



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

**CELEBRATING
20 YEARS**



PUBLICATIONS CATALOGUE
2022

Contacts

Senior Coordinator, Publications

Donald Dinwiddie
+44 (0)20 7380 3851
donald.dinwiddie@aku.edu

Address

AKU-ISMC
Aga Khan Centre
10 Handyside Street
King's Cross
London N1C 4DN

www.aku.edu/ismc/publications

 www.facebook.com/akuismlondon

 [@AKU_ISMC](https://twitter.com/AKU_ISMC)

 www.youtube.com/akuismc

Photo credits

Cover, P4-5, 10, 16, 22: Jonathan Goldberg
P3: FMA AGA Edmund Summer
P6: AKU
P9: courtesy Aayah Media
P29: Stéphane Pradines

Design: Stephanie de Howes

Contents

Aga Khan University – Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC)	2
AKU-ISMC Publications	4
Music and Performance in Muslim Contexts	6
Exploring Muslim Contexts	10
In Translation: Contemporary Thought in Muslim Contexts	16
Independent Volumes	22
Journal of Material Cultures in the Muslim World	28
Abdou Filali-Ansary Occasional Papers	30
Muslim Civilisations Abstracts	32
Orders / eCommons / Authors on Film / Mailing List	33

Aga Khan University – Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU-ISMC)

About the Aga Khan University

Established in 1983, the Aga Khan University (AKU) is an institution of academic excellence and an agent for social development. AKU has campuses and programmes in Europe, Africa and South Asia, and operates on the core principles of quality, relevance, impact and access. It prepares its students to lead change in their societies and to thrive in the global economy.

Through its needs-sensitive admissions policy, the University offers the most promising leaders and thinkers of tomorrow the opportunity to serve, and the skills to help communities solve their most pressing challenges.

About ISMC

Founded in London in 2002, AKU's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (ISMC) promotes scholarship that opens up new perspectives on Muslim societies. We consider key issues such as tradition and modernity, religion and the state, pluralism and unity, and the nature of community in an era of global connection and change. Our mandate is to address fundamental challenges of the human condition as they are expressed across the diverse societies of the Muslim world and its diasporas.

ISMC is 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.

Right: The Garden of Light,
Aga Khan Centre, London

“ This year marks the 20th anniversary of AKU-ISMC's inauguration by His Highness, Aga Khan IV. At its heart, AKU-ISMC is a research-focused institution driven by the belief that academic enquiry and education can enable understanding and positive social change. Informed by the wider work of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), we foster vital connections with the diverse Muslim societies of the world for the benefit of many. And our publishing programme plays an important role in helping us realise these goals.”

Professor Leif Stenberg

Dean, Aga Khan University – Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



AKU-ISMC 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. In the past two decades, attention has increasingly focused on Muslim societies and their place within the contemporary global environment. But often their representation is viewed through a distorting spotlight on violence, extremism and hero/anti-hero politics. What is overlooked is the contemporary thinking of Muslims, as well as 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.

Through our three main series – Exploring Muslim Contexts, In Translation: Contemporary Thought in Muslim Contexts and Music and Performance in Muslim Contexts – we hope to provide a forum for important new scholarship across the spectrum of humanities

and social sciences focusing on Muslim contexts. The series not only showcase the Institute's own achievements in research and analysis, but also give voice to scholars around the globe. Outside these series, AKU-ISMC Publications also has a healthy list of independent volumes that explore everything from what is the sharia to protest through street art.

One of the exciting developments of the past two years has been the launch, in partnership with the Aga Khan Museum, of the *Journal of Material Cultures in the Muslim World*. Twice yearly, the journal publishes an international collection of research relating to every aspect of material culture in Islamic societies from their beginnings to their current evolutions. ISMC has also initiated the Abdou Filali-Ansary Occasional Papers, allowing scholars a chance to publish as Open Access and on eCommons stand-alone studies on particular topics.



Music and Performance in Muslim Contexts

Series Editors: Theodore Levin and Jonas Otterbeck

Published in association with Edinburgh University Press
edinburghuniversitypress.com/series/mpmc

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



NEW



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
- Includes numerous original translations of Turkish verse by major Mevlevi poets
- Presents music examples with explanation, both in the book and freely available on the Aga Khan Music Programme website: akdn.org/akmp

.....

