

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

# Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

PUBLICATIONS CATALOGUE  
2024



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**Aga Khan University  
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.



AKU-ISMC is committed to the digital revolution and to Open Access publishing. We aim to make all of our books available Open Access from our own [eCommons archive](#).

At present, 90 per cent of our titles are already Open Access and available for instant, free download. And, with the exception of our Occasional papers series, print copies are available to purchase from the websites of our publishing partners.

Explore our books on the following pages and use the links to find out more and download or order now!



# Exploring Muslim Contexts

Series Editors: Sanaa Alimia and Leif Stenberg

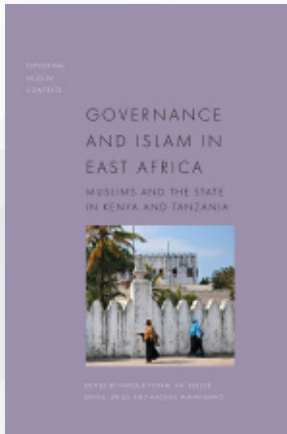
Series Editor Emeritus: Farouk Topan

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.





**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.

## **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**

- 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

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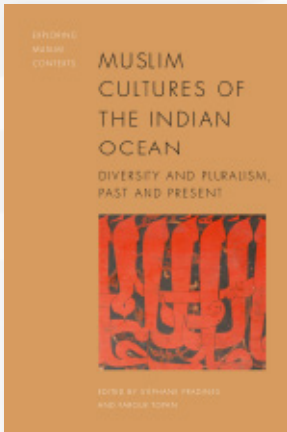
May 2024, 344pp

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: [9781474482998](#)

HARDBACK: [9781474482974](#)

**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

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: **9781474486514**

ePub: **9781474486521**

HARDBACK: **9781474486491**

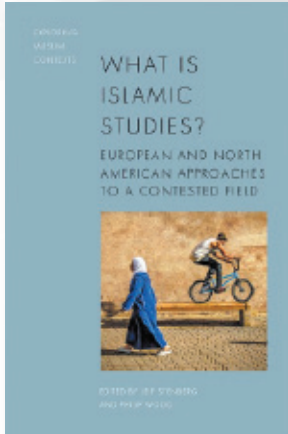
**Scholars are increasingly recognising the centrality of the Indian Ocean in the study of Muslim cultures.**

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

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: [9781399500029](#)

ePub: [9781399500036](#)

HARDBACK: [9781399500005](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781399500012](#)

**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**

August 2019, 240pp

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: [9781474455459](#)

ePub: [9781474455442](#)

HARDBACK: [9781474455428](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474455435](#)

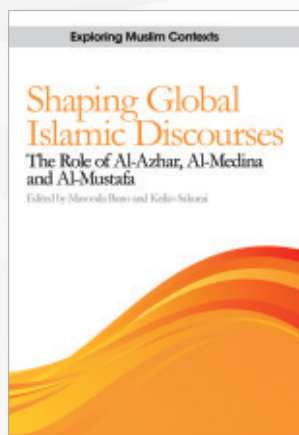
**This book interrogates the interplay of gender, governance and Islam across eight Muslim-majority contexts and the Muslim diaspora in Europe and the US.**

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

**Deniz Kandiyoti** is Emeritus Professor of Development Studies at SOAS; **Nadje 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**

March 2015, 240pp

**OpenAccess**

PDF: [9780748696871](#)

ePub: [9781474403481](#)

HARDBACK: [9780748696857](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474424165](#)

### **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.

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February 2015, 232pp

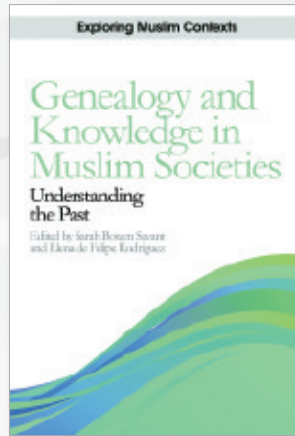
**OpenAccess** 

PDF: [9780748693481](#)

ePub: [9780748693481](#)

