

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

PUBLICATIONS CATALOGUE
2025

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Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

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Aga Khan University

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

AKU-ISMC

Established in 1983, the Aga Khan University (AKU) has campuses and programmes in Europe, Africa and South Asia. AKU's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (ISMC) was founded in London in 2002, and promotes scholarship that opens up new perspectives on Muslim societies. Located in the iconic Aga Khan Centre in London's King's Cross, the centre is a place for education, knowledge, cultural exchange and insight into Muslim civilisations.

Publications

Since 2009, AKU-ISMC Publications has sought to broaden the debates within and about Muslim societies by producing monographs, edited volumes, journals and papers that contribute to a new consciousness among Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and to new attitudes towards the issues faced by contemporary societies in an increasingly globalised world.



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Exploring Muslim Contexts

Series Editors: Sanaa Alimia and Leif Stenberg

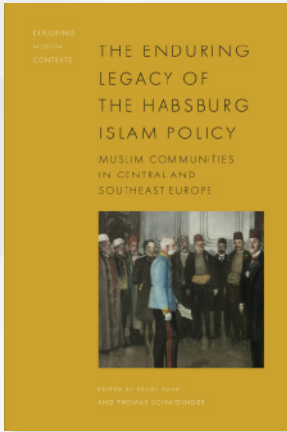
Series Editor Emeritus: Farouk Topan

Published in association with **Edinburgh University Press**

Rapid political, demographic, technological and cultural transformations are shaping many Muslim societies today. This series examines the processes that drive these local and global changes and the ways in which Muslim populations participate in and engage with them.

The series brings together leading specialists from a variety of disciplines to explore these critical issues.





The Enduring Legacy of the Habsburg Islam Policy Muslim Communities in Central and Southeast Europe

Edited by Sevgi Adak and Thomas Schmidinger

June 2025, 272 pp

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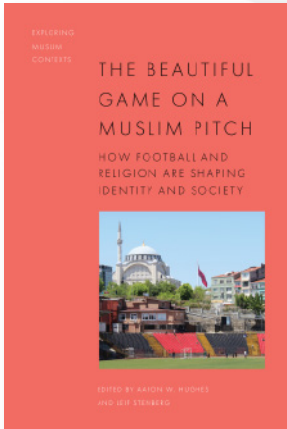
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What are the foundations of the contemporary legal and political structures governing Muslim communities in Central and Southeast Europe?

When Otto Habsburg – son of Karl I, the last emperor of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, died in 2011, among those who prayed at the funeral was Mustafa Efendi Cerić, the Reis-ul-ulema of Bosnia and Herzegovina – the highest Islamic office in the country. This was to honour the long-lasting relationship between the bygone empire of the Catholic Habsburgs with Bosnian Muslims. The cornerstone of this relationship was the 1912 Islam Act (Islamgesetz) of the Habsburgs, which granted Islam legal recognition and incorporated it into the imperial system. This book assesses the legacy of this Act and the ways in which it continues to impact the legal frameworks and political structures governing Islam and Muslim communities in the successor states of Austria-Hungary.

- Explores the cultural and political dynamics that emerged in Central Europe as the home of centuries-old Muslim communities as well as of recent Muslim immigrants
- Maps in detail the diverse trajectories followed by the successor states to the Habsburg Empire with regards to the governance of Islam and Muslim communities

Sevgi Adak is Associate Professor and Head of Research at AKU-ISMC. She is the author of *Anti-Veiling Campaigns in Turkey: State, Society and Gender in the Early Republic* (I.B. Tauris, 2022) and co-editor of *Tek Parti Dönemini Yeniden Düşünmek: Devlet, Toplum, Siyaset* (Tarih Vakfı, 2022). **Thomas Schmidinger** is Associate Professor at the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kurdistan Hewlêr and Lecturer at the University of Vienna and the University of Applied Sciences Oberösterreich in Linz. He is author of *The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria: Between A Rock and A Hard Place* (Transnational Press London, 2020) and *The World Has Forgotten Us. Sinjar and the Islamic State's Genocide of the Yazidis* (Pluto Press, 2022).



The Beautiful Game on a Muslim Pitch How Football and Religion are Shaping Identity and Society

**Edited by
Aaron W. Hughes and
Leif Stenberg**

May 2025, 208 pp

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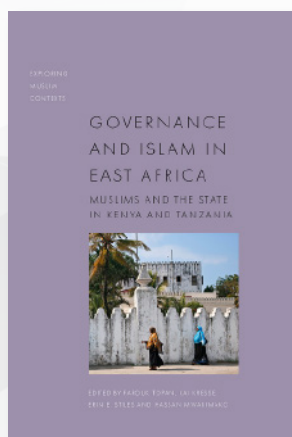
Examines how football and religion act together to shape both identity and society in Muslim contexts.

This book showcases how football and religion are becoming increasingly interlinked in Muslim contexts in order to interact with and influence both identity and society. The first part of the volume is devoted to issues of identity, showing how football aids in its construction, maintenance and subversion. The second part reveals the deep-rooted connections between football and political and religious establishments by demonstrating how these organisations frequently use the game to disseminate or propagate their larger messages.

Altogether, the contributors reveal how football has increasingly become a site for confrontations and negotiations over different understandings of religion – as a racial category, as gendered power and as it is invested in issues of state politics.

- One of the few academic studies on football and religion in a Muslim context
- Posits football as an analytical window for examining broader geopolitical and social forces, such as national politics, religion, construction of identities and social cohesion
- Brings together research by leading scholars in Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Religious Studies, History, Anthropology and Education

Aaron W. Hughes is Dean's Professor of the Humanities and the Philip S. Bernstein Professor of Religion at the University of Rochester. He is also co-editor of the book series *Advances in the Study of Islam* at Edinburgh University Press and of the *Journal of Religious Minorities Under Muslim Rule*. **Leif Stenberg** is Professor in Islamic Studies at AKU-ISMC and a visiting professor at Karlstad University. He is the co-editor of *What is Islamic Studies?* (2022).



Explores the relationship between Muslim communities and the State in East Africa in political, institutional and legal contexts.

Recent studies of Muslims in Kenya and Tanzania have tended either to examine governance of Muslims in relation to security issues or to discuss the reforms attempted within communities and their implications for Muslim theology, rituals and general welfare. Both these approaches are covered in this book, and a third is added – the study of Muslims as citizens or residents of their respective countries, looking at their activities and attitudes in relation to the various challenges they face together with their fellow compatriots and citizens.

- Focuses on the relationship between Muslims and the State in Kenya and Tanzania
- Asks which factors, both within and outside the Muslim community, shape and affect this relationship in contemporary times
- Presents 13 case studies exploring governance issues within and across the categories of politics, institutions and law in Kenya and Tanzania
- Identifies cross-cutting issues of governance and Muslim communities which are relevant beyond East Africa

Governance and Islam in East Africa

Muslims and the State in Kenya and Tanzania

Edited by Farouk Topan, Kai Kresse, Erin E. Stiles and Hassan Mwakimako

May 2024, 344pp

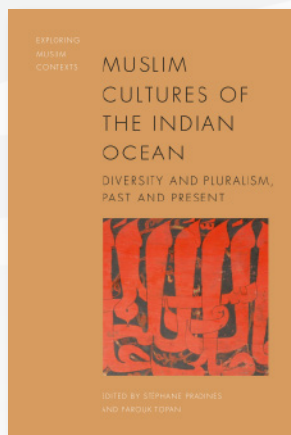
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Farouk Topan is Professor Emeritus at AKU-ISMC. **Kai Kresse** is Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Freie Universität Berlin and Vice Director for Research at Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin. **Erin E. Stiles** is Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada. **Hassan Mwakimako** is Associate Professor of Islamic Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Pwani University.



