

15:00-15:40

Contemporary Debates Published on Social Media by British and German Muslims

Danial Zaidi, University of Münster

15:40-16:20

A Semiotics of the Munāẓara: Disputation as a Sign in Pakistan

Mohammad Nabeel Jafri, University of Göttingen

Coffee break

16:40-17:20

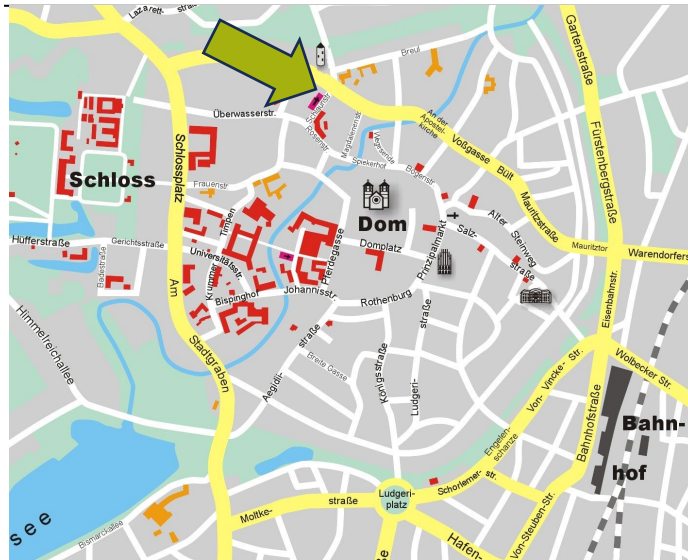
Intra-Muslim Polemics as Mass Publicity in Contemporary South India

Nandagopal R. Menon, University of Münster

17:20-18:00

Final Discussion

LOCATION



VENUE

Institut für Sinologie und Ostasienkunde

Room: RS 23

Schlaunstr. 2, 48148 Münster

No registration necessary

CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE 'RELIGION AND POLITICS'

The Cluster of Excellence has been investigating the complex relationship between religion and politics across eras and cultures since 2007. The 140 researchers from 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences are focusing in the current funding phase (2019 to 2025) on the 'dynamics of tradition and innovation'. In transepochal studies ranging from antiquity to the present day, they are analyzing the conditions and factors that make religion an engine of political and social change, with their focus being above all on the paradox that religions often develop their innovative potential precisely by drawing on their traditions. The research network is the largest of its kind in Germany; and, of the Clusters of Excellence, one of the oldest and the only one to deal with the issue of religion. It will receive funding of 31 million euros from 2019 to 2025.

ORGANIZATION

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<https://www.uni-muenster.de/ALEA>



Conference of the Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics" in cooperation with the DFG Long Term Research Project "Complete Edition of Ibn Nubatah al-Miṣrī's Works (1287-1366)"

MUNĀẒARA – SEEING EYE TO EYE?

Theological and Literary Arguing Practices in Comparison

10 -12 June 2025



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PROGRAMM

MUNĀẒARA – SEEING EYE TO EYE?

Theological and literary disputations, *munāẓarāt*, were and are a popular and in many ways entertaining art in the Islamic world. Studying, practicing, writing and participating in debates was a tour de force from the Abbasids to modern times, from theologians debating the nature of God, to litterateurs imagining objects arguing over superiority.

Western academia has only recently started to analyze and appreciate these vast and complex arguing practices, and yet so much still remains unknown. Through a comparison of theological and literary disputations with a focus on forms and functions, this conference aims to highlight continuities and differences over the centuries.

TUESDAY, 10 JUNE

17:00-17:30

Welcome and Introduction

Syrinx von Hees, Nandagopal R. Menon and Johannes Ruhstorfer

Keynote Lecture Literature

17:40-18:20

Al-ʿIlm wa-l-jahl (Knowledge vs. Ignorance), Wytty and Wyttyles (Witty and Witless): A 19th-Century Arabic Literary Debate and a 16th-Century English Dialogue, Compared and Contrasted

Geert Jan van Gelder, University of Oxford

Keynote Lecture Theology

18:20-19:00

Technique vs Ethics: The Art of Debate according to Ibn Wahb al-Kātib (Mid-Tenth Century)

Abdessamad Belhaj, Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest

Lunch

15:00-15:40

Mā warāʾ an-nahr and the Lands of Disputations (*munāẓarāt*): Faḥr ad-Dīn ar-Rāzī's Autobiography as a Witness to Knowledge, Debate, and Dynamism in 12th-Century Muslim Culture

Kamil Öktem, University of Vienna

WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE

10:00-10:40

Exploring Dialectical Strategies in the Literary Debates over Boys and Girls

Aurora Magliozzi, University of Naples L'Orientale

10:40-11:20

At the Munāẓirīn's Gymnasium: Ibn Abī 'Awn's (d. 322/934) al-Ajwibah al-muskita as a Case Study

Chiara Fontana, University of Bologna

Coffee break

11:40-12:20

Munāẓara in Legal Context(s): The Perspectives of al-Khaṭīb al-Baghdādī (d. 1071)

Ali Rida Rizeq, University of Göttingen

12:20-13:00

The Floral Literary Debate After the 12th Century: Trajectories and Functions

Arianna Tondi, University of Bergamo



15:40-16:20

Form and Genre in Mamluk Literary Debates

Johannes Ruhstorfer, University of Münster

Coffee break

16:40-17:20

Analyse de l'épître intitulée Mufāḥarāt Mālaqa wa-Salā d'Ibn al-Ḥaṭīb 713-776/1313-1374

Brigitte Foulon, Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris

17:20-18:00

(Con-)Figuring Theological Dispute in Debate Literature of the 14th Century

Syrinx von Hees, Universität Münster

THURSDAY, 12 JUNE

10:00-10:40

The Debate of Arquebuse and Bow: A Stylistic and Textual Analysis of the Yemeni Munāẓara by Ibrāhīm b. Ṣālīḥ al-Hindī (d. 1689)

Gianluca Saitta, University of Palermo

10:40-11:20

Pre-modern Turkish Munāẓara: Features, Topics, and History of the Genre

Şeyma Benli, Istanbul Medeniyet University

Coffee break

11:40-12:20

The *munāẓara* in Print: Mustafa Sabri and other Late Ottoman Scholars' Engagement in a New Public Sphere

Andrew Hammond, University of Oxford

12:20-13:00

A Carnavalesque Dispute between Ignorance, Wastefulness, Failure and Laziness from the 19th Century

Asmaa Essakouti, University of Münster

Lunch