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

By Walter Feldman

.....

Hardback: 9781474491853

February 2022, 256pp

Ebook (ePub): 9781474491877

Ebook (PDF): 9781474491884

.....

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 cimbal – 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.

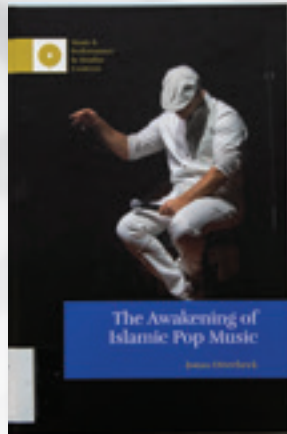


THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
(International) in the United Kingdom
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



AGA KHAN MUSIC
PROGRAMME

NEW



The Awakening of Islamic Pop Music

By Jonas Otterbeck

Hardback: 9781474490429

August 2021, 224pp

Open Access 

Ebook (ePub): 9781474490450

Ebook (PDF): 9781474490443

Also available on eCommons at:
ecommons.aku.edu/uk_ismc_series/

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)
- Includes new perspectives on celebrity culture among Muslims and its connection with ethical Muslim masculinity

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

Right: Raef in concert.
Courtesy Aayah Media

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.



Exploring Muslim Contexts

Series Editor: Farouk Topan

Published in association with Edinburgh University Press
edinburghuniversitypress.com/series/ecmc

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.

Questions pertaining to social change, development and new forms of socio-economic, political and cultural practices and differentiations in Muslim contexts are addressed. The series brings together leading specialists from a variety of disciplines to explore these critical issues.



NEW



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, Carol Kersten, Susanne Olsson and Jonas Otterbeck
- Addresses the role of both Muslims and non-Muslims in the ongoing construction of Islam

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

Edited by Leif Stenberg
and Philip Wood

Hardback: 9781399500005
February 2022, 224pp

Ebook (ePub): 9781399500036
Ebook (PDF): 9781399500029

Leif Stenberg is Dean and Professor of Islamic Studies at AKU-ISMC. Between 2010 and 2019 Stenberg was President of the Nordic Society of Middle Eastern Studies and he is currently a member of the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) Council and vice-president of the European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES). He is the editor of numerous books including: *Syria from Reform to Revolt Vol. II: Culture, Society and Religion* (co-edited with Salamandra, Syracuse University Press, 2015) and *Navigating Contemporary Iran: Challenging Economic, Social and Political Perceptions* (co-edited with Hooglund, Routledge, 2012). His most recent monograph is *Poet and Businessman: Abd al-Aziz and the Formation of Modern Kuwait* with Gingko (May 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, and he is particularly interested in the role of history-writing and hagiography in reflecting and asserting social boundaries. Wood is the author of *The Chronicle of Seert: Christian Historical Imagination in Late Antique Iraq* (OUP, 2013) and editor of the volume *History and Identity in the Late Antique East* (OUP, 2013). His latest monograph, *The Imam of the Christians: The World of Dionysius of Tel-Mahre c.750–850*, was published by Princeton University Press.



Gender, Governance and Islam

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

Hardback: 9781474455428

August 2019, 240pp

Paperback: 9781474455435

May 2021

Ebook (ePub): 9781474455442

Ebook (PDF): 9781474455459

This book interrogates the interplay of gender, governance and Islam across eight Muslim-majority contexts and the Muslim diaspora in Europe and the US.

In the 25 years since Deniz Kandiyoti's seminal publication of *Women, Islam and the State*, the universe of action and meaning surrounding the key terms of its title has been radically transformed. There has been no comprehensive attempt, to date, to revisit the original debate or to set new terms of reference. The manner in which the state and governance were conceptualised therefore requires a radical reformulation.

This book looks at key global developments that include the effects of neo-liberal restructuring (and the demise of post-independence social contracts), contested and fragmented sovereignties, and the disarticulation of states enmeshed in a variety of external interventions (armed or otherwise). 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.

