

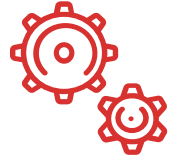
04
MARCH
2021

09:00AM-06:00PM



Online Webex Event

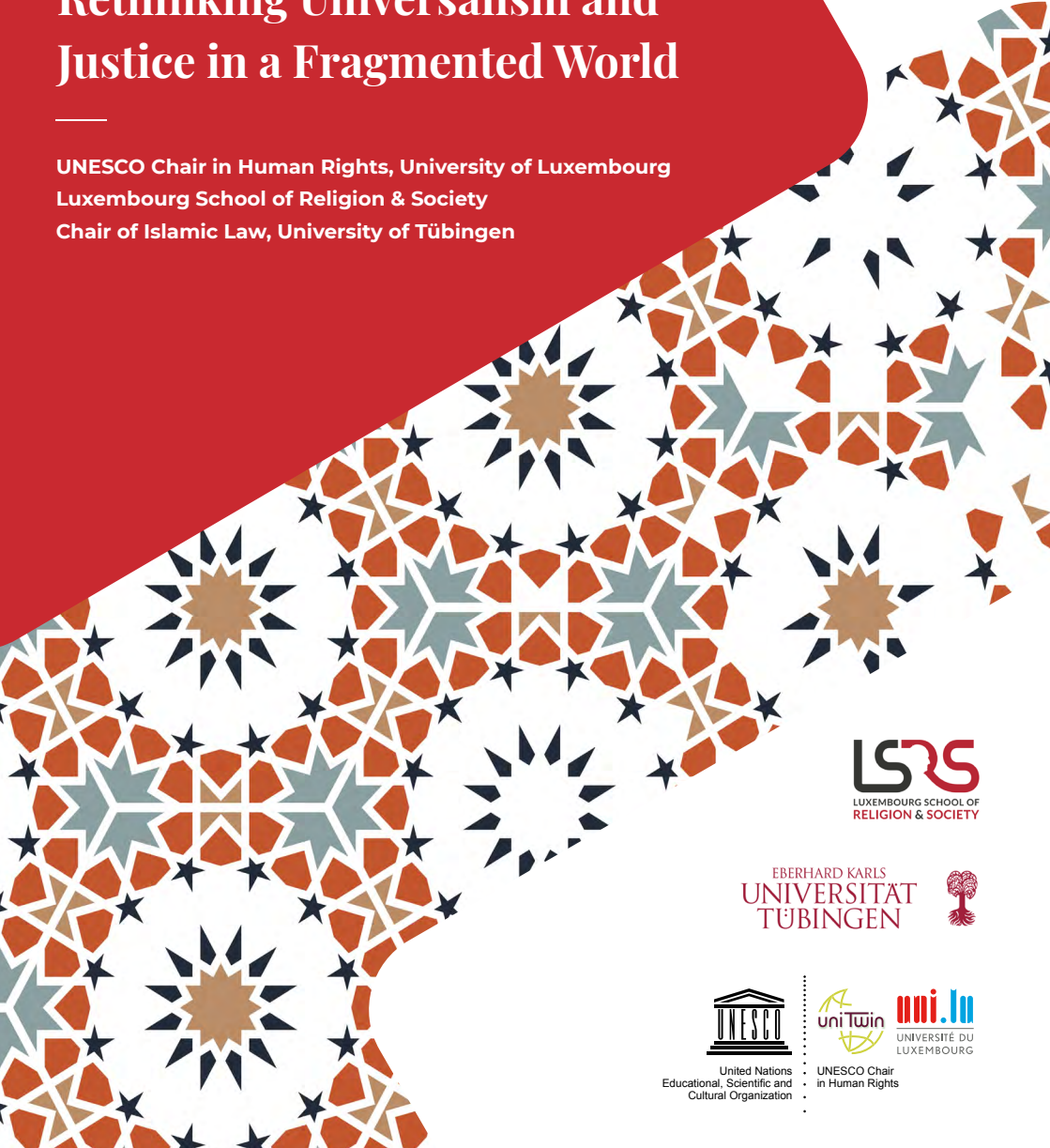
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DIGITAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Islam and Human Rights. Rethinking Universalism and Justice in a Fragmented World

UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, University of Luxembourg
Luxembourg School of Religion & Society
Chair of Islamic Law, University of Tübingen



EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair
in Human Rights

Concept

The complex and multifaceted relationship between Islam and human rights has given rise to increasingly high-profile debates over the past decade – both in the Islamic world and in Western contexts.