HARDBACK: [9780748693337](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474424165](#)



## 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.

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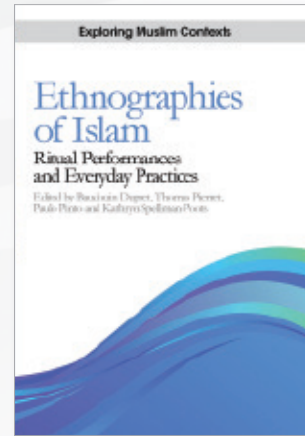
April 2014, 164pp

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: [9780748644988](#)

ePub: [9781474403429](#)

HARDBACK: [9780748644971](#)



## 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

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July 2012, 208pp

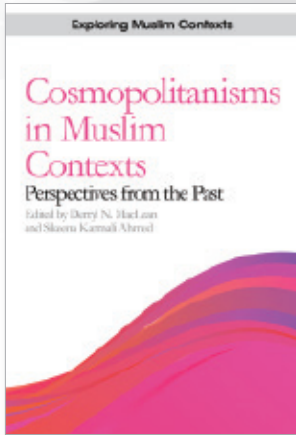
**OpenAccess** 

PDF: [9780748645510](#)

ePub: [9780748654796](#)

HARDBACK: [9780748645503](#)

PAPERBACK: [9780748689842](#)