- Highlights the centrality of gender politics in understanding political change and new forms of governance
- Critically discusses the transformations of the role of religion in intersecting layers of local, national and transnational governance
- Explores trajectories of failed and fragile states (such as Iraq and Afghanistan)
- Nine case studies explain different contexts in which the relationship between gender, Islam and governance play out

“*Nearly two decades after her path-breaking Women, Islam and the State, Deniz Kandiyoti is back with another seminal volume reflecting on a similar set of problematics. [...] this spectacular collection of articles [...] with its theoretical insights and carefully grounded empirical research, [...] will stand the test of time and become a classic.*”

Beth Baron, CUNY

Deniz Kandiyoti is Emeritus Professor of Development Studies at SOAS; Nadjie Al-Ali is Robert Family Professor of International Studies and Professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies at Brown University; Kathryn Spellman-Poots is Associate Professor at AKU-ISMC and Visiting Associate Professor at Columbia University.



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

Edited by Masooda Bano
& Keiko Sakurai

Hardback: 9780748696857

March 2015, 240pp

Paperback: 9781474424165

March 2017

Ebook (ePub): 9781474403481

Ebook (PDF): 9780748696871

Also available on eCommons at:
ecommons.aku.edu/uk_ismc_series/

Explores the influence of centres of Islamic learning in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt.

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.

In a similar manner, it is often regarded as a fact that Iran and the Sunni Arab states are fighting proxy wars in foreign lands. This empirically grounded study challenges the assumptions prevalent within academic as well as policy circles about the hegemonic power of such Islamic discourses and movements and their ability to penetrate Muslim communities and societies. Through case studies of academic institutions, the volume illustrates how transmission of ideas is an extremely complex process: the outcome of such efforts depends not just on the strategies adopted by backers of those ideologies, but equally on the characteristics of the recipient communities.

In order to understand this complex interaction between global and local Islam and the plurality in outcomes, the book focuses on the workings of three universities with global outreach, 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.

- Focuses on case studies of three of the most influential international centres of Islamic learning in contemporary times: Al-Azhar University in Egypt, International Islamic University of Medina in Saudi Arabia and Al-Mustafa University in Iran
- Traces the activities and influence of graduates in their home communities to show how ideas are transmitted between locales and how this often induces adjustments of those ideas
- Takes a comparative approach with cases from North and West Africa and Southeast Asia

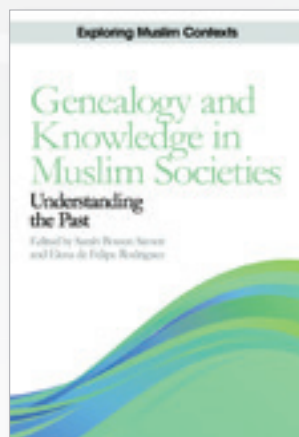
Masooda Bano is Associate Professor at the Department of International Development, University of Oxford; Keiko Sakurai is Professor at the Faculty of International Research and Education, Waseda University, Tokyo.



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.

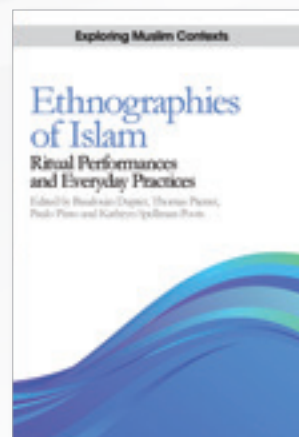
Hardback: 9780748693337
February 2015, 232pp
Ebook (ePub): 9781474403429
Ebook (PDF): 9780748693481



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.

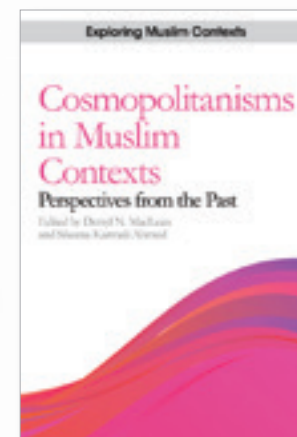
Hardback: 9780748644971
April 2014, 164pp
Ebook (PDF): 9780748644988



Ethnographies of Islam: Ritual Performances and Everyday Practices
Edited by Baudouin Dupret, Thomas Pierret, Paulo G. Pinto & Kathryn Spellman-Poots

Reflects on how ethnography facilitates the description, representation and analysis of the social and cultural complexity of Muslim societies in anthropology.

