



# The Normative Verses

(Āyāt al-Aḥkām) in Modern Times: A Challenge  
not only for Muslims



Workshop venue: Zoom Meeting <https://t1p.de/mt6wo>

University of Tübingen, AIWG 6th–7th May 2022

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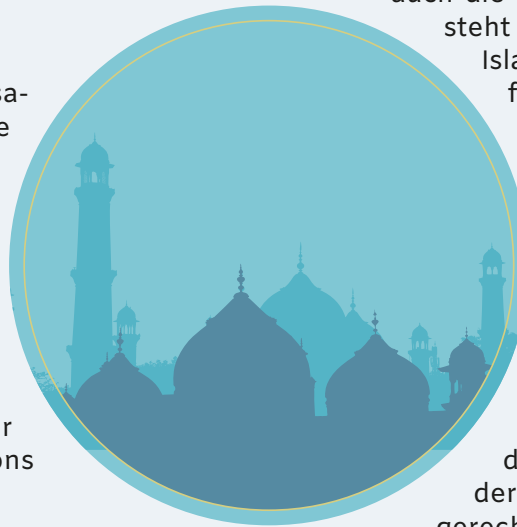
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# International Workshop

## THE NORMATIVE VERSES (ĀYĀT AL-AḤKĀM) in Modern Times: A Challenge not only for Muslims

The Qur'an, the holy book of Muslims, is not only a sacred text but also the primary and most authoritative source for defining the legal framework of Islam. About 500 hundred Qur'anic verses concern legal rulings, which are labelled āyāt al-aḥkām, legal or normative verses, by the Muslim exegetical and juridical tradition. The distinguished status these verses enjoyed over the centuries is also the source of great challenges in the modern period and take the center stage in contemporary debates on ethics and secularization. Hence, there is a pressing need for novel approaches, re-interpretations and re-definitions in engaging with these verses.

The international workshop addresses questions of normativity from a multidisciplinary approach and brings various disciplines such as Qur'anic hermeneutics, Islamic law and Islamic religious education into a direct dialogue. We aim to cultivate new perspectives and offer re-evaluations and re-interpretations of the relevant Qur'anic verses in the light of the challenges that the modern age poses in exploring topics such as humans' relationship with God, gender justice, women's rights, polygamy, divorce law, inheritance law and coexistence in pluralistic societies.



## DIE NORMENVERSE in moderner Zeitepoche: Eine Herausforderung nicht nur für Muslime

Der Koran, das heilige Buch der Muslime, ist nicht nur ein heiliger Text, sondern auch die wichtigste und maßgebliche Quelle für die Bestimmung des normativen Rahmens des Islam. Etwa 500 Koranverse betreffen rechtliche Regelungen, die von der muslimischen exegetischen und juristischen Tradition als āyāt al-aḥkām, normative Verse, bezeichnet werden. Der besondere Status, den diese Verse über Jahrhunderte hinweg besaßen und noch besitzen, ist auch die Quelle großer Herausforderungen in der Moderne und steht im Mittelpunkt der zeitgenössischen Debatten über das Islamische Recht, Ethik und Säkularisierung. Dies rechtfertigt den dringenden Bedarf an neuen Ansätzen, Interpretationen, und Reflexionen im Umgang mit diesen Versen in moderner Zeit.

Der internationale Workshop lässt verschiedene Disziplinen wie Koranhermeneutik, Islamisches Recht und islamische Religionspädagogik in einen direkten Dialog miteinander eintreten. Wir streben an, neue Perspektiven zu entwickeln und Neubewertungen und Neuinterpretationen der relevanten Koranverse anzubieten, im Lichte der Herausforderungen, die die Moderne bei der Erforschung von Themen wie der Beziehung zwischen Mensch und Gott, Geschlechtergerechtigkeit, Frauenrechte, Polygamie, Scheidungsrecht, Erbrecht und Koexistenz in pluralistischen Gesellschaften mit sich bringt. Der Workshop findet im Rahmen der AIWG Longterm-Forschungsgruppe „[Normativität des Korans](#)“ statt.