Muslim Cultures of the Indian Ocean Diversity and Pluralism, Past and Present

**Edited by
Stéphane Pradines
and Farouk Topan**

April 2023, 356pp

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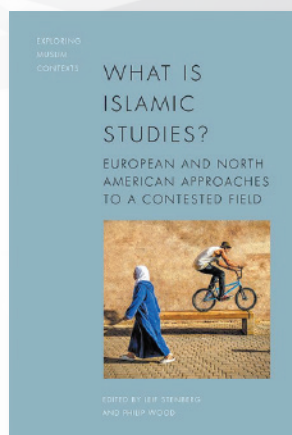
Scholars are increasingly recognising the centrality of the Indian Ocean in the study of Muslim cultures.

This volume explores the expanding and changing roles of these Muslim communities across the Indian Ocean World from the seventh century to the mediaeval period to the present day.

The book goes beyond the usual focus on geographical sub-regions to highlight different aspects of interconnectivity in relation to Islam. By analysing textual and material evidence, the fifteen papers in this volume examine identities and diasporas, manuscripts and literature, as well as vernacular and religious architecture. It explores the networks and movements of peoples, ideas and ideologies, as well as art, culture, religion and heritage.

- Highlights the centrality of Muslim cultures in understanding interconnectivity across the Indian Ocean
- Explores the role of Islam in forming and transforming global interactions and local agencies across the Indian Ocean
- Offers intra-Muslim perceptions of beliefs, practices and activities, both religious and other
- Presents 15 case studies across Ethiopia, Gujarat, Java, Kerala, the Malay-Indonesian archipelago, Maldives, Oman, Tanzania, Zanzibar and the Persianate cultural zone

Stéphane Pradines is an archaeologist and Professor of Islamic Art, Architecture and Archaeology at AKU-ISMC. **Farouk Topan** is Professor Emeritus at AKU-ISMC.



What is Islamic Studies? European and North American Approaches to a Contested Field

Edited by Leif Stenberg and Philip Wood

February 2022, 224pp

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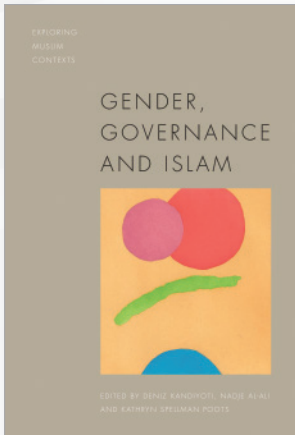
The study of Islam and Muslims in Europe and North America has expanded greatly in recent decades, becoming a passionately debated and divided field.

This collection critically assesses the development of the field of Islamic Studies and its place in society. Featuring contributions from anthropologists, historians and scholars of religion, each chapter contains new empirical material and discusses approaches to the study of Islam, past and present.

The book situates Islamic Studies within broader discussions of the construction of identity and its political implications in Europe and North America. The authors also address tensions between normative and non-normative approaches to the study of Islam and Muslims and consider how these might be reconciled.

- Covers topics ranging from gender and secularism to pop music and modern science
- Discusses contemporary and historical approaches in Islamic Studies
- Features contributions from leading scholars studying Islam and Muslims, including Shahzad Bashir, Hadi Enayat, Juliane Hammer, Aaron Hughes, Carool Kersten, Susanne Olsson and Jonas Otterbeck
- Addresses the role of both Muslims and non-Muslims in the ongoing construction of Islam

Leif Stenberg is Professor of Islamic Studies at AKU-ISMC and its former Dean. His recent book is *Poet and Businessman: Abd al-Aziz and the Formation of Modern Kuwait* (Ginkgo 2022). **Philip Wood** is Tejpar Professor of Inter-Religious Studies at AKU-ISMC. His research focuses on Christians and Muslims in the Middle East c. 500–1000. Wood's most recent book is *The Imam of the Christians: The World of Dionysius of Tel-Mahre c.750–850* (Princeton University Press 2021).



Gender, Governance and Islam

Edited by Deniz Kandiyoti, Nadje Al-Ali, Kathryn Spellman-Poots

This book interrogates the interplay of gender, governance and Islam across Muslim-contexts. The politics of gender is explored systematically in the following case studies: Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, Pakistan and diasporic communities in Europe and North America.

August 2019, 240pp

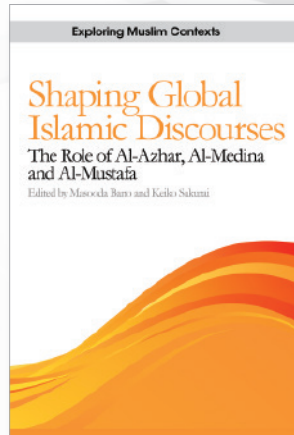
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Shaping Global Islamic Discourses The Role of Al-Azhar, Al-Medina and Al-Mustafa

Edited by Masooda Bano & Keiko Sakurai

Explores the influence of centres of Islamic learning in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt, and challenges the assumptions prevalent about the hegemonic power of Islamic discourses and movements and their ability to penetrate Muslim communities and societies.

March 2015, 240pp

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Contemporary Islamic Law in Indonesia Sharia and Legal Pluralism

By Arskal Salim

The first ethnographic account of legal pluralism in the post-conflict and disaster situation in Aceh, Indonesia, exploring the national legal system and the regional legal structure in the province.

February 2015, 232pp

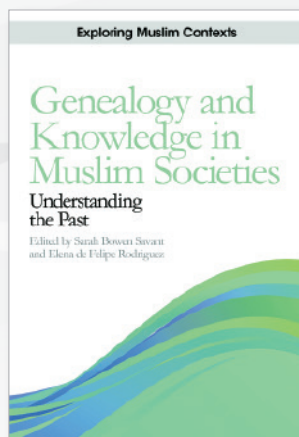
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Genealogy and Knowledge in Muslim Societies Understanding the Past

Edited by Sarah Bowen Savant & Helena de Felipe

Explores the generation, preservation and manipulation of genealogical knowledge that shapes communal and national identities in Muslim societies.

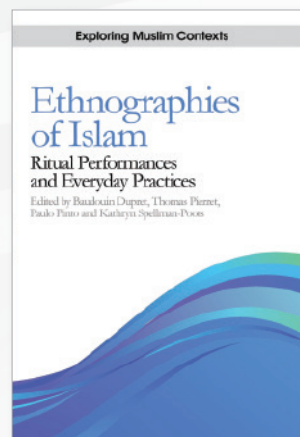
April 2014, 164pp

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Ethnographies of Islam Ritual Performances and Everyday Practices

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

Looks at how ethnography facilitates the description, representation and analysis of the social and cultural complexity of Muslim societies in anthropology

July 2012, 208pp

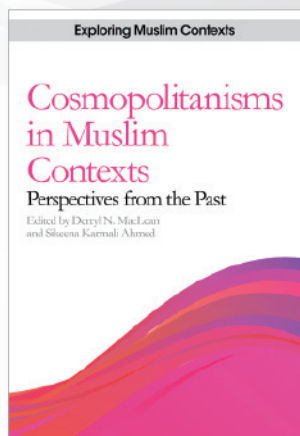
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Cosmopolitanisms in Muslim Contexts Perspectives from the Past

Edited by Derryl MacLean & Sikeena Karmali Ahmed

Explores cosmopolitanism as a key concept that until recently was situated within Western self-perceptions. This volume explores it from Muslim perspectives.

