and Urdu; and are published in Arabic, Turkish and English.

The abstracts are also available online
www.aku.edu/mca



Over the past 150 years, numerous encyclopedias have been produced on Muslim civilisations, both by Muslims and non-Muslims, with different approaches to the organisation of knowledge and understanding of Muslim beliefs, cultures and societies. Access to and knowledge of these reference works and databases have until now been hindered by language barriers.

The first volume in the MCA series seeks to overcome this obstacle by presenting material in three languages: English, Arabic and Turkish. This is a unique reference catalogue containing 200 annotated bibliographies and abstracts of encyclopedias published during the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.



Globalisation can benefit the academic world if knowledge is shared, and if scholars of different regions are equitably represented. Intellectual activity is essential to promote intercultural dialogue and to build a foundation for enhanced cultural cooperation.”

Aptin Khanbaghi, ISMC

Volume 1 **Encyclopedias about** **Muslim Civilisations**

Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi

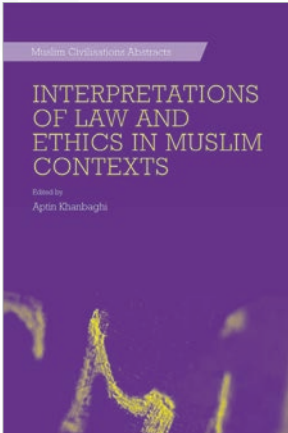
ISBN: 978 0 7486 3970 0

Price: £85.00

Publication date: 2009

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

Aptin Khanbaghi is Senior Researcher and MCA Project Manager at ISMC.



Volume 2 Interpretations of Law and Ethics in Muslim Contexts

Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi

ISBN: 978 0 7486 4500 8

Price: £75.00

Publication date: 2012

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

Law within Muslim societies is far from uniform. This is partly because Muslim societies extend over three continents, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. However, even within Muslim-majority regions, laws can be interpreted differently according to respective denominations and legal traditions.

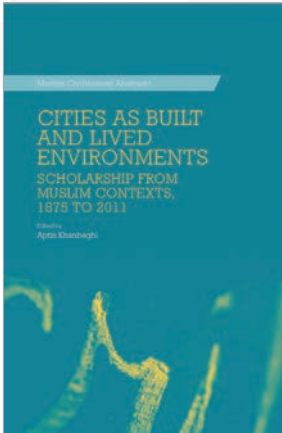
Volume 2 of the Muslim Civilisations Abstracts project brings together the many unheard voices of scholars studying law and ethics in languages other than English. The volume features 200 abstracts with bibliographical details in three languages (English, Arabic and Turkish), giving access to information about scholarly publications from Muslim contexts in the fields of law and ethics.

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Law in each Muslim country has been influenced by ancient traditions, religious creed and contemporary European legal codes. In the Ottoman, Persian and Mughal empires, there existed multiple legal systems for ruling extensive territories and various communities. Since the dismantlement of these empires and the appearance of dozens of independent Muslim states, we can hardly speak of legal uniformity within the Muslim world. The idea of a single Islamic law is therefore quite reductive.”

Aptin Khanbaghi, ISMC

Aptin Khanbaghi is Senior Researcher and MCA Project Manager at ISMC.



The rich diversity of the Muslim world is strikingly expressed through its myriad of cities.

Volume 3 of the MCA series presents abstracts of scholarship examining socio-cultural and cosmopolitan processes with aspects of material culture in contemporary and historic urban contexts. The abstracts, in English, Arabic and Turkish, examine cities as built (architecture and urban infrastructure) and lived (urban social life and culture) environments.

Crucial topics such as urban growth are included in abstracts about infrastructural and environmental issues, as well as migration from rural areas to cities.

The topics related to cities and urban life which are discussed in these abstracts demonstrate that concerns vary among Muslim majority countries, and from one decade to another.