## Cosmopolitanisms in Muslim Contexts Perspectives from the Past

**Edited by Derry  
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.

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July 2012, 208pp

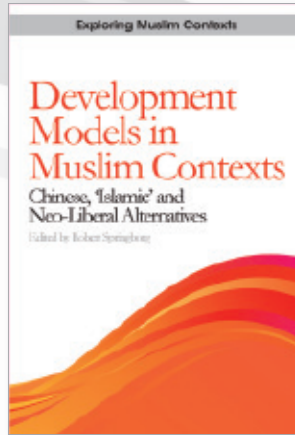
**OpenAccess** 

PDF: **9780748644568**

ePub: **9780748656097**

HARDBACK: **9780748644568**

PAPERBACK: **9780748689859**



## 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.

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September 2009, 272pp

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: **9780748641772**

HARDBACK: **9780748639687**



## 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.

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September 2009, 128pp

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: **9780748642092**

HARDBACK: **9780748639694**

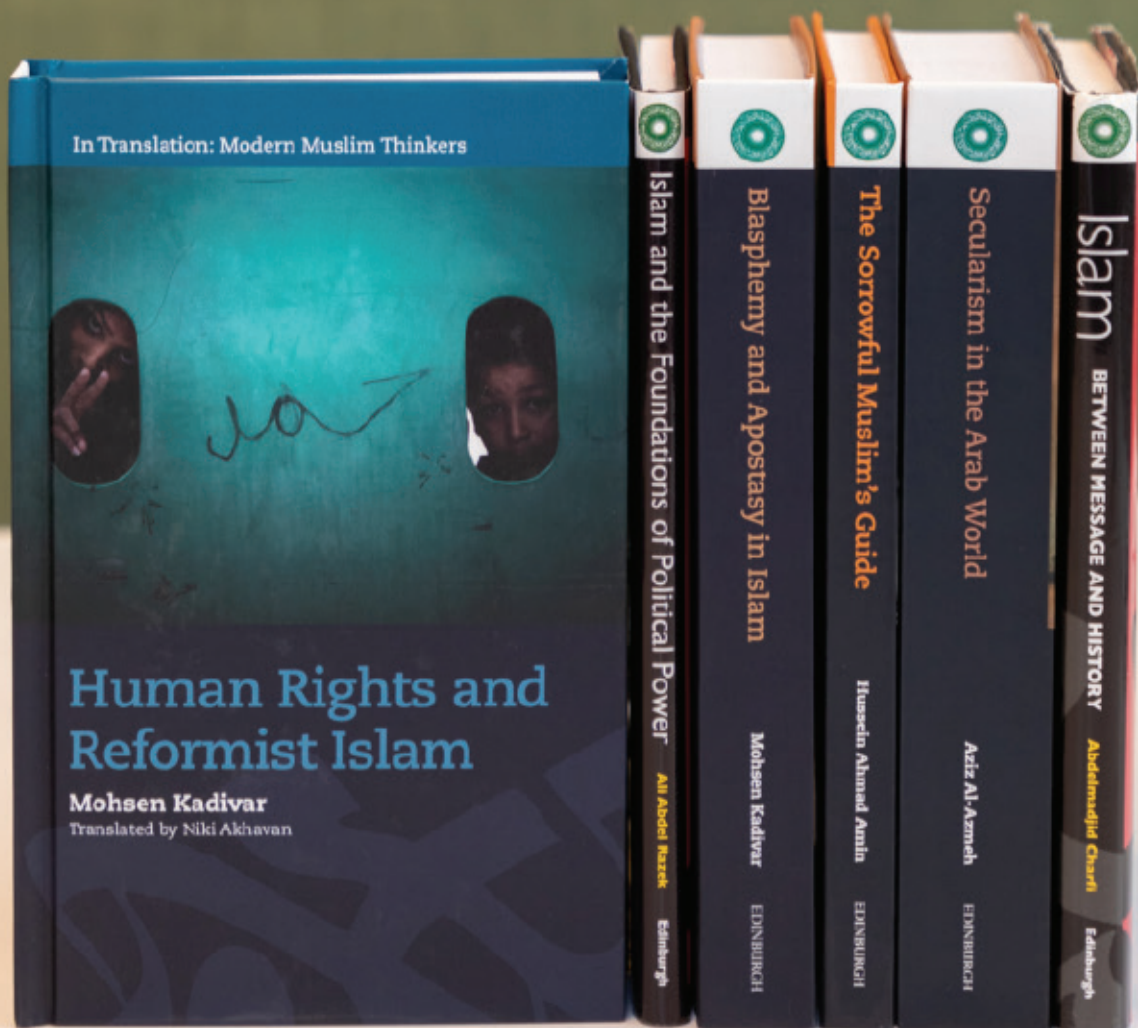


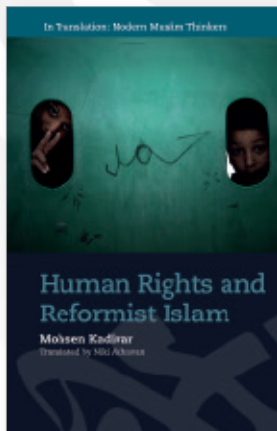
# In Translation: Contemporary Thought in Muslim Contexts

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**

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February 2021, 552pp

PDF: [9781474449335](#)

ePub: [9781474449328](#)

HARDBACK: [9780748696857](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474449311](#)

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

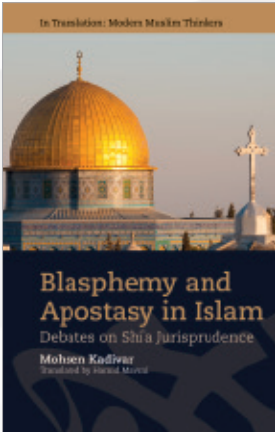
*Human Rights and Reformist Islam* critiques traditional Islamic approaches to the question of compatibility between human rights and Islam, and argues for their reconciliation from the perspective of a reformist Islam.

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**

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February 2021, 432pp

PDF: [9781474457590](#)

ePub: [9781474457606](#)

HARDBACK: [9781474457576](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474457583](#)

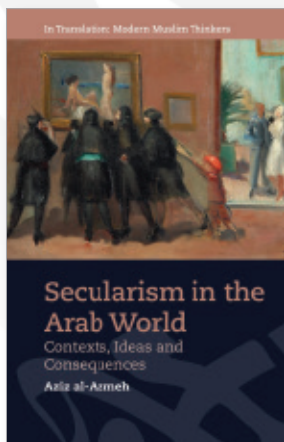
### Take a front-row seat to the debate on blasphemy and apostasy in Islam.