July 2012, 208pp

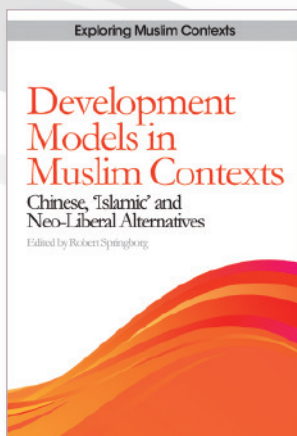
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Development Models in Muslim Contexts Chinese, 'Islamic' and Neo-liberal Alternatives

Edited by Robert Springborg

The first political economy study to address the vital question of which models will guide development in Muslim-majority countries, as well as the closely related issue of the centrality of governance to development.

September 2009, 272pp

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The Challenge of Pluralism Paradigms from Muslim Contexts

Edited by Abdou Filali-Ansary & Sikeena Karmali Ahmed

This book challenges current popular and academic assumptions regarding Islam and its perceived lack of compatibility with notions of pluralism.

September 2009, 128pp

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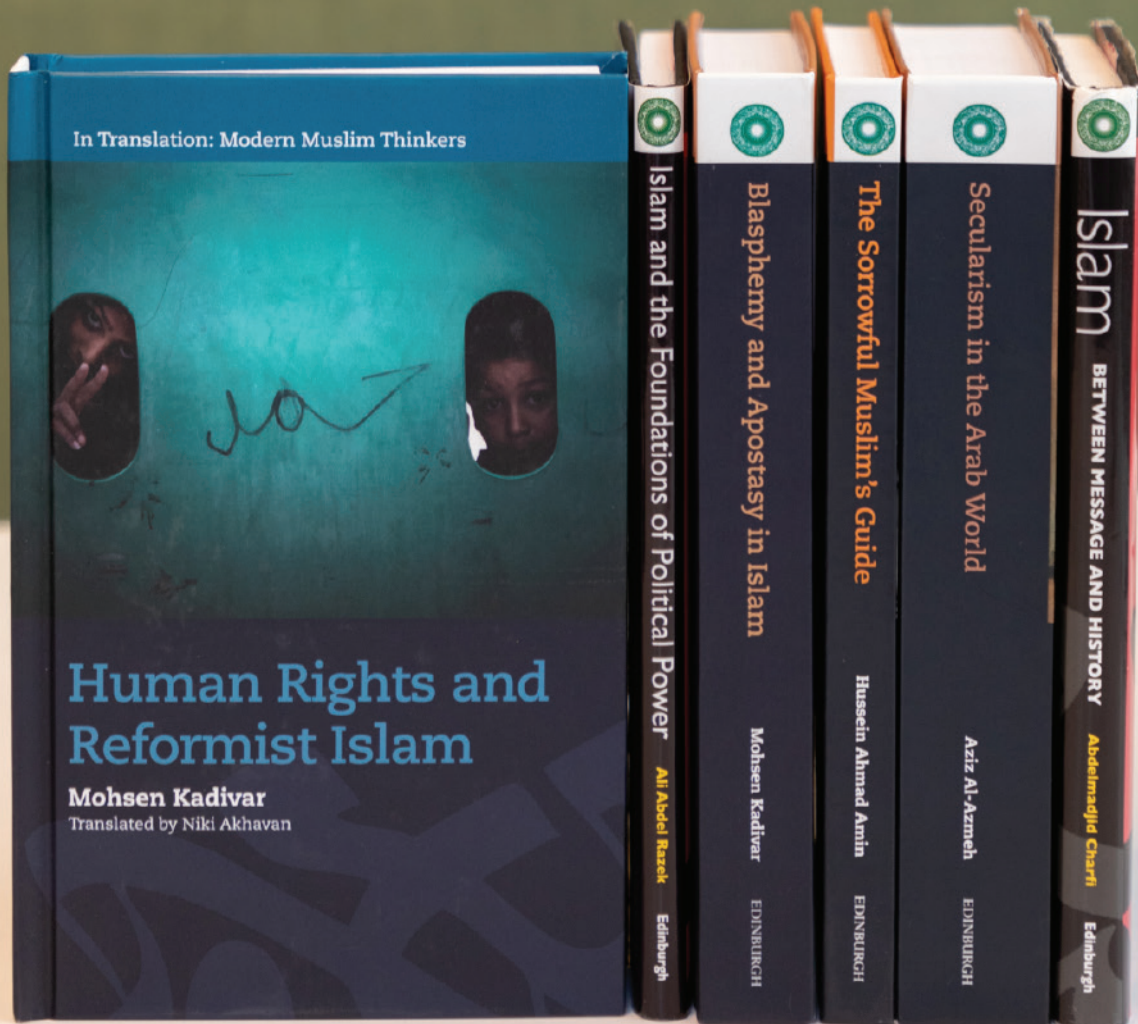
In Translation: Contemporary Thought in Muslim Contexts

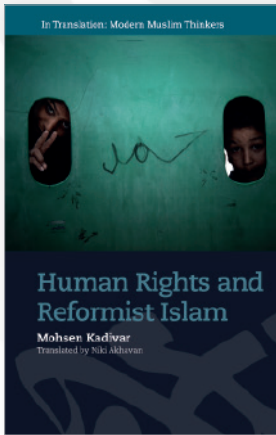
Series Editors: Sevgi Adak and Gianluca Parolin

Founding Series Editor: Abdou Filali-Ansary

Published in association with [Edinburgh University Press](#)

This series aims to broaden current debates about Muslim realities which often overlook seminal works produced in languages other than English. By identifying and translating critical and innovative thinking that has engendered important debates within its own settings, the series seeks to introduce new perspectives to the discussions about Muslim civilisations taking place on the world stage.





Human Rights and Reformist Islam

By Mohsen Kadivar
Introduced by Mirjam Künkler
Translated by Niki Akhavan

February 2021, 552pp

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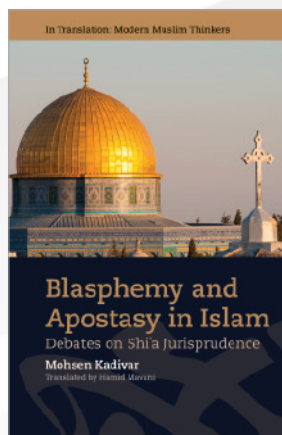
Translates the influential collection *Haqq al-nas*, which argues for the compatibility of human rights and Islam.

Human Rights and Reformist Islam critiques traditional Islamic approaches to the question of compatibility between human rights and Islam, and argues for their reconciliation from the perspective of a reformist Islam.

Explaining the strengths of structural *ijtihad*, Mohsen Kadivar's approach is based on the rational classification of Islamic teachings as temporal or permanent on the one hand, and four criteria of being Islamic on the other: reasonableness, justice, morality and efficiency. In the book, all Qur'anic verses and *hadiths* that are problematic in relation to human rights are abrogated rationally according to these criteria. The result is a powerful, solutions-based argument founded on reformist Islam – providing a scholarly bridge between modernity and Islamic tradition in relation to human rights.

- Written by an original and prolific intellectual of the Iranian reform movement
- An extensive new introduction and annotations throughout the text by Mohsen Kadivar bring the work up-to-date and place it in its academic and public contexts
- Critically compares Mohsen Kadivar's approach to Islam and human rights with those of five leading contemporary scholars: Mahmoud M. Taha, Abdullahi A. An-Naim, Ann E. Mayer, Mohammad M. Shabestari and Abdulaziz A. Sachedina
- Includes a glossary of key terminology

Mohsen Kadivar is Research Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University. One of the most original and prolific figures of the Iranian reform movement, he is a versatile theologian, philosopher and intellectual historian who has written ground-breaking books on human rights and Islam, Islamic political thought, and Islamic philosophy and theology.