Volume 3 Cities as Built and Lived Environments: Scholarship from Muslim Contexts, 1875 to 2011

Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi

ISBN: 978 0 7486 9618 5

Price: £75

Publication date: 2014

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press



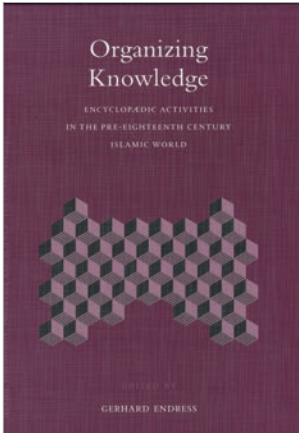
The topics related to cities and urban life discussed in these abstracts demonstrate that concerns differ greatly from one region to another. For instance, the bazaar plays a very important role in Iranian urban society and culture, whereas in the case of Indonesia long-established urban concepts barely exist since the archipelago does not have a strong tradition of urbanism.”

Aptin Khanbaghi, ISMC

Aptin Khanbaghi is Senior Researcher and MCA Project Manager at ISMC.

Individual Volumes





Organizing Knowledge: Encyclopaedic Activities in the Pre-Eighteenth Century Islamic World

Edited by Gerhard Endress

ISBN: 978 9 0041 4697 6

Price: €107,00

Publication date: 2006

Co-publisher: Brill

The contributions in this volume offer the first comprehensive effort to describe and analyse the collection, classification, presentation and methodology of information in the knowledge society of medieval Islam in the disciplines of religious and legal learning, as well as the rational sciences of Hellenistic origin – philosophy, mathematics and medicine.

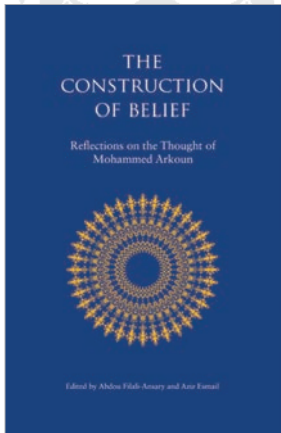
The volume begins with a general discussion of the concept of encyclopedia. Successive chapters explore the bases of authority in the institutions of religion and law; bibliographical literature and handbooks of law; compendia of scientific and philosophical learning based on Iranian and Greek sources; and the more specialised expositions of mathematics and philosophy. The special character of Muslim institutions, their teaching traditions and syllabi is also put into perspective.

This is a reference work for the principle genres of ‘encyclopedic’ outlines and manuals – biography, legal handbooks, historiography of knowledge transmission, cosmography, and the philosophical sciences – and a major contribution to the literary and intellectual history of scholarly writing in the pre-modern Islamic world.



Classification, systematisation and dissemination of knowledge played a vital role in the process of transmitting the views of scholars – together with the truths they strongly assumed – to the public.”

Abdou Filali-Ansary, ISMC



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The Construction of Belief: Reflections on the Thought of Mohammed Arkoun

Edited by
Abdou Filali-Ansary
& Aziz Esmail

.....

ISBN: 978 0 86356 424 6
eISBN: 978-0-86356-766-7
Price: £35.00

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Publication date: 2012

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Co-publisher: Saqi

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Mohammed Arkoun was one of the most prominent and influential Arab intellectuals of his day. During a career spanning more than thirty years, he was revered as an outstanding research scholar, a bold critic of the theoretical tensions embedded within Islamic studies and an outspoken public figure, upholding political, social and cultural modernism.

This festschrift honours Mohammed Arkoun's scholarship, bringing together the contributions of eleven distinguished scholars of history, religious studies and philosophy. It offers a comprehensive selection of critical engagements with Arkoun's work, reflecting on his considerable influence on contemporary thinking about Islam and its ideological, philosophical and theological dimensions.

The authoritative reference study on the work of Mohammed Arkoun, the volume is essential reading for students and scholars of Islam, Muslim societies and cultures, modernity, religious studies, philosophy and semantics.

“

He (Arkoun) had no sympathy whatsoever for wholesale comparison or contrast between “Islam” and the “West”, no matter which of this pair of ultimately fictitious wholes was glorified and which was vilified.”

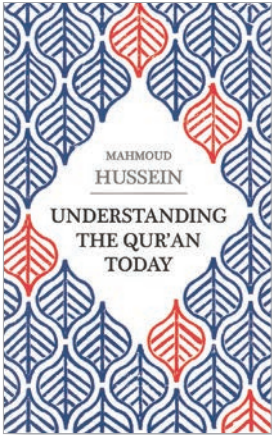
Aziz Esmail, The Institute of Ismaili Studies

“

Arkoun was perceptive in calling for an outright adoption of historical-critical approaches. It is the case that in most Muslim contexts, education in religious matters and the prevailing perceptions in general, are overwhelmingly dogmatic and built upon assumptions that are often unacceptable to the modern mind.”

