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Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)

## Claiming and Making Muslim Worlds: Across and Between the Local and the Global



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



3–5 April 2019  
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient  
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14129 Berlin

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## Claiming and Making Muslim Worlds: Across and Between the Local and the Global

Conference Programme, 3–5 April 2019, ZMO

**Convenors** Jeanine Dağyeli (Nazarbayev University, Astana)  
Ulrike Freitag (ZMO)  
Paolo Gaibazzi (ZMO)  
Claudia Ghrawi (ZMO)  
Norman Saadi Nikro (ZMO)  
Dietrich Reetz (ZMO)

Our conference marks the completion of ZMO's twelve-year research programme *Muslim Worlds – Worlds of Islam? Conceptions, Practices, and Crises of the Global*. Conducted over three days in April 2019, the conference consists of eight panels, a keynote lecture by Professor Seema Alavi, and a roundtable discussion, titled *Was sind muslimische Welten? Fragen an den globalen Norden*, moderated by ZMO's Director Professor Ulrike Freitag.

Panellists at the conference present their perspectives on the study of predominantly Muslim societies of Asia and Africa, as well as regional interconnections. Scholars specifically address the notion of *Claiming and Making Muslim Worlds*, exploring religious affiliations and practices, extending to social, economic and cultural modalities of life. From a variety of disciplines, panellists discuss pluralities of actors, institutions, locations and world making – for Muslim subjects and non-Muslims alike.

Our plural notion of *worlds* encompasses local and global, or *translocal*, intersections. *Worlds* refers to varying traditions, institutions, and media, by which people go about shaping their sense of self and place, claim their connections and affiliations, religious and otherwise. Place and environment are increasingly mediatized by varying technological applications, symbolic transactions, social imaginaries, and differentiated circulations of resources. In addition, they are crisscrossed by movements of migration. While there are hardly any localities not impacted by globalizing interactions, by the same token, the global is unthinkable without a sense of the local.

The conference reflects ZMO's ongoing interdisciplinary research interest in translocal and globalizing processes from the perspective of the "Global South". It therefore goes against the grain of predominating conceptual, historical, and geographical research repertoires that assume the centrality of the global north. Such repertoires have tended to portray Islam and the Muslim world as singular and homogeneous. Accordingly, panel presentations strive to complicate any neat compartmentalizing of historiographical and geographical categories.

In her Keynote, "Muslim Cosmopolitanism and the Writing of World History", Seema Alavi adds a historical perspective on how Muslim scholars and thinkers contributed to projects of modernity. Focusing on a Muslim scholar from colonial India, Imdadullah Makki (1817-99), she discusses the imperial rivalries through which he established his own institution and discourse of Muslim cosmopolitanism.

The roundtable, "What Are Muslim Worlds? Talking Back to the Global North", takes place in the late afternoon of the second day, and is conducted in German. Participants discuss how scholarship on and in Muslim worlds relate to public debates in Europe about Muslims and Islam, and further address possible links between their research frameworks and the social forces shaping scholarly orientations, such as media reports and discussions in political and social forums.

## Day I – 3 April 2019

12.00–13.00 Registration

13.00–13.45 **Opening and Introduction**  
Ulrike Freitag (ZMO)

### Thematic Section: Religious Worlds

13.45–15.15 **Religion and Ideas of World Order:  
Claims, Engagements and Transformations**  
Convenor: Antía Mato Bouzas (ZMO)

Antía Mato Bouzas (ZMO):  
Religion in the Making of Transnational Spaces

Dietrich Reetz (ZMO):  
Amir or Shura: How to lead a global missionary movement of  
Islam like the Tablighi Jama'at

Lorenzo Casini (University of Messina):  
Ordering Islam within the Bounds of the Novel: Religion,  
Modernity and the Nation

15.45–17.15 **Governing the Sahel-Sahara:  
Bad Islam and Good Muslims**  
Convenors: Britta Frede (ZMO), Judith Scheele (ZMO),  
Abdoulaye Sounaye (ZMO)  
Discussant: Baz Lecocq (Humboldt University, Berlin)

Britta Frede (ZMO):  
The Islamic Republic of Mauritania and its Governance of  
(Trans)local Islamic Heritage

Judith Scheele (ZMO):  
Islam as World Religion in Northern Mali

Abdoulaye Sounaye (ZMO):  
Treating Muslim Subjects: Deradicalizing the Sahel

18.00–19.30 **Keynote Lecture**

Seema Alavi (Delhi University):  
Muslim Cosmopolitanism and the Writing of World History

Introduction: Heike Liebau (ZMO)  
Moderators: Paolo Gaibazzi (ZMO), Claudia Ghrawi (ZMO)