Blasphemy and Apostasy in Islam

Debates on Shi'a Jurisprudence

By Mohsen Kadivar
Introduced by Gianluca Parolin
Translated by Hamid Mavani

February 2021, 432pp

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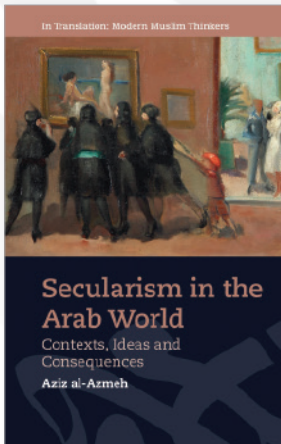
Take a front-row seat to the debate on blasphemy and apostasy in Islam.

Is it lawful to shed the blood of someone who insults the Prophet Muhammad? Does the Qur'an stipulate a worldly punishment for apostates? This book tells the gripping story of Rafiq Taqi, an Azerbaijani journalist and writer, who was condemned to death by an Iranian cleric for a blasphemous news article in 2006.

Delving into the Qur'an and Hadith – the most sacred sources for all Muslims – Mohsen Kadivar explores the subject of blasphemy and apostasy from the perspective of Shi'a jurisprudence to articulate a polarisation between secularism and extremist religious orthodoxy. Documented are a series of online exchanges, in which he debates the case with Muhammad Jawad Fazel, the son of Grand Ayatollah Fazel Lankarani who issued the fatwa pronouncing the death penalty on Taqi. While disapproving of the journalist's writings, Kadivar takes a defensive stance against vigilante murders and asks whether death for apostasy reflects the true spirit of Islam.

- Presents a back-and-forth debate between two modern Shi'a jurists (one conservative, one reformist) that locates the exact points of controversy surrounding apostasy and blasphemy
- Engages with subjects of religious freedom and human rights, addressing both secular and religious interests
- Articulates the secular-religious divide and proposes a pluralistic solution, making a case that apostasy and blasphemy are non-existent in the Qur'an
- Packed with translations of primary sources, including fatwas and interviews, that allow English-speaking readers to understand the arguments advanced by both parties in the debate

Mohsen Kadivar is Research Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University. One of the most original and prolific figures of the Iranian reform movement, he is a versatile theologian, philosopher and intellectual historian who has written ground-breaking books on human rights and Islam, Islamic political thought, and Islamic philosophy and theology.



Secularism in the Arab World

Contexts, Ideas and Consequences

By Aziz al-Azmeh
Foreword by Gilbert Achcar
Translated by David Bond

February 2020, 592pp

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Explores secularism and secularisation in Arab societies since the mid-nineteenth century.

This book is a translation of Aziz al-Azmeh's seminal work *Al-'Ilmaniya min mandhur mukhtalif* that was first published in Beirut in 1992. Both celebrated and criticised for its reflections on Arab secularisation and secularism in the modern history of the Arab world, it is the only study to date to approach its subject as a set of historical changes affecting the regulation of the social, political and cultural order, and which permeated the concrete workings of society.

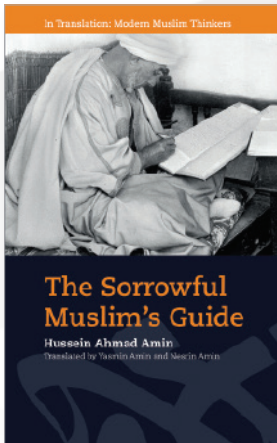
The author takes a comprehensive analytical perspective to show that an almost imperceptible yet real, multi-faceted and objective secularising process has been underway in the Arab world since the 1850s.

- Traces the concrete secular transformations in Muslim societies which occurred at particular times and by specific social agencies
- Explores how secular changes influenced the functioning of different strata and groups, and the central attitudes of their members
- Devotes considerable attention to religious reform in the broader context of the developments studied, and of the ideological, political and institutional religious reactions to both
- Includes a preface by the author introducing this English translation

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Aziz al-Azmeh is CEU University Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of History, Central European University, Vienna and Budapest.



The Sorrowful Muslim's Guide

**By Hussein
Ahmad Amin
Introduced by
Paolo Branca
Translated by
Nesrin Amin &
Yasmin Amin**

October 2018, 232pp

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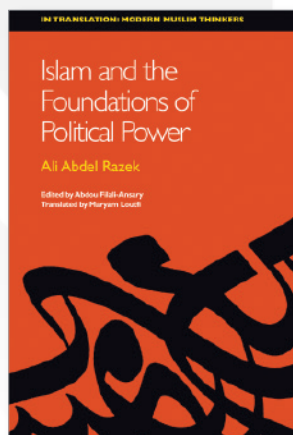
Explores the interaction between pre-Islamic tradition and modern supporters of continuity, reform and change in Muslim communities.

Published as *Dalīl al-Muslim al-hazīn ilā muqtada-l-sulūk fī'l-qarn al-'ishrīn* in 1983, this book remains a timely and important read today. Both the resurgence of Islamist politics and the political, social and intellectual upheaval which accompanied the Arab Spring challenge us to re-examine the interaction between the pre-modern Islamic tradition and modern supporters of continuity, reform and change in Muslim communities.

This book does exactly that, raising questions regarding issues about which other Muslim intellectuals and thinkers have been silent. These include – among others – current religious practice vs the Islamic ideal; the many additions to the original revelation; the veracity of the Prophet's biography and his sayings; the development of Sufism; and historical and ideological influences on Islamic thought.

- Makes available in English an important contribution to modern Muslim thought from a prominent Egyptian thinker
- Looks at how current religious practice conforms (or not) to the Islamic ideal formed when Islam was first revealed
- Explores the relationship between core, inner religious values and ritualistic practices
- Engages critically with the sources by using historical, literary and logical criticism

Hussein Ahmad Amin (1932–2014) was born in Egypt and graduated from the Faculty of Law at Cairo University before joining the Diplomatic Service of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his time as Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Institute in Cairo he wrote *The Sorrowful Muslim's Guide*, which elicited severe reactions from the official religious establishment as well as death threats and accusations of heresy from militant religious organisations in Egypt.



Islam and the Foundations of Political Power

By Ali Abdel Razek
Translated by Maryam Loutfi

The first English translation of this controversial essay that challenged fundamental ideas about political power. Egypt, 1925: the Muslim world is in turmoil over Atatürk's proposal to abolish the caliphate in Turkey. Into this debate enters Ali Abdel Razek, a religious cleric trained at Al-Azhar University, arguing in favour of secularism.

July 2012, 144pp

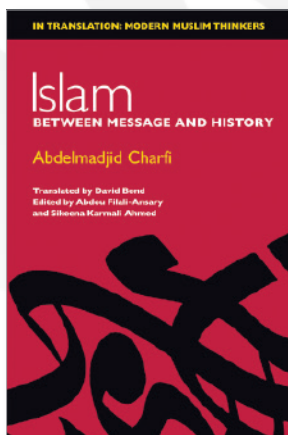
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Islam Between Message and History

By Abdelmadjid Charfi
Translated by David Bond

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.