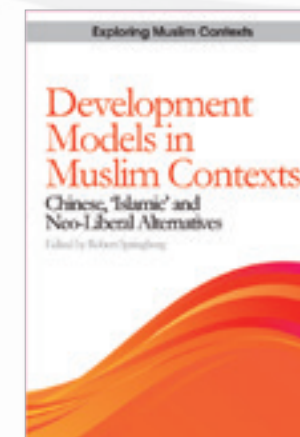
Hardback: 9780748645503
July 2012, 208pp
Paperback: 9780748689842
September 2013
Ebook (ePub): 9780748654796
Ebook (PDF): 9780748645510



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.

Hardback: 9780748644568
July 2012, 208pp
Paperback: 999780748689859
September 2013
Ebook (ePub): 9780748656097
Ebook (PDF): 9780748644568



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.

Hardback: 9780748639687
September 2009, 272pp
Ebook (PDF): 9780748641772



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.

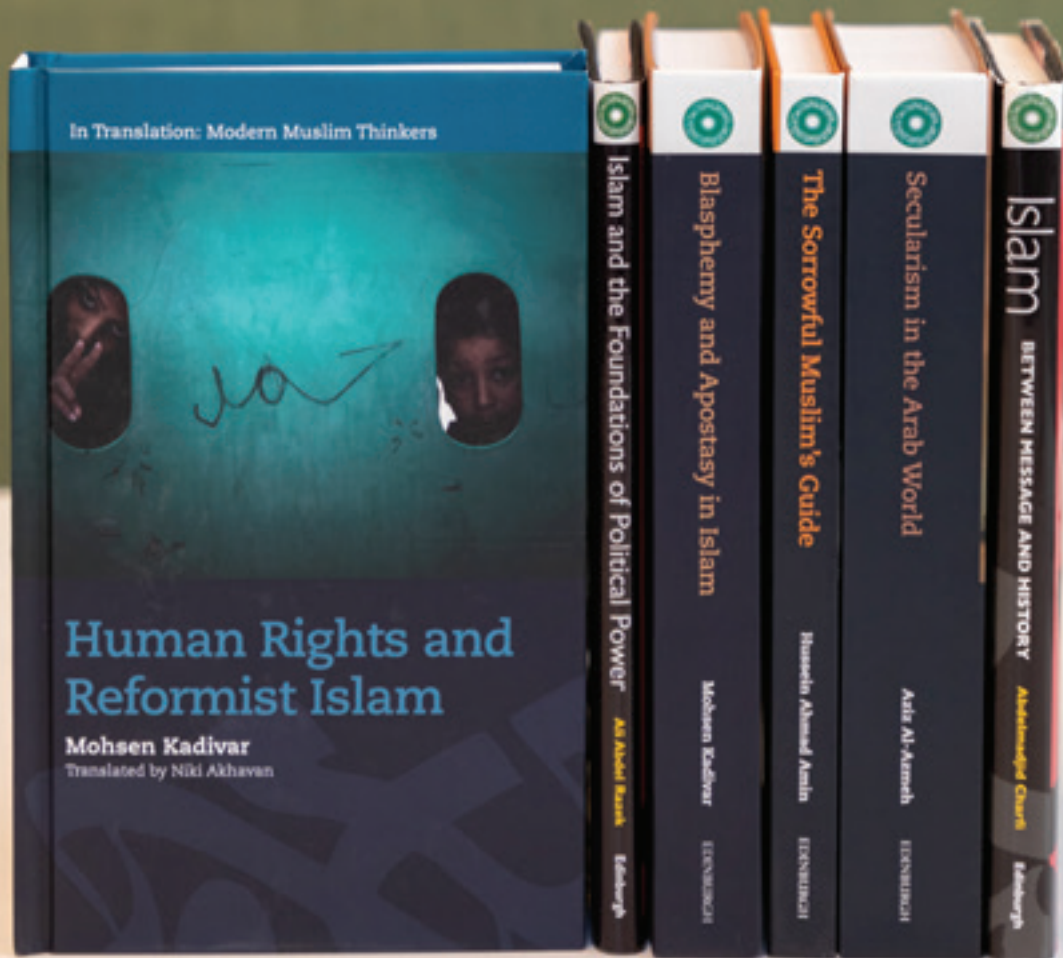
Hardback: 9780748639694
September 2009, 128pp
Ebook (PDF) 9780748642090