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

February 2020, 592pp

OpenAccess 

PDF: [9781474447492](#)

ePub: [9781474447485](#)

HARDBACK: [9781474447461](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474447478](#)

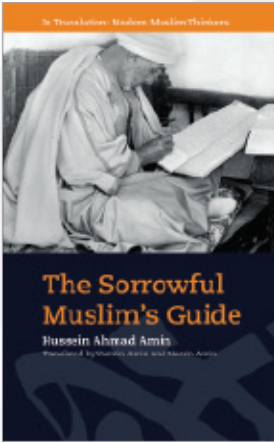
### Explores secularism and secularisation in Arab societies since the mid-nineteenth century.

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.



## The Sorrowful Muslim's Guide

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

October 2018, 232pp

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: **9781474437097**

ePub: **9781474437103**

HARDBACK: **9781474437073**

PAPERBACK: **9781474437080**

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

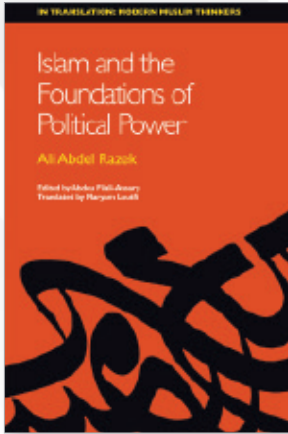
Published as *Dalīl al-Muslim al-hazīn ilā muqtada-l-sulūk fī'l-qarn al-'ishrīn* in 1983, this book remains a timely and important read today. Both the resurgence of Islamist politics and the political, social and intellectual upheaval which accompanied the Arab Spring challenge us to re-examine the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

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July 2012, 144pp

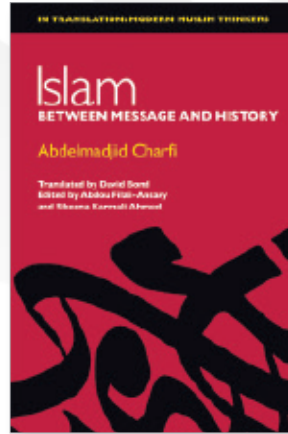
**OpenAccess** 

PDF: **9780748656318**

ePub: **9780748689408**

HARDBACK: **9780748639786**

PAPERBACK: **9780748689835**



## 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.

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September 2009, 192pp

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: **9780748642076**

HARDBACK: **9780748639670**

# Music and Performance in Muslim Contexts

Series Editors: Theodore Levin and Jonas Otterbeck

Published in association with **Edinburgh University Press**

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.

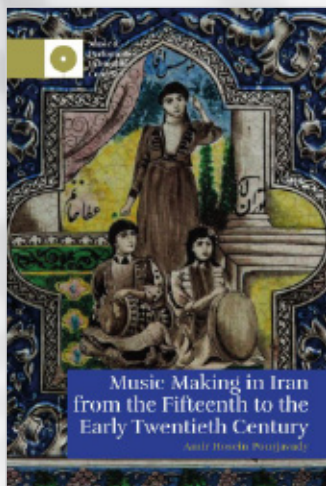
*A Youthful Musician*  
(detail)  
Safavid, Isfahan or  
Khurasan  
late 16th century



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



**AGA KHAN MUSIC**  
PROGRAMME



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

By Amir Hosein Pourjavady

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December 2023, 392pp

PDF: [9781399515795](#)

ePub: [9781399515801](#)

HARDBACK: [9781399515771](#)

***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**

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February 2022, 256pp

PDF: [9781474491884](#)

ePub: [9781474491877](#)

HARDBACK: [9781474491853](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474491860](#)

**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 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 Awakening of Islamic Pop Music