September 2009, 192pp

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Music and Performance in Muslim Contexts

Series Editor: Jonas Otterbeck

Published in association with **Edinburgh University Press** and the **Aga Khan Music Programme**

Published jointly with the Aga Khan Music Programme (AKMP), this series presents innovative scholarship in music, dance, theatre and other performance practices and varieties of expressive culture inspired or shaped by Muslim cultural, intellectual, religious and social heritage. Bringing together outstanding new work by leading scholars from a range of disciplines across the humanities and social sciences, the series embraces cultural spheres both within Muslim-majority societies and in diasporic subcultures and micro-cultures around the world.



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
(International) in the United Kingdom
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



AGA KHAN MUSIC
PROGRAMME

Lâvta, c. 1870
Turkey
Wood, metal, tortoise-shell,
glass 88.6 x 28 x 11.5 cm
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York, Purchase, Amati
Gifts, 2015: 2015.48





Islamic Themes in US Hip-Hop Culture

By Anders Ackfeldt

April 2025, 216 pp

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Explores how Islam is produced in American hip-hop culture both by Muslims and non-Muslims.

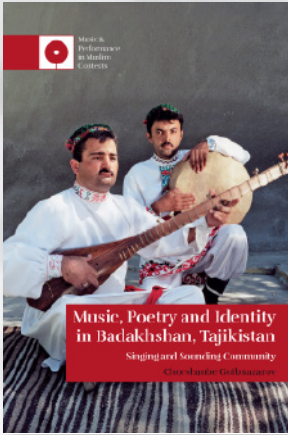
Islam has been a part of hip-hop culture since it sprang from New York's street culture in the 1970s. Today hip-hop has evolved into a global artform with a diversity of Muslim Islamic discourses expressed. Using tools from the field of social semiotics, this book examines how Islamic themes feature in US hip-hop culture, maintaining a particular awareness that both Muslims as well as non-Muslims participate in their production.

- Analyses a collection of lyrics, sounds and images to show how Islamic themes are featured in US hip-hop culture
- Examines the historical continuity of Islamic themes running through 20th and 21st century American music, from gospel to blues and jazz to hip-hop

'Anders Ackfeldt's timely intervention in the burgeoning field of Islam and hip-hop brings to the fore both Muslim and non-Muslim voices to 'Islamic themes' in American hip-hop. A must-read for all in the field of religion and popular culture.'

—Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasr, author of *Representing Islam: Hip-Hop of the September 11 Generation*.

Anders Ackfeldt is the Deputy Director of the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul. He is co-editor of *The Production and Consumption of Non-Muslim Islams* (EUP 2025).



Music Poetry and Identity in Badakhshan, Tajikistan Singing and Sounding Community

By Chorshanbe
Goibnazarov

July 2025, 288 pp

OpenAccess 

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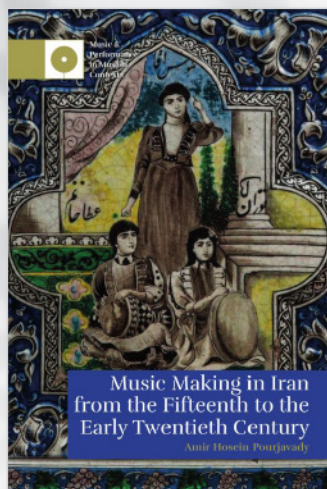
An illuminating account of Ismaili music, spiritual poetry and social change in Badakhshan.

In the riverine valleys of the Pamir Mountains of Tajik Badakhshan, a thriving millennium-old community of Nizari Ismaili Muslims created a unique spiritual culture in which the performance of music and poetry plays a central role. This book focuses on the central musical and poetic tradition of the Pamiri Ismailis, *qasīda-khonī* (also known as *maddo*), tracing its origins, evolution, delocalisation and relocation.

This book introduces readers to leading performers of *qasīda-khonī* and to the Ismaili gnosis that inspires its music and poetry.

- Based on six years of fieldwork
- Illuminates a little-known and fragile musical tradition as it faces the challenges of secularisation, globalisation and politicisation of Pamiri culture
- Contributes to the ongoing debate about the licitness of music in Islam and demonstrates that music is part of the everyday life of Pamiri Ismaili Muslims, inseparably linking religious and secular dimensions of their lives

Chorshanbe Goibnazarov is Assistant Professor and Research Fellow at the University of Central Asia's School of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School of Development.



Music Making in Iran from the 15th to the Early 20th Century

By Amir Hosein Pourjavady

December 2023, 392pp

OpenAccess 

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***Music Making in Iran* looks at the change and evolution of music in Iran from both social and theoretical perspectives.**

Amir Hosein Pourjavady scrutinises the emergence and development of modal entities, rules for modulation, the formation of court repertoires, the progress of rhythmic structures, vocal and instrumental genres and forms of composition. Through this lens, Hosein investigates how Iranian music has been impacted by Western influence, socio-political developments and contact with other musical cultures.

- Based on primary sources, including new discoveries of various documents ranging from musical treatises to song-text collections, travel accounts, biographies, musicians' diaries and interviews, musical notations, paintings, photographs and early recordings
- Examines many aspects of music making during this period, including centres of musical patronage, the role of patrons, music theorists, music treatises, the social organisation of musicians, courtesan and concubine culture, and performance contexts
- Sheds light on the historical link between Persian music and the music of neighbouring regions – such as the Azeri mugam, Iraqi maqām, Tajik-Uzbek shashmaqom and the Uyghur on ikki muqam

Amir Hosein Pourjavady earned his Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from CUNY, Graduate Center where he studied with Stephen Blum. He has taught at the University of Tehran as well as UCLA for many years. His publications include the edition of several musical treatises, numerous articles, encyclopaedia entries, book reviews and CDs. Dr. Pourjavady is also an accomplished Persian setār player and has performed widely with celebrated Iranian musicians.



From Rumi to the Whirling Dervishes Music, Poetry and Mysticism in the Ottoman Empire

By **Walter Feldman**

February 2022, 256pp

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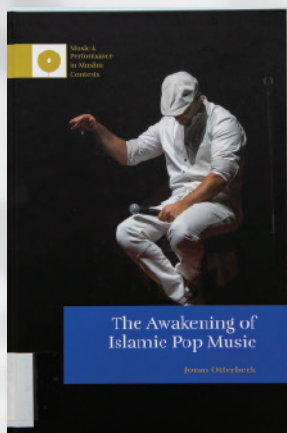
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Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, whose life and mystical poetry provided the inspiration for the Mevlevi Sufi order, is one of the world's best-known poets.

Yet the centuries-long musical tradition cultivated by the Mevleviye remains much less known. In this deeply researched book, renowned scholar Walter Feldman traces the historical development of Mevlevi music and brings to light the remarkable musical and mystical aesthetics of the Mevlevi *ayin* – the instrumental and vocal accompaniment to the sublime ceremony of the 'Whirling' Dervishes.

- Explores the musical tradition linked to the Mevlevi ('Whirling') Dervishes and the spiritual legacy of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, one of Islam's greatest mystical poets
- Provides an accessible introduction to the relationship between music and performative elements of Sufi practice codified in the Mevlevi ceremony of *sema*, illustrated with rare colour images
- Presents the biographies of the principal Mevlevi musicians, showing both their creation of the music of the *ayin* and their key role in the development of Ottoman court music

Walter Feldman is a leading scholar of both Ottoman Turkish and Jewish music. His major publications include *Klezmer: Music, History and Memory* (Oxford, 2016) and *Music of the Ottoman Court: Makam, Composition, and the Early Ottoman Instrumental Repertoire* (Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 1996). As a lifelong musician, Feldman performs on the Ottoman tanbur and the cimbāl – the traditional Klezmer dulcimer. He has held teaching positions at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania and New York University Abu Dhabi and is a board member of the Corpus Musicae Ottomanicae Project of the Wilhelm Westphalian University in Münster, and of the Istanbul Research Institute.