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
edinburghuniversitypress.com/series/tmmt

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

Hardback: 9781474449304
February 2021, 552pp
Ebook (ePub): 9781474449328
Ebook (PDF): 9781474449335

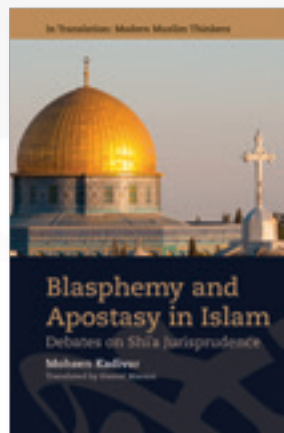
Translates the influential collection *Haqq al-nas*, which argues for the compatibility of human rights and Islam.

Human Rights and Reformist Islam critiques traditional Islamic approaches to the question of compatibility between human rights and Islam, and argues instead for their reconciliation from the perspective of a reformist Islam. The book focuses on six controversial case studies: religious discrimination; gender discrimination; slavery; freedom of religion; punishment of apostasy; and arbitrary or harsh punishments.

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
- Preface by Professor Mirjam Künkler explains the importance of the translation and the value of its contribution to current scholarly debate
- 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

Hardback: 9781474457576
February 2021, 432pp
Ebook (ePub): 9781474457606
Ebook (PDF): 9781474457590

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 the broader 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

Hardback: 9781474447461
February 2020, 592pp
Paperback: 9781474447478
November 2021
Ebook (ePub): 9781474447485
Ebook (PDF): 9781474447492

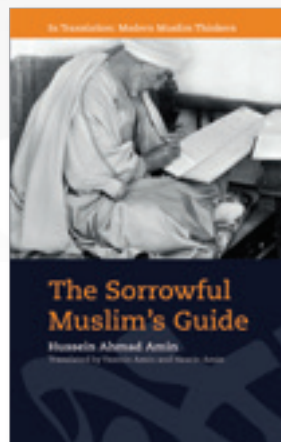
Explores secularism and secularisation in Arab societies since the mid-nineteenth century.

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

Aziz al-Azmeh is CEU University Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of History, Central European University, Vienna and Budapest. Prior to that, he taught at the University of Exeter and at the American University of Beirut, and was Visiting Professor at Columbia, Yale, Berkeley, Georgetown, ISTAC and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris. He was also a long-term Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Berlin and a Fellow at the Swedish Institute for Advanced Studies, Uppsala, the Kollegium Budapest, the Kaete Hamburger Kolleg, Bochum and a Senior Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, University of Bonn, as well as a Resident Scholar at the Rockefeller Foundation Center for Scholars in Bellagio. Aziz al-Azmeh held the Bourse Fernand Braudel over several terms as Directeur de Recherches Associé, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris.



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

“No history of modern Islamic thought, especially rationalist thought, can disregard this work. This is not only because of its purely scholarly importance to the historian of ideas, but also its charm, its gentle persuasiveness, and its succinct description of what the author identifies as the shortcomings of modern Muslim thought, all of which make this work of major importance to any reader, specialist or general, interested in modern Islam.”

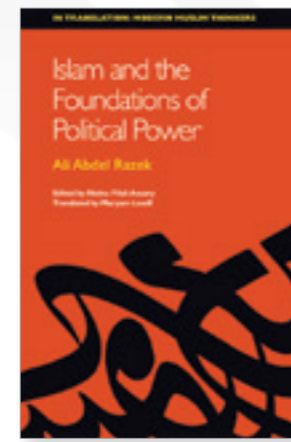
Tarif Khalidi, Shaikh Zayid Professor Emeritus of Arabic and Islamic Studies, American University of Beirut

The Sorrowful Muslim's Guide
Hussein Ahmad Amin
 Introduced by Paolo Branca
 Translated by Nesrin Amin & Yasmin Amin

Hardback: 9781474437073
 October 2018, 232pp
 Paperback: 9781474437080
 August 2020

Ebook (ePub): 9781474437103
 Ebook (PDF): 9781474437097

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 Mustapha Kamal 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.