While the Arab Spring of 2011 appeared to hail a new era of dramatic political change, later developments have belied the early optimism of reformers in the region. Reform processes have stalled or reversed as violence and heightened instability mark the region. Against this background, those voices contending that there is a fundamental incompatibility between the values of Islamic Sharia and human rights are finding growing resonance.

In European and Western democratic states, the debate is shaped by the presence of Muslim minorities, such that the focus has substantially shifted from general doctrinal questions to questions

of how European Muslims understand human rights and the role Sharia plays in their daily life. This one-day international conference brings together leading scholars whose works have shaped current debates on the relationship of Islam and human rights as well as on wider questions of religious freedom. Through their individual presentations and exchanges we hope to foster a rich dialogue that engages questions concerning the current situation of human rights in the Muslim majority context and the place of Islam in Western societies.

While addressing the often-posed question of the ‘reconciliation’ of Islam and human rights, the conference will seek to move beyond this binary framing of the subject, forcing us to probe our perhaps preconceived understandings of the universality of human rights and the presumed secularity of many of our national states.



Conference Manager:
Prof. Dr. Mouez Khalfaoui
mouez.khalfaoui@uni-tuebingen.de

Conference Assistant:
Daniela Janeva
daniela.janeva@uni.lu



Programme and Registration

4 MARCH

9:00-9:30 | Opening Session/Introduction

Professor Dr Mouez Khalfaoui / Professor Dr Robert Harmsen
Professor Dr Jean Ehret/

9:30-13:00 | Panel I

Moderation: Selma Öztürk-Pinar M.A. (Ankara University)

9:30-10:30

“Human Rights as a Challenge for Contemporary Muslims”

Professor Dr Shaheen Serdar Ali (Rector of the National Academy of Higher Education in Pakistan)

Discussant: Siraj Khan, M.A. (Max-Planck Foundation for International Peace, Heidelberg, Germany)

10:30-11:00: Break

11:00-12:00

“Human Rights in the Era post Arab-Spring: Hope and Deception. The Case of Tunisia.”

Professor Dr Buchra Belhaj Hmida (Faculty of Law, University of Tunis)
Discussant: Liz Lambert, M.A. (Luxemburg School of Religion & Society)

12:00-13:00

“Islam and Human Rights. A Contradiction?”

Professor Dr Katajun Amirpur (University of Cologne, Germany)
Discussant: Maha Jouini, M.A. (Tianjin University of Education and Technology/ African Chamber of e-Commerce)

13:00-14:00 Break

14:00-18:00 Panel II

Moderation: Professor Dr Fahimah Ulfat (University of Tübingen)

14:00-15:00

“De-mystifying both Sharia and Human Rights for Creative Practice.”

Professor Dr Abdullahi An Na'im (Emory University, USA)
Discussant: Professor Dr Ziba Mir-Hosseini (SOAS, London)

15:00-16:00

"The Islamic Factor in the Current Human Rights Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa."

Professor Dr Ann Elisabeth Mayer (University of Pennsylvania, USA)
Discussant: Professor Dr Islam Dayeh (Free University, Berlin)

16:00-16:30: Break

16:30-17:30

"Teaching Human Rights to Muslims in 21st Century."

Professor Dr Mouez Khalfaoui (University of Tübingen, Germany):
Discussant: Professor Dr Alberto Ambrosio, Luxemburg School of Religion & Society

17:30-18:00

Closing discussion

Moderation: Professor Dr Mouez Khalfaoui

After registration **HERE**,
you will get access to
the conference

Speakers

Robert Harmsen

University of Luxembourg

Robert Harmsen is Professor of Political Science and Head of the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Luxembourg, where he has also holds the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights as of 2019. Professor Harmsen has published extensively on aspects of the European human rights regime, the processes of European integration, the rise of Euroscepticism, and comparative and international higher education policy. His current research focuses on the dynamics of judicial globalisation in relation to the diffusion of fundamental rights, as well as on the role of human rights in the policy process.