The Awakening of Islamic Pop Music

By Jonas Otterbeck

August 2021, 224pp

OpenAccess 

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Awakening – an Islamic media company formed in London in 2000 – has created the soundtrack to many Muslim lives over the last two decades and helped produce superstars.

Jonas Otterbeck examines Awakening's remarkable rise and their reputation as one of the most important global enterprises producing pop music inspired by Islam. He scrutinises the ethical masculinity of Awakening's artists, alongside their personas in songs, on stage and on social media, and analyses how popular culture and the creative arts challenge Islamic (re)thinking.

The book relates the history and development of new Islamic popular music genres: in particular, pop-nashid and Islamic pop. It also examines how the emphasis on ethics in the songs and music produced by the Islamic pop industry is altering the very formulations of Islamic thought.

- Analyses the contribution of popular music to the development of contemporary interpretations of Islam
- Uses the company Awakening as a case study to explore the relationship between Islamic popular music genres and wider Islamic discourse
- Supported by fieldwork (following tours), content analyses (of songs, videos, promotional material and social media) and interviews (with artists, business people and musicians)

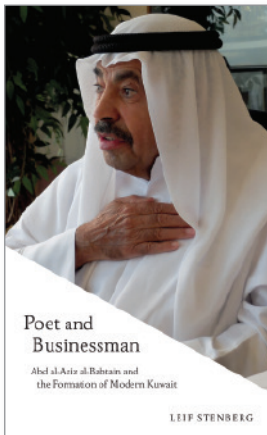
[Listen to the Spotify playlist 'The Awakening of Islamic Pop Music', featuring 103 of the songs mentioned in the book.](#)

Jonas Otterbeck is professor of Islamic studies at AKU-ISMC and holder of the Rasul-Walker Chair in Popular Culture in Islam. Over the past twenty-five years, he has engaged in research about contemporary Islam, often with political relevance. His most recent research is on creativity, Islam and popular culture. He has an interest in research on music censorship and is committed to the artist's right to expression.

Independent Volumes

Published in association with a range of publishers, including Gingko, Hurst, Saqi and Edinburgh University Press, AKU-ISMC's Independent Volumes include monographs, festschrifts, conference proceedings and other academic works that illustrate the dynamism of scholarship taking place in and about Muslim contexts.





Poet and Businessman Abd al-Aziz al-Babtain and the Formation of Modern Kuwait

By Leif Stenberg

Published in association
with Gingko

May 2022, 304pp

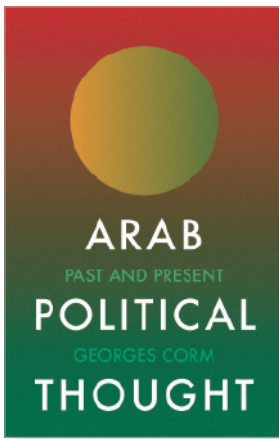
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***Poet and Businessman* reviews and analyses the modern history of Kuwait by telling the story of Abd al-Aziz al-Babtain (b. 1936), a businessman, philanthropist and poet whose own story closely interweaves with the history of the Gulf state.**

Leif Stenberg takes a wide-ranging view of this history and presents a rare study of an individual whose generation experienced first-hand the discovery of oil and the incredible changes it wrought on their small society. The costs of that discovery, alongside its many benefits, continue to play a crucial part in the socio-economic and cultural development of Kuwait and the wider region.

Constructing an overview of the modern history of Kuwait in parallel with the life of Abd al-Aziz al-Babtain, Stenberg succeeds in addressing an otherwise neglected area of Arabian history and the contemporary Middle East. The result is a balanced account of the development of Kuwait, enriched by the story of a remarkable and influential individual.

Leif Stenberg is Professor of Islamic Studies at AKU-ISMC and its former Dean. He has recently edited a volume, with Dr Philip Wood, entitled *What is Islamic Studies? European and North American Approaches to a Contested Field* (EUP. February 2022).



Arab Political Thought Past and Present

By Georges Corm
Translated by
Patricia Phillips-
Batoma & Atoma
T. Batoma

Published in association
with Hurst

January 2020, 367pp

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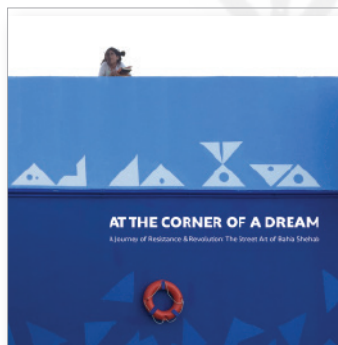
Explores the many facets of Arab political thought from the nineteenth century to the present day.

This book demonstrates the vitality of Arab political thought and its major controversies. It shows that the key players involved, far from being constrained by a theological-political straitjacket, have often demonstrated strong critical thinking when tackling religion and philosophy, anthropology and politics.

Situating these thinkers and their works within two centuries of upheaval in the Arab world, Georges Corm demonstrates how Arab critical thought has been marginalised by powerful external forces: the military, the academy and the media. In its place has risen a hegemonic Islamist thought, used cannily by certain Arab regimes and their Western protectors. Closely tracing the successive transformations of modernist Arab nationalism, *Arab Political Thought* offers a blueprint for understanding the libertarian Arab Spring, as well as the counter-revolutions and external interventions that have followed.

This invaluable guide comprehensively distils the complexity of Arab intellectualism, which is both critical and profane and a far cry from the outdated politico-religious image it has acquired.

Georges Corm is Professor at the Institute of Political Science at Saint-Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon. He was formerly a public sector economist and an international economic consultant. Between 1998 and 2000 he was Lebanese Minister of Finance. He has published extensively on the contemporary history of the Middle East and relations between the Arab world and the West.



At the Corner of a Dream A Journey of Revolution and Resistance: The Street Art of Bahia Shehab

By Bahia Shehab

Published in association
with Gingko

September 2019, 96pp

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Lebanese-Egyptian street artist Bahia Shehab began taking to the streets during the Egyptian revolution of 2011.

Inspired by the verses of the Palestinian resistance poet Mahmoud Darwish (1941–2008), she started transcribing them in new and original forms of Arabic on the streets of the world – from New York to Tokyo, Amsterdam to Honolulu. As with Darwish’s poetry, her message is that ‘ideas cannot be killed’ and that no matter our location, race or religion, ‘we are united in our humanity and our struggle against oppression and dictatorship.’

The title *At the Corner of a Dream* is taken from Darwish’s poem ‘It was what it was going to be’, and the book documents not only Shehab’s striking artwork and her impressions of communities around the world, but also the stories of the people she meets along the way. This book is Shehab’s manifesto; her cry for freedom and dignity; and a call to never stop dreaming.

Bahia Shehab is a multidisciplinary artist, designer and art historian. She was included in the BBC’s 100 Women list (2013), TED Senior Fellowship (2016) and a Prince Claus Award (2016). Her publications include *A Thousand Times NO: The Visual History of Lam-Alif*. She is the first Arab woman to receive the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture (2016).



There is no single academic work that asks what the sharia is at multiple levels – this is the first to fill that need.

An indispensable introduction to the evolution and implementation of sharia law within the Muslim world.

In the West, 'sharia' often calls to mind antiquated laws founded upon gender discrimination and barbaric punishments. In the East, for some it means the ideal standards by which Muslims strive to live; for others, it is the greatest obstacle to the modernisation of their societies. These clashing views sometimes lead to violence. Clarification of the term has therefore become an urgent necessity.