Hardback: 9780748639786
 July 2012, 144pp
 Paperback: 9780748689835
 September 2013

Ebook (ePub): 9780748689408
 Ebook (PDF): 9780748656318



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.

Hardback: 9780748639670
 September 2009, 192pp
 Ebook (PDF): 9780748642076

These two titles are also available on eCommons at: ecommons.aku.edu/uk_ismc_series/

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 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.

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

By Leif Stenberg

Paperback: 9781914983009

May 2022, 304pp

Published in association with Gingko: gingko.org.uk

“Our passion for poetry as Arabs ... emerged from what poetry has been – and always will be – a presentation of Arabic life itself. Poetry for Arabs is a means of satisfying the self, the soul and even the body. He inhales from poetry whatever pleases the self, elevates the soul and delights the ear.”

Abd al-Aziz al-Babtain

Leif Stenberg is Dean and Professor of Islamic Studies at AKU-ISMC. Between 2010 and 2019 Stenberg was President of the Nordic Society of Middle Eastern Studies and he is currently a member of the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES) Council and vice-president of the European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES). He is the editor of numerous books including: *Syria from Reform to Revolt Vol. II: Culture, Society and Religion* (co-edited with Salamandra, Syracuse University Press, 2015) and *Navigating Contemporary Iran: Challenging Economic, Social and Political Perceptions* (co-edited with Hooglund, Routledge, 2012). 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

Hardback: 9781849048163

January 2020, 367pp

Published in association with
Hurst: hurstpublishers.com

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.

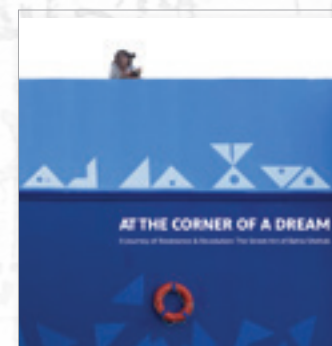
Situating these thinkers and their works within two centuries of upheaval in the Arab world, Georges Corm demonstrates how Arab critical thought has been marginalised by powerful external forces: the military, the academy and the media. In its place has risen a hegemonic Islamist thought, used cannily 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 distills the complexity of Arab intellectualism, which is both critical and profane and a far cry from the outdated politico-religious image it has acquired.

“Not since Albert Hourani’s *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age* has there been such a comprehensive and accessible monograph as Georges Corm’s erudite account. Focusing on twentieth-century Arabic and French literature, this is a welcome update written by a leading Arab intellectual and economist.”

Jens Hanssen, Associate Professor of Arab Civilisation, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilisations, University of Toronto

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

Paperback: 9781909942394

September 2019, 96pp

Published in association
with Gingko: gingko.org.uk

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.

“The world has been led to believe that the Egyptian Revolution has failed. The mainstream media would have us believe that law and order have been reinstated by the military regime. All forms of resistance and opposition have been silenced. This book aims to offer another side of the story; it is an expression of our human right to live in freedom and with dignity.”

Bahia Shehab

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 essay 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.

“Just when Western society – academia especially – looks to have surrendered to a convenient sharia, Dupret ushers in an epistemological unravelling of the concept ... Combining continental legal and social science approaches, Dupret points to the fallacies of 'Islamism' and confronts the ideological realities born out of the 'Arab Spring' ... This book should be required reading for both graduate students and scholars in the field.”

Malik R. Dahlan, Professor of International Law and Public Policy, Queen Mary University of London

What is the Sharia?

By Baudouin Dupret
Translated by David Bond

Hardback: 9781849048170
March 2018, 256pp

Published in association with Hurst, and with the support of the French Ministry of Culture:
hurstpublishers.com

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, and the central role they played in energising mass mobilisations.