### ORGANISATION

**Prof. Dr. Mueez Khalfaoui**  
[mueez.khalifaoui@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:mueez.khalifaoui@uni-tuebingen.de)

**Dr. Mehmetcan Akpınar**  
[mehmetcan.akpinar@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:mehmetcan.akpinar@uni-tuebingen.de)

(with the assistance of Hossam Ouf)



## 1st DAY, 6th MAY 2022, FRIDAY

### Opening Session:

- 10.00 Welcoming address: Monique Scheer (Tübingen, Germany), Bekim Agai (AIWG, Frankfurt, Germany)
- 10.20 Introduction: Mouez Khalfaoui & Mehmetcan Akpınar (Tübingen, Germany)

### PANEL 1: 10.30–12.20

#### Chair: Mehmetcan Akpınar (Tübingen, Germany)

- 10.30–10.55 **Adis Duderija** (Queensland, Australia), Applying Contextualist-cum-Progressive Interpretational Methodology Principles to Ethico-legal verses in the Qur'an: An Overview
- 10.55–11.20 **Sa'diyya Shaikh** (Cape Town, South Africa), Reconfiguring Normativities: Gender, Sufism and Feminist Hermeneutics
- 11.20–11.45 **Saleh Peter Spiewok** (Erlangen, Germany), Continuity and Change of a Figure of Thought – Connotations of ḥukm from the Qur'an until the beginnings of the classical fiqh literature
- 11.45–12.20 Discussion
- 12.20–14.00 Lunch break

### PANEL 2: 14.00–15.50

#### Chair: Fahimah Ulfat (Tübingen, Germany)

- 14.00–14.25 **Abdelaali El Maghraoui** (Tübingen, Germany), Gottesdienstliche Handlungen – Eine koran-normative Perspektive
- 14.25–14.50 **Alper Soytürk** (Tübingen, Germany), Der koranische khamr-Verbot und die Auswirkungen des klassischen Rechtsdiskurses in der Postmoderne
- 14.50–15.15 **Katajun Amirpur** (Köln, Germany), Nasr Hamid Abu Zaid: Sein Manhaj (Methode) beim Umgang mit den Normenversen
- 15.15–15.50 Discussion
- 15.50–16.10 Break

### PANEL 3: 16.10–18.00

#### Chair: Holger Zellentin (Tübingen, Germany)

- 16.10–16.35 **Amal Grami** (Manouba, Tunisia), Islam is not a Man's World: Women's Interpretation of Q 4:34
- 16.35–17.00 **Ziba Mir Hussein** (London, UK), Men's Authority over Women – a Theological Fiction?

- 17.00–17.25 **Justin Jones** (Oxford, UK), Rereading the Qur'an and gender equality: reflections from 'Islamic feminists' in India
- 17.25–18.00 Discussion

## 2nd DAY, 7th MAY 2022, SATURDAY

### PANEL 4: 9.00–10.50

#### Chair: Hadil Lababidi (Erlangen, Germany)

- 09.00–09.25 **Hossam Ouf** (Tübingen, Germany), Hudūd-Strafen zwischen Normativität des Korans und Zwecken der Scharia: zeitgenössische Ansätze im Vergleich
- 09.25–09.50 **Romdan Barhoumi** (Tunis, Tunisia), The Abolition of Slavery in Tunisia (1841–1846) between Islamic Normative Doctrine and Modern Human Rights  
قراءة في راهنية التشريع الإسلامي ومستقبلاته من خلال قانون إلغاء العبودية في تونس
- 09.50–10.15 **Mouez Khalfaoui** (Tübingen, Germany), Die Macht des Vaters zwischen religiösen Ansprüchen und gesellschaftlichen Notwendigkeiten
- 10.15–10.50 Discussion
- 10.50–11.10 Break

### PANEL 5: 11.10–13.00

#### Chair: Margherita Picchi (Freiburg, Germany)

- 11.10–11.35 **Muhammed Shahin** (Istanbul, Turkey), The Concept Of Community Coexistence Through the Āyāt al-Aḥkām
- 11.35–12.00 **Thameur Mahfoudhi** (Tunis, Tunisia), Islamisches Minderheitenrecht und die Frage der Einbürgerung: Was sagen die Normenverse?
- 12.00–12.25 **Mehmetcan Akpınar** (Tübingen, Germany), False Accusations of Adultery (qadhf) in the Qur'an and in Early Modern Muslim Legal Practice.
- 12.25–13.00 Discussion
- 13.00–13.10 Break
- 13.10–13.40 Closing Discussion & End of the Workshop