Jean Ehret

Luxembourg School of Religion & Society

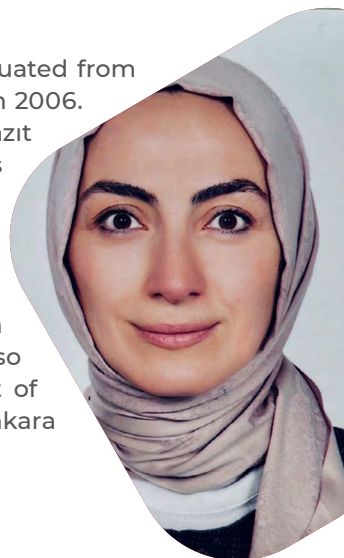
Jean Ehret earned a Ph.D. in systematic theology and one Ph.D. in French language and literature. He has been Director of the Centre Jean XXIII – Grand Séminaire since 2013. In 2015, he founded the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society that put into place several international cooperative structures with outstanding institutions of higher education and research. He has taught at various universities in France, Germany, Italy, and the United States. He is a member of the Institut Grand-Ducal.



Selma Öztürk Pinar

Germany

Selma Öztürk Pinar is a German lawyer who graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Hannover in 2006. Since 2013, she has worked at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University in the Department of Human Rights and Islamic Law. She lectures on international human rights law, case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, Islamic law and German legal language. Her doctoral thesis is entitled, «The human dignity in the international, German and Islamic legal Concept». Öztürk Pinar was also nominated to be a judge at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. She lives between Ankara and Hannover.



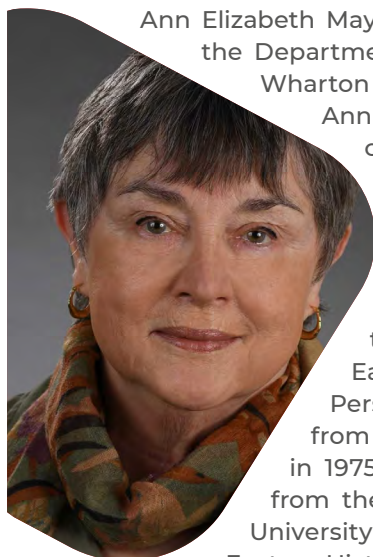
Ann Elizabeth Meyer

University of Pennsylvania

Ann Elizabeth Meyer is an Associate Professor of Legal Studies in the Department of Legal Studies and Business Ethics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Ann E. Meyer has taught law courses on subjects comprising law and policy in international business, globalisation and human rights, introductions to U.S. law, comparative law, and Islamic law in contemporary Middle Eastern legal systems.

She earned a B.A. in Honours German from the University of Michigan in 1964; a M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures (Arabic and Persian) from the University of Michigan in 1966; a J.D. from the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1975; a Certificate in Islamic and Comparative Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London in 1977 and in 1978 a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern History from the University of Michigan.



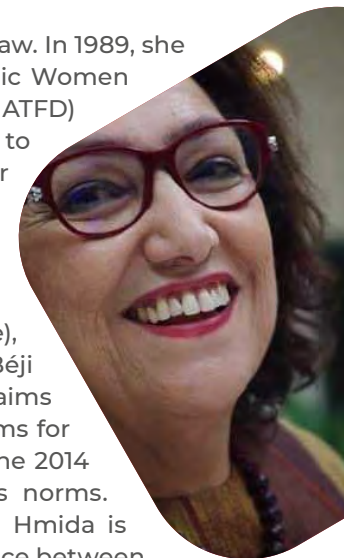
Bochra Belhaj Hmida

Tunisia

Bochra Belhaj Hmida holds a graduate degree in law. In 1989, she co-created the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (Association tunisienne des femmes démocrates – ATFD) and was President of the organisation from 1994 to 1998. She joined the Democratic Forum for Labour and Liberties (Forum démocratique pour le travail et les libertés) in 2011.