Hardback: 9780748693344

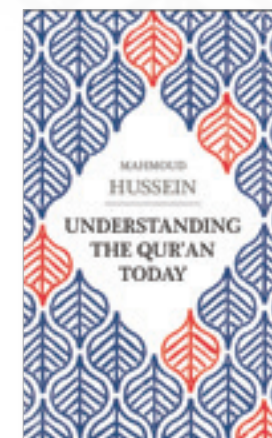
July 2014, 448pp

Paperback: 9780748693351

July 2014

Ebook (PDF): 9780748693504

Published in association with Edinburgh University Press:
edinburghuniversitypress.com



Understanding the Qur'an Today

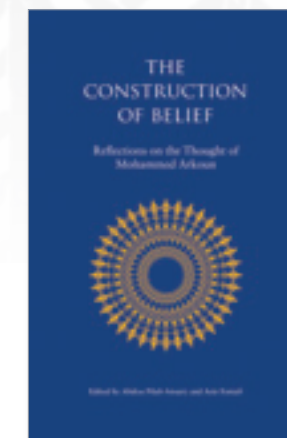
By Mahmoud Hussein
Translated by David Bond

An international bestseller, *Understanding the Qur'an Today* 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.

Paperback: 9780863568497

March 2013, 176pp

Published in association with Saqi: saqibooks.com



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

Edited by Abdou Filali-Ansary & Aziz Esmail

The Construction of Belief offers a comprehensive selection of critical engagements with Mohammed Arkoun's work, reflecting on his considerable influence on contemporary thinking about Islam and its ideological, philosophical and theological dimensions.

Hardback: 9780863564246

January 2013, 216pp

Published in association with Saqi: saqibooks.com

These three titles are also available on eCommons at: ecommons.aku.edu/uk_ismc_series/

Journal of Material Cultures in the Muslim World



Brill has entered into partnership with AKU-ISMC and the Aga Khan Museum (Toronto, Canada) to publish a new 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, for example 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 Stephane.Pradines@aku.edu

Volume 1 (2020), no. 1-2

Volume 2 (2021), no. 1-2

brill.com

Print ISSN: 2666-6278

Open Access 

ISSN: 2666-6286

Right: Excavation site in Lahore.



AGA KHAN MUSEUM



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

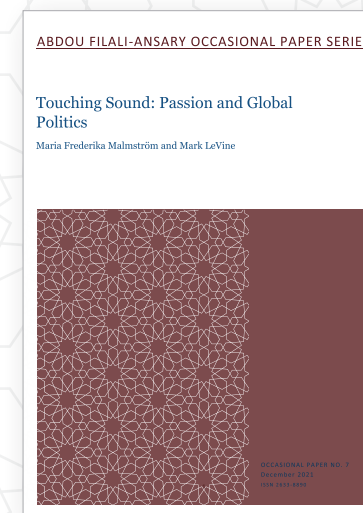
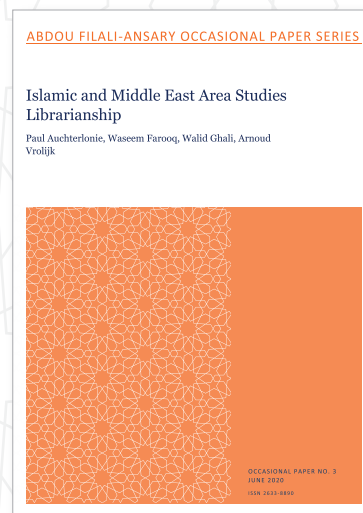
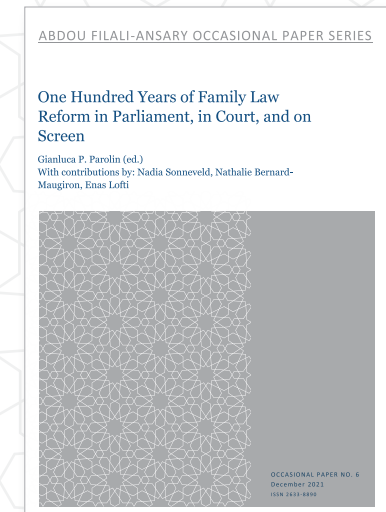
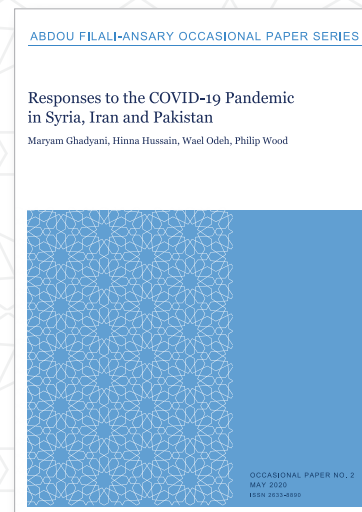
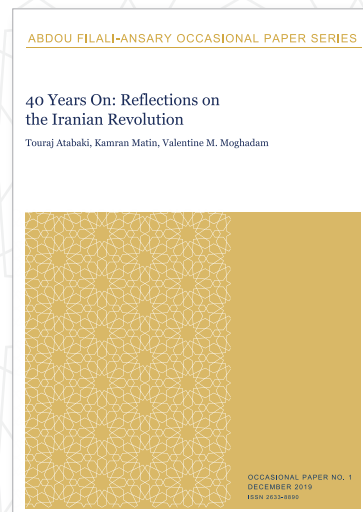
(International) in the United Kingdom
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



