



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

(International) in the United Kingdom

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

Muslim Cultures and Societies

2021 Online Short Course Series

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Muslim Cultures and Societies

2021 Online Short Course Series

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Muslims in the UK

Muslims have been present in the UK in sizeable numbers since the 1960s. Many are born here living their whole lives as British citizens, others arrived yesterday. Muslims can be found in all walks of life and the diversity of Muslim backgrounds when it comes to ethnicity, theology and language is vast. Still, there are ways to generalise.

This course will address the history and diversity of Muslims in the UK, the discussion about integration, radicalisation, securitisation, gender and Sharia. The aim is to give participants an in-depth introduction and tools to critically understand discussions about Muslims.

Course Convenors

Professor Jonas Otterbeck and Professor Philip Wood, AKU-ISMC.



Decolonisation

Power, Politics and Knowledge

Situated across the disciplines of Politics, History and Sociology, this introductory course examines the unfinished business of decolonisation. The course will:

- Introduce participants to key ideas in decoloniality, post-colonialism, Marxism, gender and ecological studies.
- Analyse the historic contexts of political decolonisation with attention to the work of Frantz Fanon.
- Ask how are our everyday lives impacted by colonial legacies using the example of race, gender and desire?

Course Convenor

Dr Sanaa Alimia, AKU-ISMC.



DECOLONISATION: POWER,
POLITICS, KNOWLEDGE

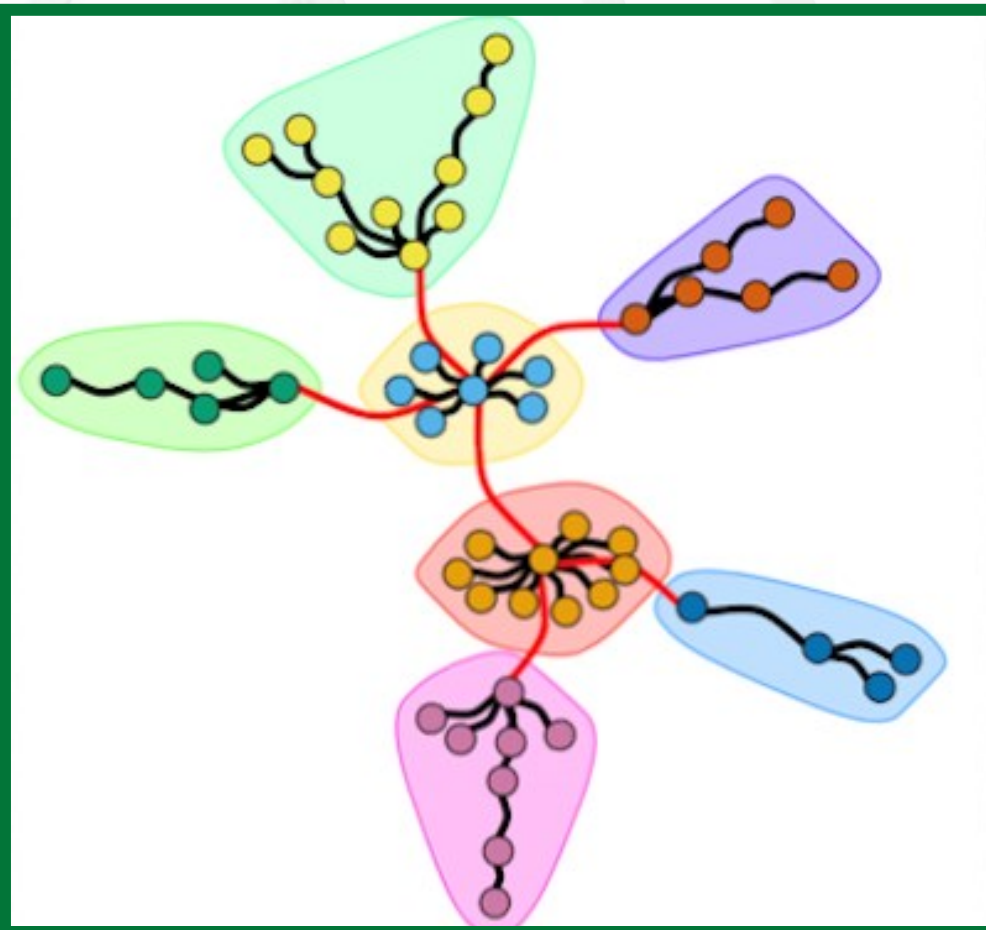
The Qur'an in Muslim Practice

The aim of the course is to explore the social role of the Qur'an in Muslim life in general as well as in aspects that relate to its use as a source of comfort, healing, protection, divination and ritual (both canonical/'official' and local). While the texts associated with these aspects will be analysed, attention will also focus on the aspirations and expectations of their users. The course will commence with a discussion of the Qur'an as a Muslim religious text and some of the perspectives it has generated over time. The last two sessions will explore the invocation of the Qur'an and the use of its verses from the perspectives of the individual and society.