Bochra Belhaj Hmida is President of the Individual Freedoms and Equality Commission (Commission des libertés individuelles et de l'égalité – Colibe), which was created by the Tunisian President Béji Caïd Essebsi on 13 August 2017. The Commission aims to construct a report concerning legislative reforms for individual freedom and equality, as required by the 2014 Constitution and by international human rights norms. As President of this Commission, Bochra Belhaj Hmida is spearheading a reform proposal of equal inheritance between men and women, which is the source of intense polemic in Tunisia.

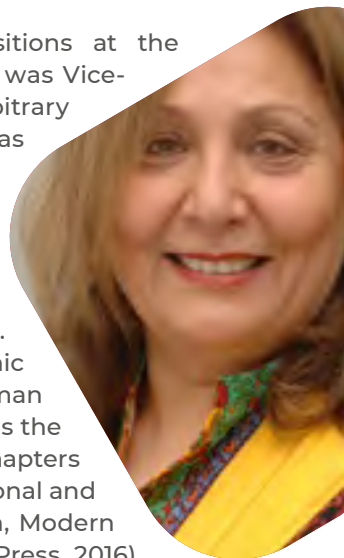
On 13 August 2018, National Women's Day, Bochra Belhaj Hmida was distinguished with the Tunisia-Insignia of Commander of the Order of Republic (Ordre de la République tunisienne), by the Tunisian President. On 27 September 2018, she received an award from the Global Hope Coalition. She was also named «Politician of the Year» in 2018 by the Tunisian press. In 2019, she was awarded the Fatima al-Fihriya Prize in recognition of her involvement in the advocating for individual freedoms and equality in Tunisia.



Shaheen Sardar Ali

University of Peshawar, Warwick & Oslo

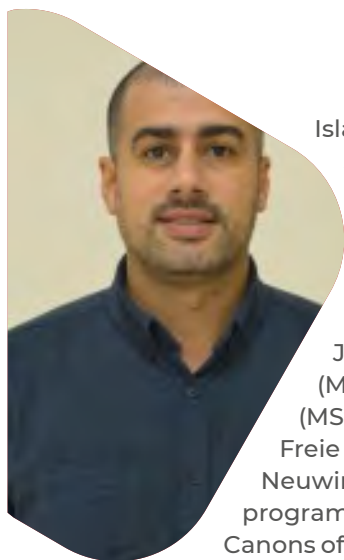
Shaheen Sardar Ali has held professorial positions at the Universities of Peshawar, Warwick, and Oslo. She was Vice-Chair of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2008-2014). Professor Ali served as cabinet Minister for Health, Population Welfare and Women Development, Government of the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan and Chair of Pakistan's first National Commission on the Status of Women (1999-2001). In 2012, she was named one of the 100 most influential women of Pakistan. Professor Ali has published extensively in Islamic law, international human rights law including human rights of women and children and family law. She is the author of 9 books, 41 journal articles and 30 book chapters as well as a number of reviews and reports for national and international bodies. Her most recent monograph, *Modern Challenges to Islamic Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) has been widely acclaimed as a ground-breaking contribution to Islamic law scholarship.



Islam Dayeh

Freie Universität Berlin

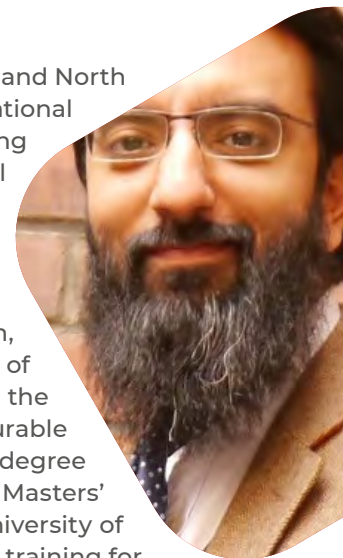
Islam Dayeh is assistant professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at Freie Universität Berlin. His research focuses on the formations and transformations of the Islamic intellectual tradition, comparative and global perspectives on philological scholarship, as well as the entangled histories of Jewish, Christian and Muslim thought. He studied at the University of Jordan (BA Islamic Studies), the University of Leiden (MA Religious Studies) and the University of Oxford (MSt. Jewish Studies). He received his doctorate from Freie Universität Berlin under the tutelage of Angelika Neuwirth. He has directed several international research programmes, including "Zukunftphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship" (Forum Transregionale Studien and FU Berlin) and the DFG research group «Arabic Philology and Textual Practices in the Early Modern Period". He is founding editor of the journal *Philological Encounters* (Brill).



