

The Reform of Islamic Law

Approaches, Challenges and Methods

The reform of Islamic law has long been a controversial subject. In Muslim states, recent discussions have often aimed to adapt Islamic law to modern Muslim nation states, while in the West debates mostly concentrated on the compatibility of Islamic law with both European legislation and human rights. Generally speaking, there are three positions that are dominating questions regarding the reform of Islamic law: 1) the conservative position, which refuses any reform attempt and views Islamic law as immutable; 2) the liberal position, which argues that classical Islamic law is outdated and should be replaced by secular law in all fields of life; 3) a middle ground, adopted by scholars who think that (several aspects of) Islamic law need to be reinterpreted and reformed. This third position can be found in both Muslim and Christian parts of the world and will take center stage at this conference.

Today's research on Islamic law is taking place in an increasingly politicized environment, full of caricature and half-truths. Debates are so polarized that scholars are often accused of either being apologetic or negatively biased. A scientifically-founded approach to questions about the reform of Islamic law is crucial to an informed and meaningful public debate. As intellectual entrepreneurs, scholars play an important role in developing new, and combining long-established reform propositions. It is against this background, that this conference brings together leading academics and promising junior scholars within the field of Islamic law to discuss the meaning and possibilities of reform. It will shed light on questions regarding the methodology and content of change. What areas of Islamic law should be reformed and why? What does 'reform' mean within the old-established field of Islamic law and what models could be used? Who is interested in reform, who opposes it and why? And how do Muslims' social environments shape their diverging and changing perception and practice of Islamic law? These and other questions will be discussed over a period of two days at one of Germany's oldest universities in Tübingen. The cross-generational and inter-regional knowledge exchange constitutes a unique and stimulating academic environment, which facilitates the generation of new ideas and fosters innovative approaches to the reform of Islamic law.

Date & Location

October, 9 – 10, 2015

University of Tübingen, Neue Aula, Room:
Großer Senat
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz
72074 Tübingen

Registration

To register please send your full name by
Sept. 25, 2015 to

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Lehrstuhl für Islamisches Recht – Zentrum für Islamische Theologie

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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Friday and Saturday, October 9 – 10, 2015

SPEAKERS: Abdullahi An-Na'im | Abdou Filali-Ansary | Cefli Ademi | Ebrahim Moosa | Jonathan Brown | Leila Slama
Mohammed Nekroumi | Mouez Khalfaoui | Noha Abdel-Hady | Necmettin Kizilkaya | Sohaira Zahid Siddiqui



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Islamic Theology

Friday, October 09, 2015

Saturday, October 10, 2015

09:00 – 09:15	13:00 – 15:00	09:00-09:45
Opening Speech and Introduction	Lunch	Speaker: Prof. Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im <i>Emory University</i> „How to Reform a Comprehensive Global Normative System?“
09:15 – 10:45	15:00 – 17:00	Moderation: Debora Müller
Keynote Speaker I Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Moosa <i>University of Notre Dame</i> „Imagining Islamic Law as Ethics: From Fazlur Rahman to Taha Abdurrahman“	Panel II Speaker I Dr. Leila Slama <i>University of Tunis</i> „The Reform of Islamic Law in Modern Muslim States: Tunisia as a Case Study“	09:45-10:15
Keynote Speaker II Prof. Dr. Abdou Filali-Ansary <i>Aga Khan University (London)</i> „Reform or Subvert? Dilemmas Facing Those Who Are Interested in Muslim Affairs“	Speaker II Prof. Dr. Jonathan Brown <i>Georgetown University</i> „The Mechanics of Legal Reform in the Pre-Modern and Modern Periods.“	Coffee/Tea Break
Moderation: Judit Kuschnitzki	Speaker III Prof. Dr. Sohaira Zahid Siddiqui <i>Georgetown University (Qatar)</i> „The Case of Hudud in the Modern World“	10:15-12.30
10:45-11:15	Moderation: Simone Trägner-Uygun	Panel III Speaker I Dr. Cefli Ademi <i>Münster University</i> „Islamic Jurisprudence in the Modern Nation State - A Focus on Legal Ethics?“
Coffee/Tea Break	18:00	Speaker II Dr. Necmettin Kizilkaya <i>Istanbul University</i> „State and Reform: Ottoman Family Code of 1917“
10:45-12:45	Panel I Speaker II Noha Abdel-Hady <i>University of Hamburg/ Tübingen</i> „The Formation of Legal Genre: The Case Study of Fiqh an-Nisa“	Speaker III Prof. Dr. Mouez Khalfaoui <i>University of Tübingen</i> „Has the Method of Teaching Islamic Law Ever Changed?“
Speaker III Dr. Mohammed Nekroumi <i>Münster University</i> „The Process of Rational Argumentation in Šāṭibī's Legal Theory - Fundamental Issues of a Modern Reinterpretation“	Moderation: Prof. Dr. Mouez Khalfaoui	Moderation: Mahmoud El-Wereny
Moderation: Abdelaali El Maghraoui	20: 00	12:30-13:00
	Joint dinner for the speakers	Closing Speech