Sharia is all of these things and much more. It is the legal system of Islam, a series of guidelines and prohibitions. But it is also a concept invested with a whole range of meanings, from the virtuous attributes of an 'ideal' society to the confinement of particular elements to otherness and adversity.

Moving through history, society and Islamic thought to explore the sources of sharia law, Baudouin Dupret gets to the heart of its uses and abuses in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. This concise, accessible book provides an invaluable guide for those seeking to understand a matter more complex and pressing today than ever before.

What is the Sharia?

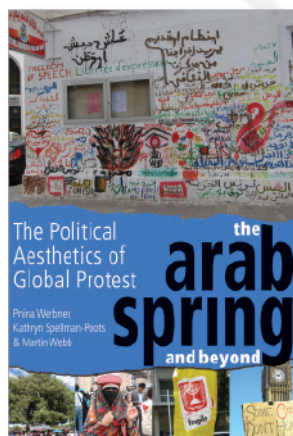
By Baudouin Dupret
Translated by
David Bond

Published in association
with Hurst, and with the
support of the French
Ministry of Culture

March 2018, 256pp

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Baudouin Dupret specialises in Law, Islamic Studies and Political Science. He spent many years as a CNRS researcher in Egypt, Syria and Morocco. He has published extensively on sociology and anthropology of law, and on legislation in the Middle East and North Africa, including the co-authored *Law at Work*.



The Political Aesthetics of Global Protest The Arab Spring and Beyond

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

Explores the Arab Spring and the protest movements that followed through images, songs, videos, humour, satire and dramatic performances.

Published in association with Edinburgh University Press

July 2014, 448pp

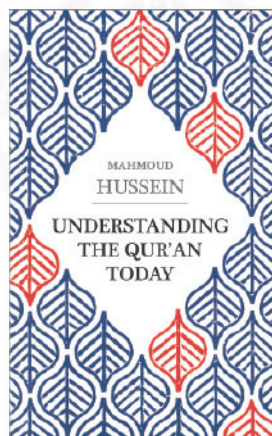
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Understanding the Qur'an Today

**By Mahmoud Hussein
Translated by David Bond**

An international bestseller, this book offers a contemporary perspective on one of the world's most influential texts and adds an invaluable contribution to the debate on Islam and modernity.

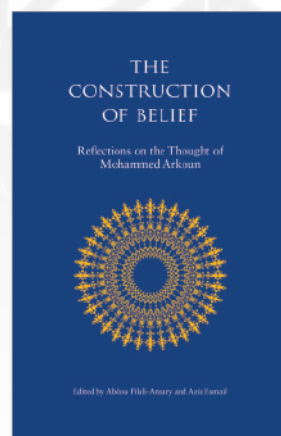
Published in association with Saqi

March 2013, 176pp

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The Construction of Belief Reflections on the Thought of Mohammed Arkoun

Edited by Abdou Filali-Ansary & Aziz Esmail

This book presents a selection of critiques of Arkoun's work, reflecting on his considerable influence on thinking about Islam.

Published in association with Saqi

January 2013, 216pp

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Journal of Material Cultures in the Muslim World



Produced in partnership with the Aga Khan Museum (Toronto, Canada) and the publisher Brill is this peer-reviewed, academic journal in full Open Access.

The *Journal of Material Cultures in the Muslim World* aims to be a new reference for field archaeologists, (art) historians, anthropologists, curators, and scholars and students of the archaeology, (art) history, architecture, anthropology and ethnography of the Muslim world. This readership represents a new broader definition of material culture that includes not only artefacts, architectural structures and monuments, but also crafts. The journal aims to inform (other) disciplines and historiographies by also including archaeological field surveys.

The journal also focuses on un(der)explored Muslim regions outside of the Middle East and North Africa: sub-Saharan Africa, the Indian Ocean, Central Asia, India, Southeast Asia and Europe.

The journal accepts submissions in English, French, German and Spanish and short reports in Arabic, Persian and Turkish with an English abstract.

Submissions should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief, Stéphane Pradines, at Stéphane.Pradines@aku.edu

ISSN 26666-6286

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Volume 2 (2021), no. 1-2

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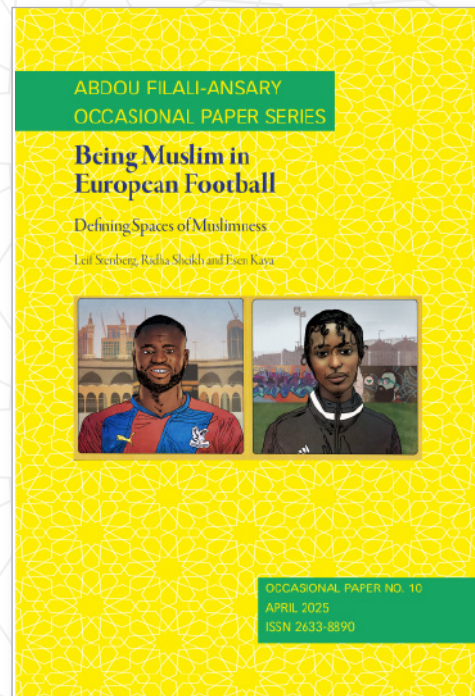
The papers are work from the Institute's affiliated faculty, fellows, researchers and postgraduate students across a wide range of research areas, demonstrating both the depth and breadth of research being undertaken. And there are also contributions from distinguished scholars from outside the AKU-ISMC community. The series welcomes submissions from external researchers that address current AKU-ISMC research priorities.

ISSN 2633-8890

Being Muslim in European Football Defining Spaces of Muslimness

**By Leif Stenberg,
Ridha Sheikh and
Esen Kaya**

Exploring the intersection of football and Islam, the authors employ the stories of UK Premier League player Cheikhou Kouyaté and amateur footballer Yasmin Abdullahi in London to investigate how these individuals navigate their Muslim identities in the context of their sporting careers.

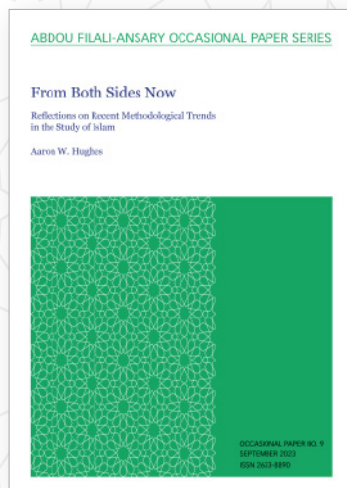


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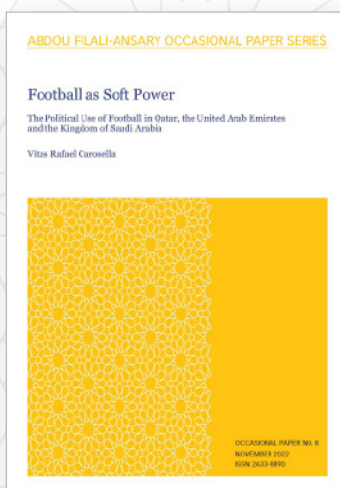
Both Sides Now Reflections on Recent Methodological Trends in the Study of Islam

By Aaron W. Hughes

This is a set of critical reflections on method and theory in current studies of Islam. At present in the field, there is a diverse set of attempts to imagine 'Islam', not as a theological category that must be defended, but as something embedded in and indistinct from the manifold cultures in which Muslims find themselves.