19.30 **Reception**

## Day II – 4 April 2019

### Thematic Section: Values in Circulation

9.30–11.00

#### Making Muslim Spaces in the Indian Ocean

Convenor: Sebastian Prange (University of British Columbia)  
Chair and Discussant: Ulrike Freitag (ZMO)

Sebastian Prange (University of British Columbia):  
The Hindu King who loves the Muslims: Expanding the Dar al-Islam on the Sixteenth-Century Malabar Coast

Scott Reese (University of Northern Arizona):  
“The Ink of Understanding”: The complicated relationship between manuscripts and print within the Islamic written tradition of East Africa and the Horn

Tika Ramadhini (ZMO):  
Jawah Women’s Learning Activities in Mecca, Nineteenth to Twentieth Century

11.30–13.00

#### Challenging the North/South Divide: Multicentric Flows in Muslim Worlds

Convenor and Discussant: Stefan B. Kirmse (ZMO)  
Chair: Jeanine Dağyeli (Nazarbayev University, Astana)

Rebecca Gould (University of Birmingham):  
The Obligation to Migrate: Hijra and Cultural Memory in the Soviet Caucasus Literatures

Manja Stephan-Emmrich (Humboldt University, Berlin):  
Bourgeois Islam and Other Post-national Sensibilities: Tracing Im/-material Flows Across Central Asia and the Gulf

Sumit Mandal (University of Nottingham):  
Music, Faith, and Commerce: The Nature, Reach, and Impact of Islamic Devotional Music in Southeast Asia

14.30–16.00

#### The Moral Economies of Resource Valuation and Extraction

Convenors: Katharina Lange (ZMO), Jeanine Dağyeli (Nazarbayev University, Astana)  
Discussant: Jeanine Dağyeli (Nazarbayev University, Astana)

Patrick Schukalla (ZMO):  
Becoming the Nuclear Front-End – On the Uranium Frontier in Tanzania

Erdem Evren (ZMO):  
Negotiating Extraction

Julien Brachet (Université Paris I, IRD):  
The (Im)moral Economy of Natron Mining in Northern Chad

18.00–19.30

#### Roundtable Discussion: Was sind muslimische Welten? Fragen an den globalen Norden

◇ Venue: Leibniz-Gemeinschaft, Raum Hannover, 5th Floor, Chausseestraße 111, 10115 Berlin

Word of Welcome: Matthias Kleiner (Leibniz Association)  
Moderator: Ulrike Freitag (ZMO)

Participants:  
Charlotte Wiedemann (Journalist, Berlin)  
Mamadou Diawara (Goethe University, Frankfurt)  
Claudia Derichs (Humboldt University, Berlin)  
Bekim Agai (Goethe University, Frankfurt)

The event will be held in German.

## Day III – 5 April 2019

### Thematic Section: Unmaking and Remaking Muslim Worlds

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9.30–11.00

**Overcoming Division:  
Religious and Non-Religious Norms in Global Transitional  
Justice Processes**

Convenor: Sonja Hegasy (ZMO)

Susanne Buckley-Zistel (University of Marburg):  
Transnational Memorialisation of Past Atrocities

Brahim El Guabli (Williams College):  
Islamizing Memory: Islamist Prison Literature and Moroccan  
Cultural Memory

Farzana Haniffa (University of Colombo):  
Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka: Muslim Engagement with the  
National Discourse

11.30–13.00

**Muslim Liminality in Migrant Spaces:  
Berlin During the Era of the World Wars**

Convenor: Peter Wien (University of Maryland)  
Chair: Katrin Bromber (ZMO)

Peter Wien (University of Maryland):  
Survival Strategies in Nazi Berlin: Husni al-'Urabi's 89 Months  
in Exile

David Motadel (LSE, London):  
Anti-Colonial Revolutionaries in Wartime Berlin

### Thematic Section: Rethinking Muslim Worlds

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14.30–16.00

**Intellectual Cultures, Philosophy, and Critical Thinkers:  
Challenges, Pathways and Reservoirs for Decolonization**

Convenors: Kai Kresse (ZMO), Nils Riecken (ZMO)

Nils Riecken (ZMO):  
Abdallah Laroui's Situated Universalism: Conceptual Trans-  
lation and the Re-Working of the Historicity of Concepts

Anaheed Al-Hardan (American University of Beirut):  
On South-South Circulations, Histories and Possibilities in the  
Arab World

Abdulkader Tayob (University of Cape Town):  
Nativizing Religion between Muslim Intellectuals and the  
Enlightenment Project

16.30–18.00

**Closing Discussion**

Moderators: Jeanine Dağyeli (Nazarbayev University, Astana),  
Norman Saadi Nikro (ZMO), Dietrich Reetz (ZMO)