Course Convenors

Dr Farouk Topan and Dr Walid Ghali, AKU-ISMC.





Social Network Analysis Using R

This online course introduces participants to the conceptual foundations of social network analysis as it has developed within anthropology and provides practical training in generating social network data, formatting those data for a suitable software program and analysing those data using R.

By the course participants will have developed a sound understanding of:

- How a focus on networks impacts on the unit of analysis and the kinds of questions that can be addressed.
- The ways in which we can produce network data with real people in the field.
- The basic operations of R.
- The basic operations of two R libraries: igraph and sna.

Course Convenor

Professor Stephen Lyon, AKU-ISMC.

Water Governance: Concepts, Policy and Practice

Building on the experience of AKU's British Academy water research project, this course will introduce participants to major themes and policy frameworks in water governance with a focus on experiences of community-based water management in the Global South. The course aims to equip participants with perspectives to inform practical engagements in the water sector. A blend of presentation, discussion and short tasks spread over four sessions will introduce key academic and policy ideas.

Course Convenors

Dr Matt Birkinshaw and Dr Anna Grieser, AKU-ISMC.



April & September



Manuscripts in Arabic Script

Introduction to Codicology

This online course aims to introduce Arabic manuscripts from a codicological and textual point of view. The first day will provide an overview of the field of codicology and its role in the manuscript field in general and in identifying the key features of the manuscript in particular. The second day will focus on the importance of manuscripts in research. While the first session will cover the Para-textual features in the Arabic manuscripts, the second session will demonstrate the different approaches in editing manuscripts.

Course Convenors

Dr Walid Ghali, AKU-ISMC, and Dr Anne Regourd, CNRS.

May & October



Islam and Constitutions

The Law and Politics of Sharia Provisions

This online course introduces participants to the conceptual foundations of constitutional law, the articulations of State-Islam relations in contemporary constitutions, and the various models of sharia provisions in a comparative perspective. Sharia provisions, in particular, are considered both in terms of their wording and the overall design. A close up on the politics of Sharia provisions will provide a useful case study. The course also provides practical training in handling constitutional provisions on sharia in different jurisdictions through the direct involvement of participants in class activities.

Course Convenor

Professor Gianluca Parolin, AKU-ISMC.



Image: African mosques, Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC).

Mosques in Sub-Saharan Africa

Muslim Architectures

This two-day online course introduces participants to Muslim architecture in Sub-Saharan Africa. Following an introduction on Islamic architecture and mosques, the first session explores the mosques in West Africa, from the Sahara Desert to the tropical forests. The second session looks at the mosques in East Africa, from the Swahili coast to the Nile valleys.

This course provides the basis for understanding and critically examining development of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa. It approaches architecture through building materials and African techniques of construction, from earthen monuments to coral stone buildings.

Course Convenor

Professor Stephane Pradines, AKU-ISMC.

