

Call for Papers

Islamic Law and Theology in Context - The Treatise-Literature (*rasā' il*) as Documentation of Socially Relevant Discussions in Pre-Modern Muslim Societies (13th - 19th Centuries)

International Conference on 25th - 27th March 2020 in Osnabrück

In the last twenty years, research on the history of Islamic Law has shifted from the Early Period to the Middle Periods, approaching all kinds of different genres and topics. Besides *fatāwā*-collections and commentaries (*sharḥ* and *ḥāshiyā*), the treatise-literature (*rasā' il*) seem to be a predominant medium of discussing socially relevant questions. Treatises are short texts on current topics, which are not covered in the standard textbooks or were only covered in a very rudimentary and general sense. Still ignored widely in secondary literature in general, few studies have addressed topics such as tobacco and coffee consumption in the Ottoman Empire, the *waqf* system and the punishment of heretics etc.

Since this literature covers topics that discuss contemporary social practices, it provides valuable information about how scholars and intellectuals responded to those practices, hence, reflects the intersection between theory and practice. Therefore, the following questions should stand in the middle of the studies: What topics of practical law or theology were discussed more intensely at a given time and location? What were the social and theological contexts of these discussions? Who was involved in these discussions? What was the motivation of the author? What were their arguments? What do these texts say about contextuality, flexibility and pragmatism of Islamic law? What conclusions can be drawn from this data for the treatise-literature (*rasā' il*)?

We welcome papers on single or a number of treatises and counter-treatises written in Islamic Law and Theology (*fiqh*, *kalām*, *taṣawwuf* etc.). They should address the content of the treatise as well as the social, political and intellectual context of its author and the audience, in order to fully understand the author-text-context relation. The conference focuses on the 13th to the 19th centuries with a main interest in the Ottoman and Mamluk Empires, and it aims to add to our understanding of the reality of Islamic theology and law in its historical and social context. Nevertheless, the investigation of treatises from other geographical areas are welcomed as well.

Organisation and date:

Please submit your abstracts till **15th July 2019** to Hakkı Arslan: hakarслан@uni-osnabrueck.de

This conference is organized by Dr. Hakkı Arslan, (University Osnabrück) and Dr. Mohammad Gharaibeh (University of Bonn). It will be held between the 25th and 27th March 2020 at the Institute for Islamic Theology in Osnabrück. Expenses for travel and accommodation will be covered. The papers are foreseen to be published in a special issue of the Journal *Hikma - Journal für Islamic Theology and Religious Education* in April 2021, after they underwent a peer-review process.

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