

# Religion as a Changing Category of Muslim Practice

Interdisciplinary Workshop, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Venue:** Harold Lee Room, Pembroke College, Oxford. **Convenors:** Alex Henley and Nabeelah Jaffer.

- 8.30-9.00 Registration, tea/coffee and pastries
- 9.00-9.50 **Opening remarks** from Armando Salvatore (Religious Studies, McGill University)  
*Unraveling the conundrum of religion in the study of Islam: Between Theology, Religious Studies and Social Theory.*
- 10.00-11.15 **Panel 1: Classical discourses in modern perspective**  
Chair: Christopher Melchert (Oriental Studies, Pembroke College, Oxford)  
Bashir Saade (Religion and Politics, University of Stirling)  
*A few thoughts on the relation between dīn and milla: Implications on the modern 'religious' and 'secular' imagination.*  
Tayseer Abu Odeh (Comparative Literature, Arab Open University)  
*The secular-religious dichotomy in Islam: Avicenna and al-Razi's counterpoint and the paradox of Theology (kalām).*
- 11.30-12.45 **Panel 2: Discourses of religion in modern history**  
Chair: Justin Jones (Theology and Religion, Pembroke College, Oxford)  
Ayse Polat (Sociology, Istanbul Medeniyet University)  
*Mapping out late Ottoman terms for religion and irreligion.*  
Brannon Ingram (Religious Studies, Northwestern University)  
*Islamism's dīn: Boundaries of 'religion' in Mawdudi and his successors.*
- 12.45-14.00 Lunch in Pembroke dining hall
- 14.00-15.15 **Panel 3: Demarcating religion in modern states**  
Chair: Nabeelah Jaffer (Theology and Religion, Pembroke College, Oxford)  
Alex Henley (Theology and Religion, University of Oxford)  
*Religion as a category of institutional practice in Middle Eastern states.*  
Besnik Sinani (Grad School of Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin)  
*Entertainment projects as markers of religious reform: The shift in scope and sphere of religion in Saudi Arabia.*
- 15.30-17.15 **Panel 4: Ethnographies of religion in Muslim practice**  
Chair: Morgan Clarke (Anthropology, Keble College, Oxford)  
Emanuelle Degli Esposti (Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge)  
*Charity as ritual: Religion, identity, and the unsettling of secular humanitarianism in Shi'a Islam.*  
Liza Franke (Anthropology, Georg-August University Göttingen)  
*Searching for individual (non-)religious identities in Alexandria.*  
Giorgia Baldi (Law, University of Sussex)  
*Re-thinking Islam and Islamism: Hamas women between religion, secularism and neo-liberalism.*
- 18.50 Gather in the SCR Parlour for formal dinner (by invitation only)