

# The Treatise-Literature (*rasāʿil*) as Documentation of Socially Relevant Discussions in Pre-Modern Muslim Societies (14th – 19th Centuries)

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. But many of them are still entirely unexplored. Besides *fatāwā*-collections and commentaries (*sharḥ* and *ḥāshiyā*), the treatise-literature (*rasāʿil*) seems to be a predominant medium of discussing socially relevant questions. Treatises are short texts on current topics, which are only covered in a very rudimentary sense. Only a few studies have explored treatises (*rasāʿil*) that address topics such as tobacco and coffee consumption in the Ottoman Empire, the waqf system and the punishment of heretics etc. This will be the first international conference with a special focus on the risala-literature in Islamic law, theology and Sufism between the 13th and the 19th centuries.

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 (*rasāʿil*)?

## Organization

Institute of Islamic Theology, Osnabrück University

## Cooperation

Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Münster  
Collaborative Research Centre 1385 „Law and literature“, University of Münster

## Conference Management

Dr. Hakki Arslan, WWU Münster  
Murat Karacan, M.A., Institute of Islamic Theology, Osnabrück University  
Prof. Dr. Mohammad Gharaibeh, Humboldt-Universität Berlin

## Registration

Please register before March 15, 2020 at:  
[registration.risala@uni-osnabrueck.de](mailto:registration.risala@uni-osnabrueck.de)

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## Conference Venue

Schloss, Building 11, Senatssitzungssaal, Neuer Graben 29, 49074 Osnabrück

## Legal Details

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Conference

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25th - 27th March 2020

IN COOPERATION WITH:

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**Wednesday, 25th March 2020**

- 10:00 – 10:15 Uhr** **Welcome**  
**Bülent Uçar**, The Director of the Institute of Islamic Theology, Osnabrück University  
**Norbert Oberauer**, University of Münster
- 10:15 – 10:45 Uhr** **Introduction**  
**Hakki Arslan**, University of Münster
- Mohammad Gharaibeh**, Humboldt-Universität Berlin
- 10:45 – 11:00 Uhr** Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 Uhr** **Emergence of Different Genres in Islamic Law**  
**Necmettin Kızılkaya**, Istanbul University
- Rasā'il as a source for ottoman social history**  
**Evgenia Kermeli**, Hacettepe University Ankara
- 12:30 – 14:00 Uhr** Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30 Uhr** **Rejecting the religion of Abraham (millet-i İbrāhīm): vernacular legalism and religion in the seventeenth-century Ottoman Empire**  
**Nir Shafir**, University of California San Diego
- The Intellectual Social Context of Debates and Works on the issue of the Prophet's Parents (abawayn al-Rasūl) in the Ottoman Times**  
**Kadir Gömbeyaz**, Kocaeli University
- 15:30 – 16:00 Uhr** Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 17:30 Uhr** **Ithbāt al-Wāğib Treatises in the Ottoman Period with a Focus on Yanyawī's Treatise**  
**Sait Özervarlı**, Yıldız Technical University
- "Evil cannot be related to You": Kemālpāshazāde's treatise on theodicy**  
**Arnold Yasin Mol**, Leiden University

**Thursday, 26th March 2020**

- 9:30 – 11:00 Uhr** **Traditionalizing Sufism: The Hanbalī Critique of Sufi-Samā' – Wāsiṭis risāla on samā'**  
**Arjan Post**, Catholic University of Leuven
- The Raqs and Dawran (sufi dance) debates of the 16th century Ottoman Empire (In the Context of Ibrāhīm al-Ḥalabī's book entitled al-Rahs va'l-Vaqṣ li-Mustehill al-Raqṣ)**  
**Ahmed Hamdi Furat**, Istanbul University
- 11:00 – 11:30 Uhr** Coffee Break
- 11:30 – 13:30 Uhr** **Legal Debates on Nabīdh (millet beer) in the 18th century Caucasus: A Case Study of Abubakr- 'Aymakī al-Dagestānī's treatise "Aḥkām an-nabīdh"**  
**Magomed Gizbulaev**, Independent Researcher
- A Contribution to The Discussions on The Drugs in The Ottoman Society: The Treatise of Mahmād al-Fanāri (d. 1599)**  
**Tuncay Başoğlu**, ISAM-Istanbul
- Two Treatises of Abū Sa'īd al-Ḥādimī (d. 1762) on Smoking**  
**Murat Karacan**, Osnabrück University
- 13:30 – 15:00 Uhr** Lunch
- 15:00 – 16:30 Uhr** **A Treatise on Egyptian Churches': Ibn Nuğaym al-Misrī (1520-1563) and building of churches in Early Ottoman Egypt**  
**Amr Ryad**, Catholic University of Leuven
- Self defence against accusation – Ḥalabīs risāla on the prohibition to stand up in mawlid**  
**Şükrü Özen**, Istanbul University
- 16:30 – 17:00 Uhr** Coffee Break
- 17:00 – 18:30 Uhr** **Muallime Kamer and the Risālah of Hāce-i Namaz**  
**Rahile Yılmaz**, Marmara University
- A muftis guide to female bloods and purities: Ibn 'Ābidīn's commentary on Birgivī's treatise Duḥr al-muta'ahhilin**  
**Kathrin Klausning**, Osnabrück University

**Friday, 27th March 2020**

- 9:00 – 10:30 Uhr** **A symbolic battle over legal theory and the schools of law? Jamāl al-Dīn al-Qāsimī's risāla on wiping over socks**  
**Pieter Coppens**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- Facing Mecca from Java: Two treatises on the establishment of the qibla and their scholarly and social context**  
**Phillip Bruckmayr**, University of Vienna
- 10:30 – 11:00 Uhr** Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 Uhr** **A Risāla from the 19th Century on the Role of Sufi Saints**  
**Cüneyd Yıldırım**, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Border Crossing and Sectarian Boundary Making: Reforming 'Āshūrā' in early 19th century Muslim Southeast Asia**  
**Ismail Fajrie Alatas**, New York University
- 12:30 – 14:00 Uhr** Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30 Uhr** **The Treatise on iğtīhād and single attested traditions (risālatu l-iğtīhādi wa-l-'akhbāri) of Muḥammad Bāqir al-Bihbihānī**  
**Jens Bakker**, Osnabrück University
- Realising the One: Treatises on the Unity of Existence in the Ottoman-Safavid-Mughal Period**  
**Sajjad Rizvi**, University of Exeter
- 15:30 – 16:00 Uhr** Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 16:15 Uhr** **Review of the conference**  
**Norbert Oberauer**, University of Münster
- 16:15 – 17:00 Uhr** **Final Discussion**  
**Hakki Arslan**, University of Münster
- Mohammad Gharaibeh**, Humboldt-Universität Berlin