**Mehmetcan Akpınar**  
(Tübingen, Germany)

Mehmetcan Akpınar is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the research group "The Normativity of the Qur'an in the Framework of Societal Change" at the Center for Islamic Theology and a Research Fellow (Habilitation) at the Department of Oriental and Islamic Studies at the University of Tübingen, where he researches and teaches Early Islamic History and Islamic Intellectual History. He received his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 2016. His dissertation entitled "Narrative Representations of Abu Bakr in the 2nd/8th century", one of the first scientific monographs on Abu Bakr (d. 634), critically investigates the Islamic narrative material on the first caliph.

**Katajun Amirpur** (Köln, Germany)

Katajun Amirpur is the Chair of Islamic Studies at the University of Cologne. She has been a member of the editorial board of *Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik* since 2011. Her critical monitoring of contemporary history focuses on reform processes in Islam, the role of women and the debate on Islamophobic ideologies in Europe. Her recent publications are: *MuslimInnen auf neuen Wegen. Interdisziplinäre Gender Perspektiven auf Diversität* (2020); *Reformislam. Der Kampf für Demokratie, Freiheit und Frauenrechte* (2019).



**Romdhane Barhoumi** (Tunis, Tunisia)

Romdhane Barhoumi is a Professor at the Higher Institute of Islamic Civilization at Ez-Zitouna University in Tunisia and a member of the KAICIID Dialogue Centre. He received his doctorate in 2013 at Ez-Zitouna University with the thesis entitled "ISESCO and Strategies for Dialogue among Civilizations". Since 2006 Dr. Barhoumi makes cultural and intellectual programs on Al-Kef Radio and Tunisia Cultural Radio. He is the author of numerous articles published in national newspapers and magazines, which include *Morning*, *Echo*, *Journalism (Cultural Papers)*, the *Journal of Cultural Life* and the *Journal of Etaph*. Dr. Barhoumi is an activist on social issues, human rights, women's rights, dialogue among civilizations and citizenship.







**Adis Duderija (Queensland, Australia)**

Adis Duderija is Senior Lecturer in the Study of Islam and Society at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. He completed his Ph.D. in 2010 on a topic that examines neo-traditional Salafi and progressive Muslim hermeneutics on questions of gender and alterity in Islam. Dr. Duderija has published extensively on the Islamic interpretive tradition, which include books and edited volumes on Maqasid al-Shari'a, the concept of Sunna, gender questions, interfaith dialogue and Islam in the West. His books include: *Islam and gender: Major Issues and Debates* (co-author, 2020); *Islam and Muslims in the West* (co-author, 2018); *The Imperatives of Progressive Islam* (2017); *The Sunna and its Status in Islamic Law: The search for an authentic hadith* (ed. 2015) and *Maqasid al-Shari'a and Contemporary Reformist Muslim Thought* (ed. 2014).

**Amel Grami (Monouba, Tunisia)**

Amel Grami is a Professor of Islamic Thought and Gender Studies at the University of Manouba in Tunisia. She graduated from the same university and received her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies (Apostasy in Islam) and a doctorat d 'Etat (Gender in Islamic Culture). Dr. Grami has held numerous lectures at universities worldwide and serves as a member of numerous publication, advisory, social and political boards in Europe and elsewhere. Her main research fields are Islamic studies, gender studies, gender and law.



**Justin Jones (Oxford, UK)**

Justin Jones is Associate Professor in the Study of Religion at the University of Oxford. Previously, he was a research fellow in the Centre of South Asian Studies at the University of Cambridge and lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Exeter. He specialises in South Asian Islam, and has published on a range of subjects including Muslim personal laws and Muslim women's activism, as well as Shi'i Islam, and social and urban histories of Muslim communities in north India.

