



Circle of Justice, Sirr al-Asrār, 8th century, Reproduced with permission of Leiden University

› Organisation

Project of the Graduate School of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

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› Venues

Public Keynote
Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters | Room Jo 1
Johannisstraße 4, 48143 Münster

Workshop
Hörsaalgebäude des Exzellenzclusters | Room Jo 101
Johannisstraße 4, 48143 Münster

› Registration

until 14.07.2016
Nadeem Khan and Stephan Tölke
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A conference of the **Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”** of the University of Münster. Some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship of religion and politics across epochs and cultures: from the world of ancient gods and Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period to the current situation in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa. It is nationally the largest research association of its kind and of the 43 Clusters of Excellence in Germany, it is the only one to deal with religion. The German Federal Government and the Federal States support the project with 33.7 million euros in the Excellence Initiative’s second funding phase from 2012 to 2017.

Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

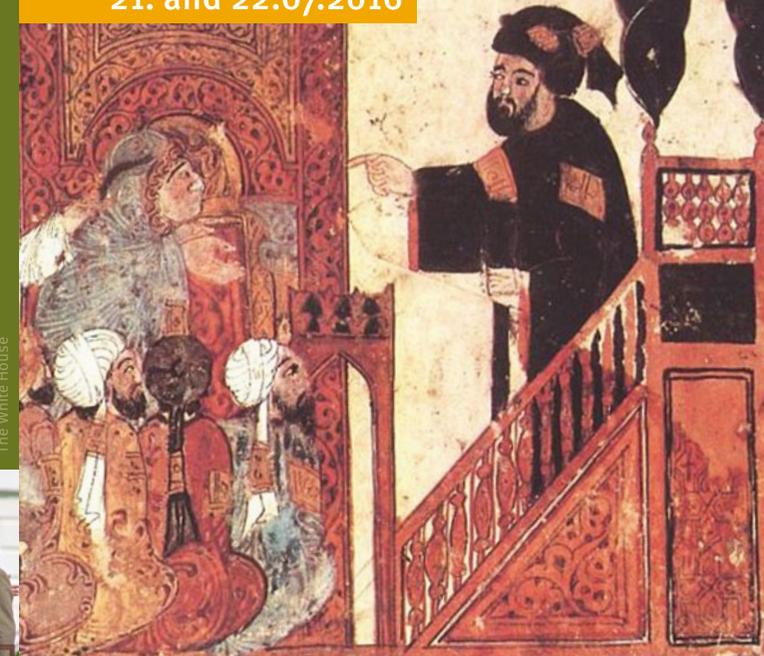
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Workshop of the Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”

› Caliphs, Sultans, Presidents Rulers between Religion and Realpolitik throughout Islamic History

21. and 22.07.2016



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> Caliphs, Sultans, Presidents

Rulers between Religion and Realpolitik

throughout Islamic History

Contrary to the widely held public notion that polities in the Islamic World have been constituted on a religious basis, most Islamic polities have not been organised as theocracies. It is accurate, however, that a multiplicity of models of governance has been conceived, discussed and demanded based on the religion of Islam. These concepts of the 'ideal Islamic state' were to compete with non-Islamic conceptions – such as military culture – and constraints of realpolitik requiring a pragmatic approach.

This workshop will investigate areas of tension in which rulers oscillate between religion and realpolitik. Tensions arise when a ruler's self-conception and his understanding of religion differ from religiously formulated conceptions of rule, resulting in conflicting claims. What requirements were laid down by Islamic scholars, in which way did historical actors meet those requirements and which mechanisms were available to shape a ruler's political agenda? The historical reception of these actors, as well as the adoption of such rulers as role models for the conception of an ideal rule provide insights into the alteration and conservation of any such ideal rule through criticism and the formation of tradition.

At the same time, the inversion of this relationship – namely a ruler's interference in religious doctrines and practice – deserves careful consideration. A particular focus will be placed on processes of transformation, in which for instance a dynasty's legitimation shifts from a military one to a religiously predicated self-authentication. In this context, special attention will be paid to syncretistic strategies of legitimation. Potentials and limits, as well as the variety of such strategies will be examined, providing a cross section through Islamic history.

> Programme

Thursday, 21.07.2016

13:00–13:10 Welcome

13:10–13:30 Introduction
Almut Höfert, Münster/Zürich

Panel: The Early Caliphates

13:30–14:15 Courtly Ceremonial and the Crisis of Early Islamic Kingship
Ian D. Morris, Madrid/Amsterdam

14:15–15:00 Publishing Justifications of State Policy. The Fatimid *Kitāb al-majālis wa-l-musāyarāt* as Official Response to Internal Controversy and External Propaganda
Hasan al-Khooe, London

15:00–15:30 Break

Panel: Muslim Rule in Syria

15:30–16:15 Founders and Beneficiaries of the First *madrāsas* in Damascus. Clues to the Religious Policies of the Seljūqs and Būrids (late 11th–mid-12th centuries)
Paula Manstetten, London

16:15–17:00 al-Malik al-ʿĀdil? Justice between *ṣarīʿa* and *maslaḥa* as Defining Concept of Nūr ad-Dīn's Rule
Nadeem Khan, Münster

17:00–18:15 Break

Public Keynote

18:15–19:45 Commanded to Speak by God and His Prophet. Religious Authority in Medieval Islam
Jonathan Berkey, Davidson

Friday, 22.07.2016

Panel: The Mamlūk Period

09:00–09:45 When Political Pragmatism Meets Religious Normativity. Ibn Taymiya's Approach towards the Question of Caliphate or Kingship as a Case Study
Abdelkader Al-Ghouz, Bonn

09:45–10:30 The Universal Logics of Politics. Conceptualizing Effective Rule in the Mamlūk Period
Stephan Tölke, Münster

10:30–10:45 Break

Panel: Safavids and Ottomans

10:45–11:30 Shah Ismāʿīl's Conquest of Khurāsān in 916/1510 and its Religio-Political Impact
Philip Bockholt, Berlin

11:30–12:15 Imperial Forges of Piety. Religion, Society and Politics Revisited, from Süleyman's Magnificence to the End of the Ayān Age
Nikola Pantic, Budapest

12:15–13:30 Lunch break

Panel: Modern Statehood and Islam

13:30–14:15 Lovers of Constitutionalism. Sufi Approval of the Young Turk Revolution in 1908
Cüneyd Yıldırım, Münster

14:15–15:00 The Modern State in Islamic Thought. Islamism, Post-Islamism and the Challenge of Modernity
Nicholas Gjørvad, Berlin

15:00–15:30 Break

15:30–16:00 Closing Discussion
Jonathan Berkey, Davidson