Abdou Filali-Ansary, ISMC

Abdou Filali-Ansary is the founding Director of ISMC; Aziz Esmail is a Governor of The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.



Understanding the Qur'an Today

Author: Mahmoud Hussein

Translated by David Bond

ISBN: 978 0 86356 849 7

eISBN: 9780863568541

Price: £10

Publication date: 2013

Co-publisher: Saqi

Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the Word of God. Historically, there is a long tradition of interpretation regarding the meaning and significance of Divine revelation, reflecting a plurality of views. This book argues that whereas God transcends time, His word is inscribed in time. It is not a monologue, but a living exchange, through which God reveals to His Prophet different orders of truth, weaving together the absolute and the relative, the general and the particular, the eternal and the contingent.

An international bestseller, this book offers a contemporary perspective on one of the world's most influential texts.



Timely and provocative ... Knowledge of the context of revelation is indispensable to our very understanding of the Qur'an and of the wisdom behind sharia. This alone makes Hussein's work a much needed intervention, especially when dominant currents in modern and contemporary Islamic thought tend to ignore the particularity of the event in favour of the generality of the signifier."

Journal of the Society for Contemporary Thought and the Islamicate World, France

Mahmoud Hussein is the pseudonym of Bahgat Elnadi and Adel Rifaat, French political writers of Egyptian origin.



The Political Aesthetics of Global Protest: The Arab Spring and Beyond

Edited by Pnina Werbner,
Kathryn Spellman-Poots &
Martin Webb

ISBN: 978 0 7486 9334 4 (HB)
Price: £75

ISBN: 978 0 7486 9335 1 (PB)
Price: £24.99

Publication date: 2014

Co-publisher:
Edinburgh University Press

A remarkable feature of the Arab Spring and other protests that followed during 2011 and 2012 in regions as diverse as Botswana, Europe, India, Iran, Israel, North Africa and the USA, has been the salience of images, songs, videos, humour, satire and dramatic performances.

This book explores the central role the aesthetic played in energising the mass mobilisations of young people, the disaffected, the middle classes and the apolitical silent majority, as well as enabling solidarities and alliances among democrats, workers, trade unions, civil rights activists and opposition parties.

Comparing the North African and Middle Eastern uprisings with protest movements such as Occupy, the authors bring to bear an anthropological and sociological approach from a variety of perspectives, illuminating the debate by drawing on a wide array of disciplinary expertise.

“

This powerful collection of essays captures the breath-taking scale and creative depth of the wave of popular mobilisations which shook the world in 2011, illuminating aspects of these massive social movements which have been neglected in other accounts. The wide range of the case studies creates an invaluable comparative framework for future research.”

Anne Alexander, University of Cambridge

“

A fascinating collection for the insights it offers into the choreography of political protest movements around the world and the many connections between them.”

Emma Tarlo, Goldsmiths, University of London

Pnina Werbner is Professor Emerita of Social Anthropology at Keele University; Martin Webb is Lecturer in Anthropology at Goldsmiths, University of London; Kathryn Spellman-Poots is Associate Professor at ISMC.



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Cover Image: Architectural tile; Uzbekistan, about 1350-1450; Glazed earthenware; Image © Aga Khan Trust for Culture
Colour amends ISMC.

P2: Courtyards embellished with greenery and open spaces are a striking feature of the architecture of the university. Students relaxing in the courtyard of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Pakistan.

P3: Entrance to 210 Euston Road, London.

P5: Al-Azhar Park, Cairo, ©Aga Khan Trust for Culture, photographer Christian Richters.

P9: The Aleppo Room, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Museum für Islamische Kunst.

P10: Photographer, Massimiliano Fusari.

P22: Aga Khan Museum.

P27: Yemeni woman in traditional dress in Change Square. Photograph by Z. Alkulaibi. The photo appears in *The Political Aesthetics of Global Protest: The Arab Spring and Beyond* (ISMCEUP, 2014).



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