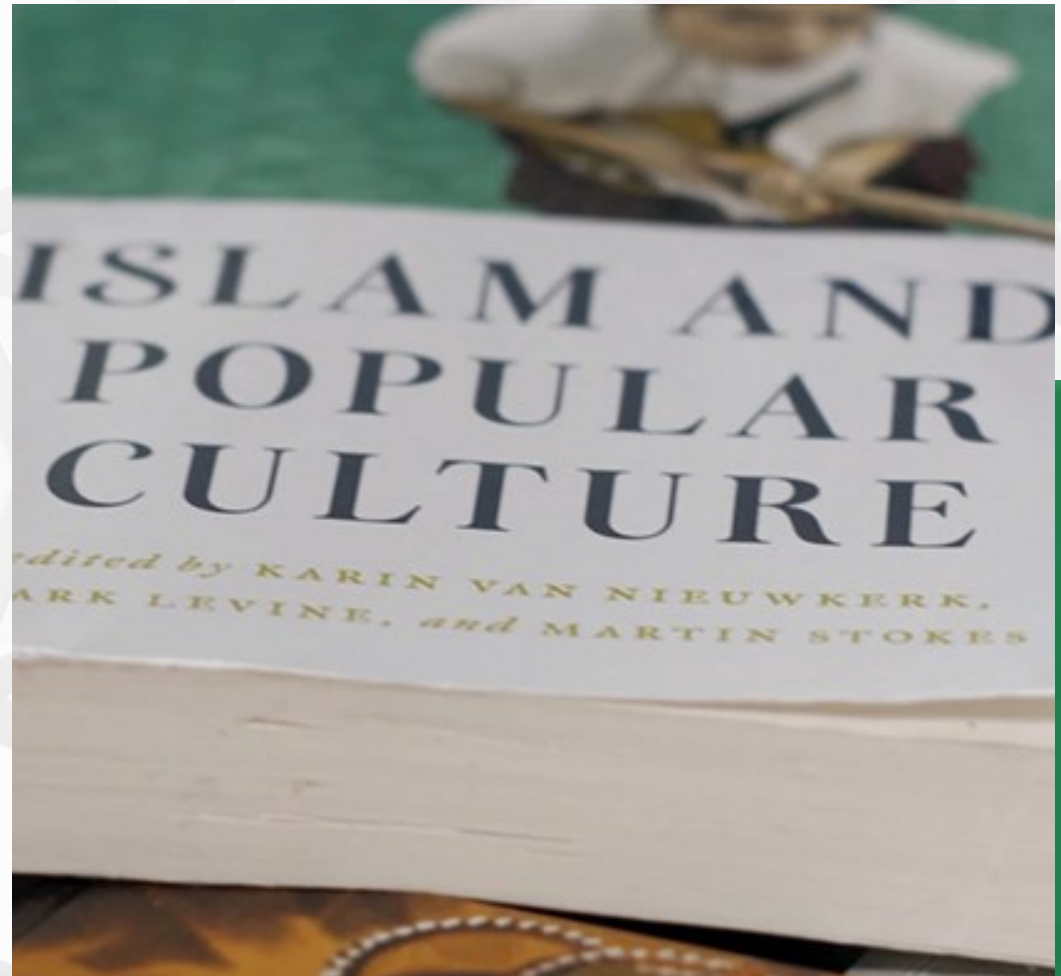
Islam and Creativity

Islam has played a crucial role in creativity over time. Muslim as well as non-Muslim artists have commented on the religion – its narratives, symbols, leading proponents, ideas, central rituals – in numerous art forms and for very different reasons.

The aim of this online short course is to learn about and gain analytical tools to understand contemporary creativity in relation to Islam. During the course, participants will discuss Islamic discourse, ethics, aesthetics and creative processes in popular music, films, paintings and novels. The course will also discuss how artists push and cross boundaries in an increasingly entangled world.

Course Convenor

Professor Jonas Otterbeck, AKU-ISMC.



June

Introduction to the Study of Islam and Muslims

The course provides an introduction to the development of Islamic thought and institutions from the seventh century to the present day. It surveys basic sources and terminologies as well as providing an introduction to major trends in scholarship. It asks when, and on what basis, different actors seek to make generalisations about Muslims (and, by implication, non-Muslims), and whether such generalisations can ever be valid.

Course Convenor

Professor Philip Wood, AKU-ISMC.



October

Religious Cultural Heritage

Concepts and Issues in the Modern Middle East

This is a two-day introductory course on the theme of religious cultural heritage (RCH) in the Middle East. It aims to contextualise RCH as the living cultural heritage of its community of users. In addition, the course attempts to present RCH as a contemporary construct of its socio-political and religious context through its connections to ethnicity, gender, nationalism, as much as religion.

Course Convenors

Professor Dick Douwes, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and
Mohamad Meqdad, Erasmus University Rotterdam/AKU-ISMC.



The Challenges of Development in Muslim Societies

This two-day course introduces participants to some of the main development challenges facing Muslim societies today. The first session explores the different conceptions of development and how these are measured. The second session looks at the main approaches to development centred on two competing views of how resources should be allocated in society – through the free market and through government policies. This provides the basis in which to understand and critically examine development approaches and policies that emphasise the role of governments, the private sector and civil society.

Course Convenor

Dr Jeff Tan, AKU-ISMC.



Warfare in Muslim Cultures

Sub-Saharan African Kingdoms and Empires

This two-day course introduces participants to warfare in Sub-Saharan Africa and Muslim societies. The first session explores warfare and piracy on the Swahili coast during the medieval and modern periods. The second session looks at 19th century jihads on the Sahelian Belt, from Sudan to Senegal.

This short course provides the basis for understanding and critically examining development of holy war and jihad in Sub-Saharan Africa. It approaches African resistance to colonialism through the study of Muslim arms and armour.

This short course is organised in collaboration with The Royal Armouries Museum, UK.

Course Convenors

Professor Stephane Pradines, AKU-ISMC, and Natasha Bennett, The Royal Armouries Museum.



Image: War: Dominican Institute, Cairo (IDEO).



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