Siraj Khan

Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law

Siraj Khan is a Research Fellow for the Middle East and North Africa at the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law and is currently heading the Foundation's project with the Constitutional Court and the Judicial Institute in Jordan. He has extensive experience working on constitutional law and international law in the MENA region, including in Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Jordan. Mr. Khan holds a graduate degree in law (London, 2006), and qualified as a Barrister at the Bar of England and Wales in 2010, having graduated from the prestigious Inns of Court School of Law (The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, London). He holds a Master degree in International Law (Bristol, U.K.) and a Research Masters' in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Edinburgh. Mr. Khan has delivered workshops and training for members of the Judiciary of Scotland and has assisted in drafting relevant aspects of Islamic Law and Muslims in Court for the Equal Treatment Benchbook for use by Judges in the Courts of Scotland. Mr. Khan is currently reading for his Ph.D. at the University of Tuebingen, specialising in international law, comparative constitutional law and the rule of law in Arab and Middle Eastern states. As well as being qualified in western legal sciences, Mr. Khan also trained in classical Islamic legal methodology with scholars in Jordan, Cairo and Mauritania, and has advised on matters related to Islamic law to the Metropolitan Police in the United Kingdom, the Immigration Tribunals and the High Court of England and Wales.



Liz Lambert

Luxembourg School of Religion & Society

Liz Lambert is a Research Scientist at the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society. In 2019 she finished her Master degree in the religion at the University of Bremen. Her thesis deals with the origins and effects of the secularization process in Luxembourg. In her current Ph.D. project, Lambert questions how and why people's "religiosity" changes over the course of a lifetime. Her main research interests are contemporary religious culture and the transformation of religion(s).



Fahimah Ulfat

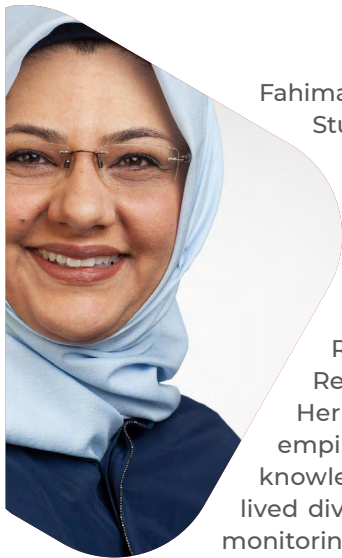
University of Tübingen

Fahimah Ulfat is Professor of Islamic Religious Education Studies at the Centre for Islamic Theology (ZITh) at the University of Tübingen.

Prior to this, she completed her doctorate at the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg on the topic, «The Self-Relation of Muslim Children to God – An Empirical Study of the God-Relationships of Muslim Children as a Reflective Contribution to the Didactics of Islamic Religious Education».

Her research focuses include, among other topics, empirical investigation of the concepts of faith and knowledge of Muslim children and young people, the lived diversity of faith and gender, as well as the scientific monitoring, research and further development of Islamic religious education. In addition, Ulfat conducts research on the

theological and pedagogical professionalism of teachers of Islamic religious education and on the perception of Christian and Muslim children and young people in relation to the religious other.



Mouez Khalfaoui

University of Tübingen

Mouez Khalfaoui is Professor of Islamic jurisprudence and Islamic thought at the University of Tübingen, Germany 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. He has lectured in Islamic Studies and Arabic at several Western Universities and in the MENA region as well. He is a member of several publishing, advising, social and political boards, both in Europe and worldwide. He has been a visiting Professor at the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society in 2020. His main research fields include Islamic law and ethics, human rights and minority rights, Islamic education and Islamic economic thought.

