



ZMO-Colloquium Summer Term 2019

Thursday, 28 March 2019, 5 pm

Translocal Ritual Practices in a Shi'a Community of Oman

Lecture by **Zahir Bhalloo** (Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies)

Venue

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin

This lecture studies the performance of Muharram rituals among the Lawatiya Shia minority of Oman. It examines in particular to what extent the performance of certain translocal ritual texts have been used in the past and continue to be used today by the Lawatiya community to cultivate and to preserve a distinctive social and religious Shi'i identity that is embedded in the landscape of the western Indian Ocean.

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Zahir Bhalloo completed his D.Phil. in Oriental Studies at Oxford University in 2013 with a thesis on the legal system of nineteenth century Iran. Between 2014 and 2017 he was a research associate at the Centre for South Asian Studies (CEIAS), École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. Since 2017, he was a visiting fellow and is presently a post-doctoral fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (BGSMCS), Freie Universität Berlin. His post-doctoral research explores Shii devotional and philological practices in the Western Indian Ocean, through a case study of the Lawatiya Shii Muslim merchant community of Muscat, Oman.