By Jonas Otterbeck

August 2021, 224pp

OpenAccess 

PDF: [9781474490443](#)

ePub: [9781474490450](#)

HARDBACK: [9781474490429](#)

PAPERBACK: [9781474490436](#)

**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

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Published in association  
with Gingko

May 2022, 304pp

PAPERBACK: [9781914983009](#)

***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**

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Published in association  
with Hurst

January 2020, 367pp

HARDBACK: [9781849048163](#)

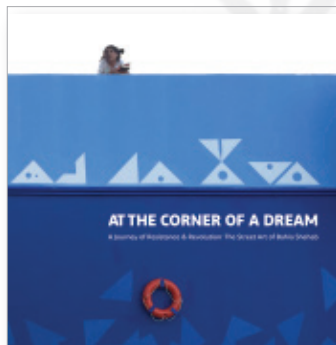
**Explores the many facets of Arab political thought from the nineteenth century to the present day.**

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.



**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.’

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

**By Bahia Shehab**

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Published in association  
with Gingko

September 2019, 96pp

PAPERBACK: [9781909942394](#)

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.

## What is the Sharia?

**By Baudouin Dupret**  
**Translated by**  
**David Bond**

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

March 2018, 256pp

HARDBACK: [9781849048170](#)

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.

**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 Prina 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

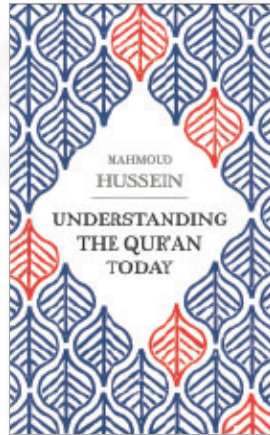
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## Understanding the Qur'an Today

By Mahmud Hussein  
Translated by David Bond

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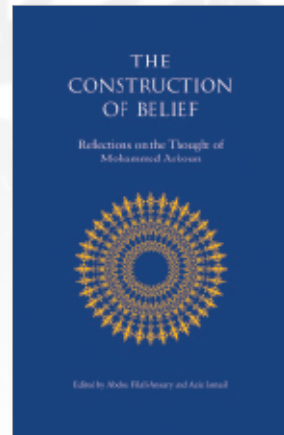
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March 2013, 176pp

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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 [Stephane.Pradines@aku.edu](mailto:Stephane.Pradines@aku.edu)

Volume 1 (2020), no. 1-2

Volume 2 (2021), no. 1-2

Volume 3 (2022), no. 1-2

Volume 4 (2023), no. 1-2

**OpenAccess** 

PDF: ISSN **2666-6286**

PRINT: ISSN **2666-6278**



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# Abdou Filali-Ansary Occasional Papers