His most recent publications:

Islam und Muslims in Europe, Lit-Verlag, 2016,

Pluralism and Plurality in Islamic Legal Scholarship, Gorgias, New York, 2021, forthcoming.

Islamisches Recht, Scharia und Ethik, eine europäische Perspektive. Nomos-Verlag, 2021, forthcoming.



Alberto Fabio Ambrosio

Luxembourg School of Religion & Society

Alberto Fabio Ambrosio is professor of Theology and History of Religions at the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society and director of research at the Collège des Bernardins (Paris) after living, working, and doing research on Ottoman and Turkish Islam for more than 10 years in Istanbul. He earned a PhD in Modern and Contemporary History at the Sorbonne University with a thesis on the practices of whirling dervishes in the 17th Ottoman century. Among his recent publications on Islam, Sufism, and interreligious dialogue are: *Penser l'islam en Europe. Perspectives du Luxembourg et d'ailleurs* (edited with Laurent Mignon), Paris, Hermann, 2021; *Liberté de religion et de conviction en Méditerranée*, Paris, Editions Hermann, 2020; His recent work focuses on dress and fashion as a system of religious identity, in Islam as well in the Western culture.



Maha Jouini

Maha Jouini is a new technology expert and author. She graduated from Tianjin University of Science and Technology, and has contributed widely to Sino-African relations. She worked as a media coordinator in the African Union campaign to end child marriage in Africa and was based in Ethiopia from late 2014 to 2017. Her work focuses in particular on the rights of indigenous peoples such as the Kurds, Nubians and Amazigh. She has received many honours and participated in international conferences on issues pertaining to women and indigenous peoples.



Katajun Amirpur University of Cologne

Katajun Amirpur is the Chair of Islamic Studies at the University of Cologne. Katajun Amirpur has also 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*, Baden-Baden 2020: Ergon. *Reformislam. Der Kampf für Demokratie, Freiheit und Frauenrechte*, München 2019: C. H. Beck, 3. Auflage.



Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im Emory University

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory Law, Associate Professor at the Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion of Emory University.

An internationally recognised scholar of Islam and human rights, and human rights in cross-cultural perspectives, An-Na'im teaches courses in international law, comparative law, human rights, and Islamic law. His research interests include constitutionalism in Islamic and African countries, secularism, and Islam and politics.

An-Na'im directed the following research projects, which focus on advocacy strategies for reform through internal cultural transformation:

- Women and Land in Africa
- Islamic Family Law
- Fellowship Program in Islam and Human Rights
- The Future of Sharia: Islam and the Secular State

These projects can be accessed through An-Na'im's professional website.

An-Na'im's current research projects include a study of Muslims and the secular state, and of human rights from state-centric to people-centred. He continues to further develop his theory of Islam and the Secular State (Harvard University Press, 2008), also published in Arabic and Indonesian. Translations of this manuscript in Bengali, Persian, Urdu, Bengali, Turkish and Russian, are available for download free of charge at sharia.law.emory.edu

Education: Ph.D. (Law), University of Edinburgh (Scotland), 1976; LLB (Honours) and Diploma in Criminology, University of Cambridge (England), 1973; LLB (Honours), University of Khartoum (Sudan), 1970.



Ziba Mir-Hosseini University of London

Ziba Mir-Hosseini is a legal anthropologist, specialising in Islamic law, gender and Islamic feminism, and is 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 Professorial Research Associate at the Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Law, SOAS, University of 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 she co-edited *Gender and Equality in Muslim Family Law* (2013) and *Men in Charge? Rethinking Authority in Muslim Legal Tradition* (2015). She co-directed two award-winning feature-length documentary films on Iran: *Divorce Iranian Style* (1998) and *Runaway* (2001). She received the American Academy of Religion's 2015 Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion.



Daniela Janeva University of Luxembourg

Daniela Janeva has a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs from the University of Bologna. She has many years of experience in EU project management and has been in charge of the management of many projects financed under different EU programs. Currently she works as Research and Development Specialist at the University of Luxembourg.