**Mouez Khalfaoui (Tübingen, Germany)**

Mouez Khalfaoui is Professor of Islamic Jurisprudence and Islamic Thought at the University of Tübingen since 2012. He began his academic career at the University of Tunis, and earned a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the University of Erfurt in 2008. His main research fields include Islamic law and ethics, human rights and minority rights, Islamic education and Islamic economic thought. His most recent publications are: *Islam und Muslims in Europe* (2016); *Pluralism and Plurality in Islamic Legal Scholarship* (2021); *Islamisches Recht, Scharia und Ethik, eine europäische Perspektive* (2021).





### Abdelaali El Maghraoui (Tübingen, Germany)

Abdelaali El Maghraoui is currently the Scientific Coordinator of the Centre for Islamic Theology at the University of Tübingen. He was a member of the research team "The Normativity of the Qur'an in the Framework of Societal Change" Of the Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) from January 2019 to October 2021. Dr El Maghraoui studied economics, German linguistics and Islamic Studies at the University of Tübingen. In 2018, he completed his Ph.D. thesis at the Centre of Islamic Theology in Tübingen on a topic that examines basic ethical aspects of money in Islamic law. His research interests include the normativity of the Qur'an, Islamic norm theory and ethics.



### Thameur Mahfoudhi (Tunis, Tunisia)

Thameur Mahfoudhi is a Ph.D. researcher in Islamic Studies at Ez-Zitouna University. He graduated from the University of Manouba with a degree in Arabic studies. He taught Arabic language and literature at the Higher Institute for Applied Studies in Humanities of Kef at the University of Jendouba. His research interests are: Muslim minorities affairs in modern democratic western societies, the status of Islam in the West, the didactics of Islamic education in pluralistic societies and the Qur'an as a arché-text in Islamic civilization. He participated in numerous academic, training and cultural events in Tunisia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Germany.



### Ziba Mir Hosseini (London, UK)

Ziba Mir-Hosseini is a legal anthropologist, specializing in Islamic law, gender and Islamic feminism, and a founding member of the Musawah Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family. She has held numerous research fellowships and visiting professorships (most recently at NYU Law School); currently she is a Professorial Research Associate at the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, at SOAS in London. She has published books on Islamic family law in Iran and Morocco, Iranian clerical discourses on gender, Islamic reformist thinkers, and the revival of zina laws, and most recently co-edited Gender and Equality in Muslim Family Law (2013) and Men in Charge? Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition (2015). Her latest book is Journeys Towards Gender Equality in Islam (2022).



### Hossam Ouf (Tübingen, Germany)

Hossam Ouf is a Research Assistant and a Ph.D. student at the Centre for Islamic Theology in Tübingen and a researcher at the AIWG project "The Normativity of the Qur'an in the Framework of Societal Change". His doctoral thesis is on "Hadith Transmission and Confessionality: A Comparative Study Concerning "al-Gāmi' aş-şaḥīḥ" of al-Buḥārī (d. 256/870) and "al-Kāfi" of al-Kulaynī (329/940) in Sunni and Shi'a Hadith Sciences".



**Muhammad Shahin (Istanbul, Turkey)**

Muhammed Shahin is a Researcher at ISAM Centre for Islamic Studies in Istanbul and a PhD student at the University of Tübingen. He completed his undergraduate studies at Tripoli University in Lebanon; and studied Law and Sharia at al-Azhar University in Cairo. He obtained his Master's degree in Islamic Law at Fatih Sultan Mehmet University in Istanbul with the thesis entitled "The Jurisprudential difference Between the Hanafi Jurists of Iraq and the Transoxiana". Muhammed Shahin pursues research about Hanafi approaches to both fiqh and usul al-fiqh and studies fundamental manuscripts that belong to the Hanafi school. He has edited several rare manuscripts, such as al-Qudurī's (d. 428/1037) al-Taqrīb.



**Sa'diyya Shaikh (Cape Town, South Africa)**

Sa'diyya Shaikh is Associate Professor in the Department for the Study of Religions at the University of Cape Town. She specialises in the study of Islam, gender ethics, and feminist theory. She has published on gender-sensitive readings of Muslim textual traditions, including Qur'an, hadith and Sufi texts; theoretical and political debates on Islam and feminism, gender-based violence; Sufism and Islamic Law; contemporary Muslim women's embodied, experiential and everyday modes of understanding Islam. Her books include Sufi Narratives of Intimacy: Ibn 'Arabi, Gender, and Sexuality (2012); and The Women's Khutbah Book: Contemporary Sermons on Spirituality and Justice from around the World (co-authored and co-edited; forthcoming 2022).



