

It has become generally recognised that Muslims living in Switzerland and Europe have a need for academic reflection on their religion. This development also requires an Islamic self-interpretation within new contexts of religiously and culturally plural societies. Islamic-theological Studies aim to take this need into account and offer a platform for the academic as well as social negotiation of these processes. For Islamic-theological Studies as a field, however, this also entails key questions about content, conceptual and institutional design:

What should be the relationship between systematic and practical research? Which subjects should be prioritised, which topics put aside? What methodological approaches can Islamic-theological studies draw on and how do they relate to neighbouring disciplines in cultural sciences and humanities on the one hand and theologies on the other? Finally, the question of what ultimately makes Islamic-theological Studies “Islamic” also gives rise to some discussions. Is it the actors within Islamic-theological Studies who define themselves as Muslim? Is it the subject of “Islam” that gives the young discipline legitimacy? Or is it possibly a certain way of speaking that is characterised by a will to further develop Islamic religion?

Despite all these unresolved questions, it is clear that Islamic-theological Studies can only be meaningfully when grounded in exchanges with and in relation to society. They must be able to take up and scientifically utilise diverse questions and needs in reference to Islam. How this need is concretely reflected in the academic organisation and what further consequences this has for research is one of the many questions that the conference is intended to address.

**Registration:**

Please register until 26.01.2022 - *Registration Form*

Fees including lunch and coffee breaks:

60.-/30.- (Students)

Evening roundtable (Free)

**Location:**

Paulus Akademie  
Pfungstweidstrasse 28  
8005 Zürich

**Languages:**

Lectures and panels will be held in English and German with simultaneous interpretation available

**Scientific Direction:**

Prof. Dr. Amir Dziri, Swiss Center for Islam and Society  
Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Schmid, Swiss Center for Islam and Society

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**On the Future  
of a Young Discipline:  
Islamic-theological Studies  
between Systematic and  
Practical Research**

**9.-10.2.2022**

Swiss Center for Islam and Society  
University of Fribourg

Paulus Akademie

**10.15–10.30h**

**Introduction I: Practical Research in Islamic-theological Studies**

Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Schmid, University of Fribourg

**10.30–12.00h**

**Panel 1: From Charity to an Islamic Theology of Liberation: Religious Foundations of Muslim Welfare Practice**

*What can social work organisations learn from Islamic sources? Could an 'Islamic theology of liberation' be able to orientate further welfare practice in a more relevant way? What are the hermeneutical approaches of diverse theologies of liberation in Islam?*

Dr. Baptiste Brodard, University of Fribourg

Dr. Shadaab Rahemtulla, University of Edinburgh

**12.00–13.30h – Lunch break**

**13.30–15.00h**

**Panel 2: Muslim Chaplaincy between Psychosocial Practice, Islamic-theological Legitimation and Institutional Functionality**

*Which religious interpretations of suffering, doubt or consolation can be documented in spiritual care? What consequences do possible tensions within these interpretations have for practice? How does Muslim chaplaincy make sense in functional terms in the context of secular institutions?*

Dilek Ucak Ekinci M.A., University of Fribourg

Prof. Dr. Ingrid Mattson, University of Western Ontario

**15.00–15.30h – Coffee break**

**15.30–17.00h**

**Panel 3: Mosques as Places of Religious Education for Muslim Youth: A Religious Education Reflection**

*To what extent do educational offers in mosque communities take into account the life-world references of young Muslims and to what extent do they do justice to*

*their contemporary theological enquiries? What other places of learning can there be for all those who are interested in religion but distanced from institutions?*

Nadire Mustafi M.A., University of Fribourg

Prof. Dr. Jenny Berglund, University of Stockholm

**17.00–18.00h – Coffee break**

**18.00–20.00h**

**Public lectures and panel discussion "Islamic Theology in Plural Society"**

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Schulze, FINO, University of Bern

Prof. Dr. Amir Dziri, University of Fribourg

*Followed by a panel discussion with:*

Arlinda Amity, University of Fribourg

Deniz Yüksel, Fachstelle Integration, Kanton Zürich

Rejhan Neziri, Imam, Kreuzlingen

Mirjam Läubli, Forum der Religionen, Zürich

Chair: Csongor Kozma, Director Paulus Akademie

**8.30–8.45h**

**Introduction II: Systematic Research in Islamic-theological Studies**

Prof. Dr. Amir Dziri, University of Fribourg

**8.45–10.15h**

**Panel 4: Understanding Islam in Friday Sermons between Normativity and Context: The Example of Albanian Imams in Switzerland**

*How do internal congregational issues affect the imams' understanding of Islam? What is the relationship between normative sources and the social context in the Friday sermon? What role do socially relevant topics play?*

Arlinda Amity M.A., University of Fribourg

Prof. Dr. Zekirija Sejдини, University of Innsbruck

**10.15–10.45h – Coffee break**

**10:45-12:15h**

**Panel 5: Co-existence in Pluralistic Society: Muslim Self-Reflection and the Contribution of Sufi Thought**

*This panel will discuss whether the thought of earlier Western Sufi thinkers such as Frithjof Schuon can contribute to today's reflections and how to deal with the fact that in every society ideals and values are themselves constantly evolving.*

Alexander Boehmler M.A., University of Fribourg

Prof. Dr. Mark Sedgwick, University of Aarhus

**12.15–13.45h – Lunch break**

**13:45-15:15h**

**Panel 6: Evolution and Practical Implementation: the Term zakāt in the Qur'an between Continuity and Rupture**

*To what extent does philological analysis allow us to reflect on a diversity of theological meanings? To what extent are zakāt and ṣadaqa relevant for present theological and ethical discourses in Muslim contexts?*

Safia Boudaoui M.A., University of Fribourg

Dr. Ghassan el-Masri, University of Berlin, University of Erlangen

**15.15–15.45h – Coffee break**

**15:45-17:15h**

**Panel 7: Theological Anthropology – A New Perspective within Islamic-theological Studies?**

*Where is theological anthropology situated and how is it pursued within Islamic-theological Studies? How can it be rooted in epistemology and methodology? Which anthropological approaches have been developed by Muslim theologians and scholars? What distinguishes them and what value do they have?*

Esma Isis-Arnautovic M.A., University of Fribourg

Prof. Dr. David Vishanoff, University of Oklahoma