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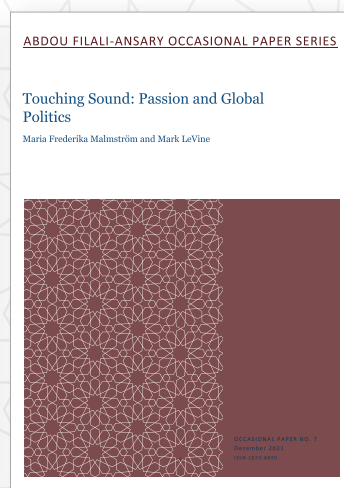
Football as Soft Power The Political Use of Football in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

By Vitas Carosella

The stronger one player's values, culture and policies are, the more soft power that player has. Qatar, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, traditional fossil fuel-based states, suffer from a lack of attraction. By investing in football, each nation hopes to project a new image and ensure future relevance.

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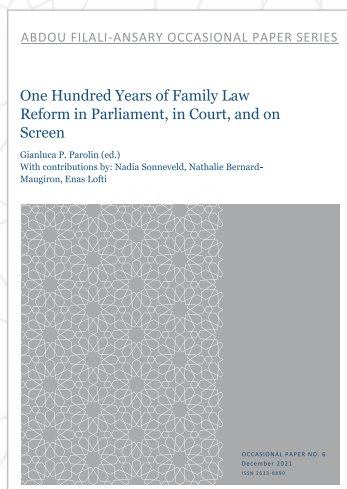
Touching Sound Passion and Global Politics

By Maria Frederika Malmström and Mark Levine

By focusing on the realm of sound, we increase our understanding of the politics of the sonic. How does sound shape or constrain actions? How and why does sound induce strong affective states? How does listening to noise as well as to silences, screeches and songs, clicks and pops, affect us?

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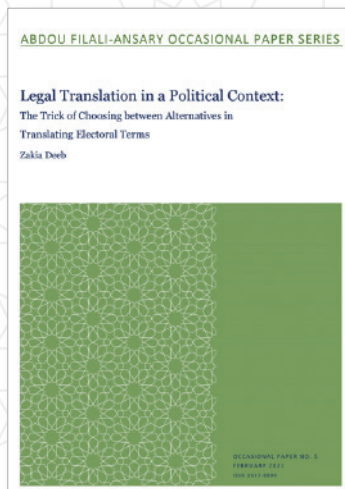
One Hundred Years of Family Law Reform in Parliament, in Court, and on Screen

Edited by Gianluca Parolin, with contributions from Nadia Sonneveld, Nathalie Bernard-Maugiron and Enas Lofti

Through the lens of the Egyptian legal system, this paper interrogates legislation, its operationalisation in adjudication and its interrelation with popular culture.

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Legal Translation in a Political Context The Trick of Choosing between Alternatives in Translating Electoral Terms

By Zakia Deeb

In Arabic, even basic electoral terms can be used differently in different Arab countries. And most have alternative equivalents. Data from the 2012 election of members of the Libyan General National Congress is analysed to test the selecting from these alternatives.

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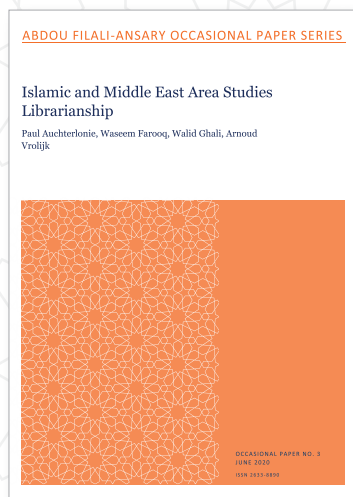
UK Think-Tanks, the War on Terror and the Radicalisation Debate

By Hadi Enayat

This paper maps the discursive and ideological habitus in which UK think-tanks operate in connection with the 'war on terror'. It sketches the rise of 'terrorism' as both an academic object of study, from the mid-1970s onwards, and as an increasingly vital policy area for governments and the military-security establishment, especially after 9/11.

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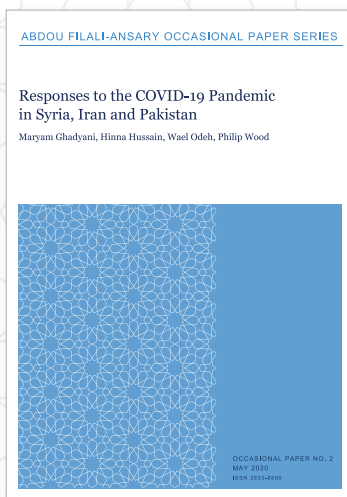
Islamic and Middle East Area Studies Librarianship

By Paul Auchterlonie, Waseem Farooq, Walid Ghali and Arnoud Vrolijk

The three papers collected here are based on a seminar on Islamic Studies Librarianship held on 31 January 2019 at the Aga Khan Library (AKL).

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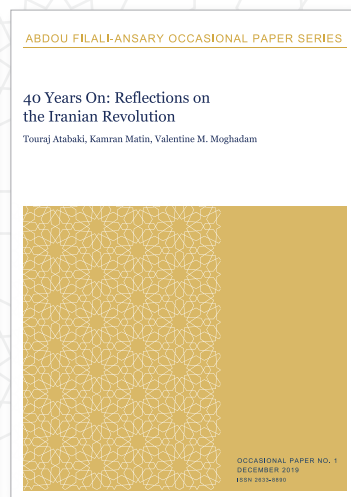
Responses to the COVID19 Pandemic in Syria, Iran and Pakistan

By Maryam Ghadyani, Hinna Hussain, Wael Odeh and Philip Wood

This paper describes the reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak on social media in Iran, Syria and Pakistan. It focuses on issues of the place of religion in society, on international relations and on trust between society and government, where these issues have been invoked in the discussion of the epidemic

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40 years On Reflections on the Iranian Revolution

By Touraj Atabaki, Kamran Matin and Valentine M. Moghadam

The three articles compiled here are based on a panel discussion held at AKU-ISMC on 23 May 2019. Marking the 40th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution, its aim was to revisit the debate on the causes and impact of the revolution for Iran and beyond

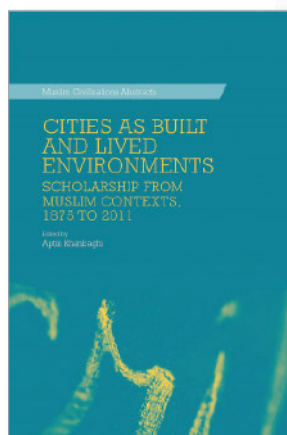
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Series Editor: Aptin Khanbaghi

Published in association with **Edinburgh University Press**



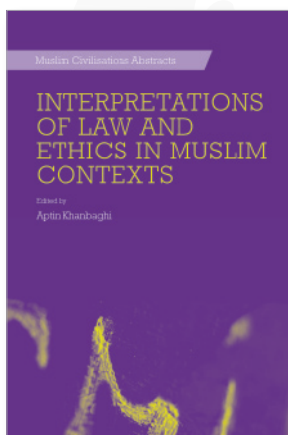
Cities as Built and Lived Environments Scholarship from Muslim Contexts, 1875 to 2011

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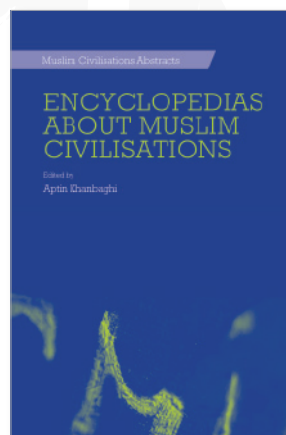
Interpretations of Law and Ethics in Muslim Contexts

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