Abdou Filali-Ansary Occasional Papers

The Abdou Filali-Ansary Occasional Paper Series is a new online and Open Access series published by AKU-ISMC which presents progressive, innovative research to generate discussion and contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

The papers represent work from the Institute's affiliated faculty, fellows, researchers and doctoral students across a wide range of research areas, demonstrating both the depth and breadth of research being undertaken. The series also offers the opportunity for the Institute's Masters students who have won the best thesis award to publish an abridged version of their thesis. The series welcomes submissions from external researchers that address current AKU-ISMC research priorities.



Abdou Filali-Ansary Occasional Paper Series

Open Access 

ISSN: 2633-8890

You can download these papers from: aku.edu/publications/Pages/ops.aspx.

They are also available on eCommons at: ecommons.aku.edu/uk_ismc_series

Muslim Civilisations Abstracts

Series Editor: Aptin Khanbaghi

Published in association with Edinburgh University Press
edinburghuniversitypress.com/series/mca



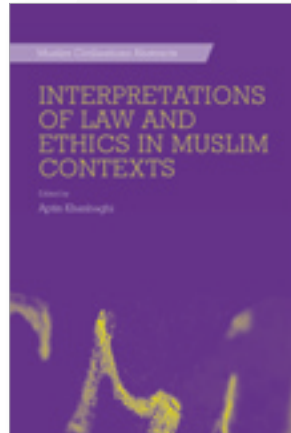
Cities as Built and Lived Environments: Scholarship from Muslim Contexts, 1875 to 2011

Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi

A collection of over 200 abstracts in three languages (Arabic, English and Turkish) of academic publications from Muslim contexts on cities.

Hardback: 9780748696185
October 2014, 512pp

Ebook (PDF): 97814744669814



Interpretations of Law and Ethics in Muslim Contexts

Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi

Features 200 abstracts in three languages (English, Arabic and Turkish) of scholarly publications from Muslim contexts in the fields of law and sharia.

Hardback: 9780748645008
April 2012, 432pp

Ebook (PDF): 9781474469838



Encyclopedias about Muslim Civilisations

Edited by Aptin Khanbaghi

Reference catalogue of 200 abstracts (in Arabic, English and Turkish) of encyclopedias about Muslim civilisations, both by Muslims and non-Muslims, published during the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Hardback: 9780748639700
September 2009, 520pp

Ebook (PDF): 9781474469821

These three titles are also available on eCommons at: ecommons.aku.edu/uk_ismc_series/

Orders

Our books can be ordered through all good bookshops, or purchased directly from our co-publishers:

edinburghuniversitypress.com
gingko.org.uk
hurstpublishers.com
saqibooks.com

eCommons

A number of our titles are available to download for free from AKU-ISMC's digital repository eCommons:
ecommons.aku.edu/uk_ismc_series/

Authors on Film

Explore our publications with in-depth author interviews, book launches and lectures on our popular YouTube channel.

Mailing List

Sign up to our email bulletin to discover new books, events and offers, as well as the conferences in which we will be participating by contacting us at: ismc.marketing@aku.edu



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

(International) in the United Kingdom

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations