

'Islamic Law and Empire'

IGLP: The Conference, Harvard Law School

1-3 June 2015, Cambridge, MA, USA

**Panel and Paper submissions deadline: 13 March 2015**

We are pleased to announce that on 1-3 June 2015 the Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) will host an international Conference at Harvard Law School to showcase innovative thinking about global law and policy. In addition to this larger Conference, there will be four mini-conferences focused on specific themes. These mini-conferences will explore a given theme throughout a series of panels and papers over the course of three days. One of the four mini-conferences will be convened on the theme of '**Islamic Law and Empire**'.

This theme will explore a series of new, and interdisciplinary, theoretical approaches to Law and Empire broadly relating to the Islamic legal tradition and both historical and contemporary Islamicate societies. Studies of Empire, as a mode of governance, a trans-historical reality, and an enduring legacy of European colonialism, continue to generate an influential body of academic literature. Yet, accounts of multiple Muslim and non-Muslim imperial reformulations of Islamic legality and their lasting legacies in local, regional, and international legal domains are still relatively few.

Our goal is to generate a range of stimulating discussions on Law and Empire in the Muslim world, with a particular focus on theoretical meeting points between the studies in history, economy, politics, linguistics, aesthetics, sociology and anthropology of law. We invite contributions that are heterodox in both methodology and thematic focus, and that seek to address Law and Empire as broad analytical categories – inhering in or traversing historical as well as contemporary Islamicate polities. Contributors should also note that we aim to publish an edited collection on the basis of the proceedings of this Conference theme.

The panels convened on the theme of 'Islamic Law and Empire' are likely to include, but are not limited to, the following explorations:

- Law and Empire in Histories of Islamic International Law;
- Theorising the Praxis of Islamic Law: Empire, Resistance and Inauspicious Futures in the Muslim World;
- Imperial Peripheries and Islamic Law;
- Modernities, States and Legal Knowledge: Reassessing Imperial Legalities in the Muslim World;
- Critical and Comparative Paradigms in Scholarship on Empire and Law; and
- Statecraft and Law-Making in Imperial and Post-Imperial Muslim Polities.

Panel and Paper submissions should be made online, the latest by **13 March 2015**. If you are proposing a Paper, please follow [this link](#) and kindly indicate if you would like your presentation to be added to any of the above-mentioned panels. If you are proposing an additional Panel for this mini-conference, please follow [this link](#). For more information, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

Participation at the Conference is free of charge. Unfortunately, the IGLP is not in a position to provide travel and accommodation funding for all participants. We hope that you will be able to find funding from your home institutions to join us in June. If you are unable to obtain funding from your home institution, there may be funding to defray some part of the cost of travel to and accommodation at Harvard. For more information on funding and other logistics, please get in touch with **Ms Kristen Verdeaux** at [kverdeaux@law.harvard.edu](mailto:kverdeaux@law.harvard.edu).

For any further questions on the theme of 'Islamic Law and Empire', please contact the convenors of this mini-conference at [vh1@soas.ac.uk](mailto:vh1@soas.ac.uk) and/or [samour@post.harvard.edu](mailto:samour@post.harvard.edu).

With kind regards,

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(Convenors of the 'Islamic Law and Empire' mini-conference)