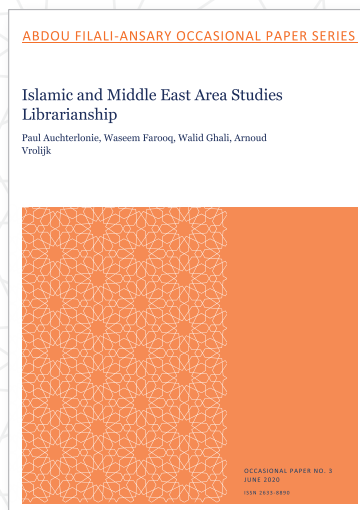
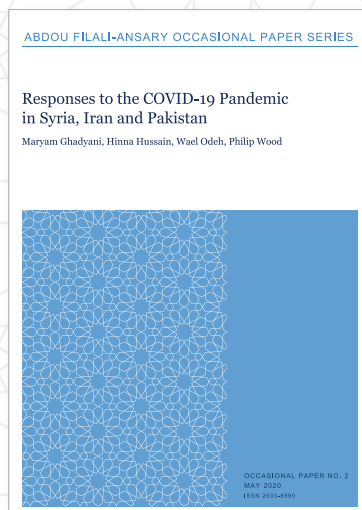
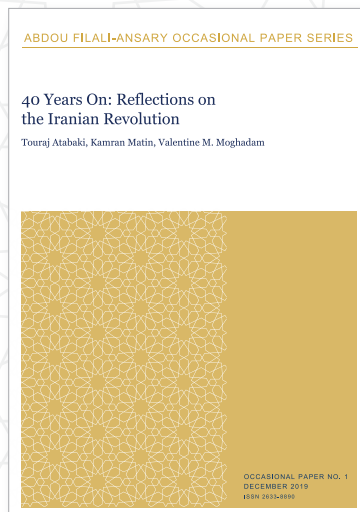
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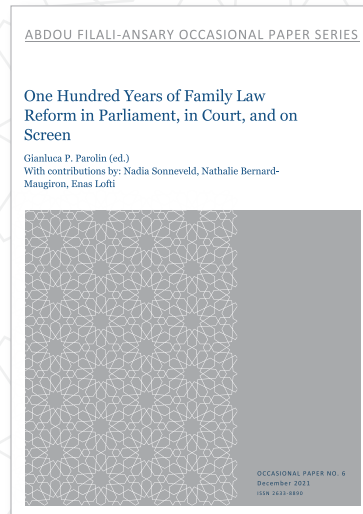
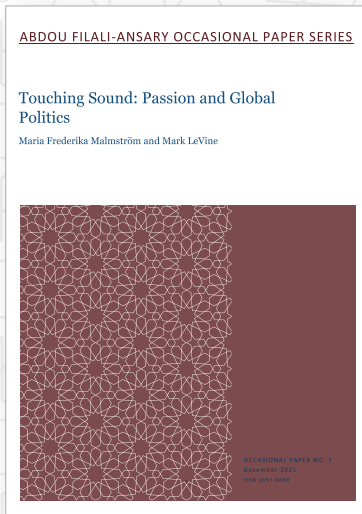
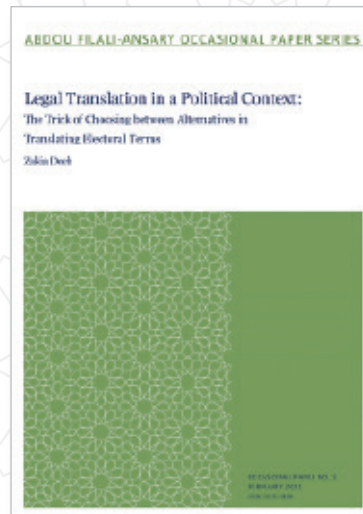
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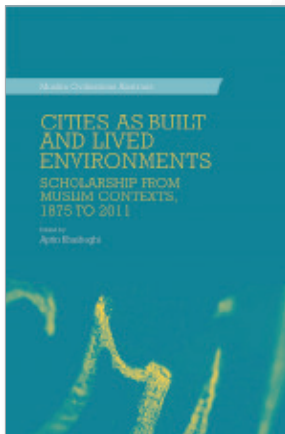




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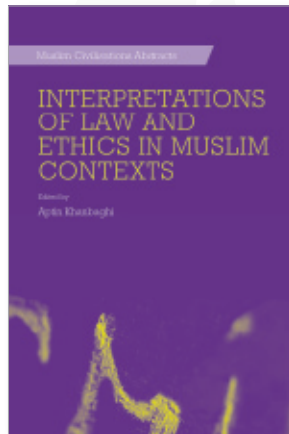
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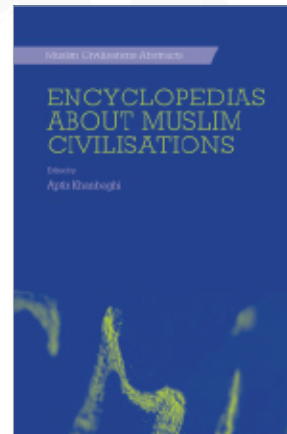
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