**Saleh Peter Spiewok (Erlangen, Germany)**

Saleh Peter Spiewok is a member of the research group "The Normativity of the Qur'an in the Framework of Societal Change" at the Department of Islamic-Religious Studies in Erlangen. He is currently pursuing his doctorate on "The Role of Memory in the Scholarly Networks of Early Islamic Hadith Transmission" and offers seminars in the field of Qur'an and Hadith studies.



**Alper Soytürk (Tübingen, Germany)**

Alper Soytürk is about to finish his doctoral thesis, which deals with the legal transformation (istiḥāla) of the status of alcohol and pigs, where normative verses from the Qur'an and their reception in classical Islamic law play an important role. He completed his Master's thesis degree in Islamic Studies at the Freie Universität of Berlin and has worked as a research assistant on projects and seminar series.





**Bekim Agai (Frankfurt, Germany)**

Prof. Dr. Bekim Agai is Director of the AIWG. He studied Islamic Studies, History and Psychology at the University of Bonn and completed his Ph.D. at Bochum University. From 2010–2013, he headed the junior research group “Europe as seen from the outside – Formations of Middle Eastern views on Europe from within Europe” at Bonn University. Since 2013, he has been Professor for Culture and Society of Islam in Past and Present and Executive Director of the Institute for Islamic Studies Frankfurt/Gießen. His research focuses on the history of ideas in the 19th century and constructions of identity and alterity with regard to Muslims in Europe.



**Monique Scheer (Tübingen, Germany)**

Monique Scheer is Professor of Historical and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Tübingen, where she also serves as Co-Director of the Center for Religion, Culture and Society and as Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Diversity. Her research interests range from the anthropology of Christianity, the history of emotions, to public memory in multicultural societies. Recent publications include: *The Public Work of Christmas: Difference and Belonging in Multicultural Societies* (ed. with P. E. Klassen, 2019); *Secular Bodies, Affects, and Emotions: European Configurations* (ed. with B. S. Johansen and N. Fadil, 2019); *Enthusiasm: Emotional Practices of Conviction in Modern Germany* (2020).



**Hadil Lababidi (Erlangen, Germany)**

Hadil Lababidi is a Research Associate and Ph.D. candidate at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. She conducts her research at the Department of Islamic-Religious Studies on “Dementia in Islam” and tackles questions of how artificial nutrition and hydration at the terminal stage in people with dementia is to be evaluated from the Islamic perspective.



**Fahima Ulfat (Tübingen, Germany)**

Fahimah Ulfat is Professor of Islamic Religious Education at the Center for Islamic Theology at the University of Tübingen. She is the director of the Institute for Islamic Religious Education Research. Her research focuses on the empirical study of faith and knowledge concepts of Muslim children and youth, the relationship between religion and gender, interreligious education, and the scientific monitoring and further development of Islamic religious education.



**Margherita Picchi (Freiburg, Germany)**

Margherita Picchi (Ph.D. University of Naples “l’Orientale”, 2016) is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (FRIAS, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität), supported by the Humboldt Foundation, and a honorary research affiliate of the Centre for Contemporary Islam at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests include modern Islamic intellectual history, Qur’anic studies, as well as gender and queer studies in Muslim contexts. Her current research project focuses on Quranic hermeneutics in sermons delivered in Cape Town’s Claremont Main Road Mosque in the post-Apartheid period.



**Holger Zellentin (Tübingen, Germany)**

Holger Zellentin is Professor of Religious Studies and Jewish Studies at the University of Tübingen and an award-winning scholar of Late Antiquity, with a focus on Talmudic and Qur’anic studies. He combines literary, legal and historical approaches in order to understand shared and diverging patterns within Jewish, Christian and early Islamic cultural traditions. He has received funding from the European Research Council, the British Academy, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK), and has been awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize (2014) as well as an ERC Consolidator Grant for *The Qur’an, as a Source for Late Antiquity* (2020–2025). He currently serves as the chair of the board of the International Qur’anic Studies Association, and has previously served on the steering committee of the British Association for Jewish Studies.







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