

Call for Papers

AALS Section on Islamic Law

Co-Sponsors:

AALS Sections on International Human Rights, National Security, and International Law

The AALS Section on Islamic Law program at the Annual Meeting in 2016 will address the topic of “**Challenging Sovereignty: Exploring the Rise of ISIS and Boko Haram.**” The session will be co-sponsored by the **AALS Sections on International Human Rights, National Security, and International Law**. We have three invited experts who will address the topic and we anticipate choosing one paper for presentation at the session from this Call for Papers. Please see the background below.

You are invited to submit a CV along with an abstract (250 to 500 words) dealing with any of the following aspects of this topic: 1) the implications of ISIS and Boko Haram’s claims and actions with regard to current conceptions of sovereignty and the international order of nation-states; 2) the legal, political, and social significance of ISIS’s declaration of a caliphate and the effort to establish it as a juridical entity; 3) the effects of ISIS and Boko Haram’s taking of chattel slaves and their treatment of prisoners for Islamic law and Islamic legal history; and, concomitantly, 4) the international law and human rights implications of the militant insurgencies’ actions. The goal is to engage in a dialogue that will inform our understandings of these militant insurgencies in the Middle East, West Africa and other regions.

Abstracts should be comprehensive enough to allow the selection committee to meaningfully evaluate the aims and likely content of the final papers. Please note that papers which have been published, or will have been published by the time of the Annual Meeting, are not eligible.

Background

In the past three years, two militant insurgencies have challenged the international order of national borders and understandings of sovereignty in the Middle East and West Africa. The military and political actions of ISIS and Boko Haram have resulted in the taking of large swaths of territory without regard to previously drawn and globally recognized borders, claiming Islamic justification for their actions. ISIS’ self-proclamation as a caliphate, coining money and establishing Sharia courts further presses questions about the nature of Islamic government in a modern world, and its relationship with global international norms of sovereignty. Even more urgently, ISIS and Boko Haram’s enslavement of thousands of war captives and cruel and inhumane treatment of prisoners of war and civilians, demands new attention to the relationship of Islamic law with international human rights norms. In sum, the conduct of ISIS and Boko Haram have stimulated vigorous debate among legal scholars and opinion-makers around the

world on the role of international law, human rights, and Islamic law in the face of such destructive transnational organizations.

Deadline and submission method: To be considered, the abstract and CV must be submitted electronically to Sahar Aziz or Faisal Kutty, co-chairs of the Section on Islamic Law, by **August 22, 2015**. The successful panellist(s) will be notified by **October 1, 2015**. Final paper(s) selected for presentation must then be submitted by **December 1, 2015**.

Eligibility: Full-time faculty members of AALS member law schools are eligible to submit papers. The following are ineligible to submit: foreign, visiting (without a full-time position at an AALS member law school) and adjunct faculty members, graduate students, fellows, non-law school faculty, and faculty at fee-paid non-member schools. Papers co-authored with a person ineligible to submit on his or her own may be submitted by the eligible co-author. Call for Papers participants will be responsible for paying their annual meeting registration fee and travel expenses.

Please forward this Call for Papers to other eligible faculty who may be interested in submitting papers.

For questions, please contact:

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