

Islamic Legal Studies Program

AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

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The Program

Harvard Law School's Islamic Legal Studies Program (ILSP) adopts as its new mission a dedication to ***promoting research and providing resources to advance the academic study of Islamic law, with an emphasis on legal history, law and society, and comparative law.*** The Program facilitates and sponsors individual scholarly research and collaborative research projects. It also sponsors lectures, workshops, conferences, and other events to both facilitate exchange among scholars and to educate the Harvard Law School, Harvard University, and broader intellectual communities. The Program's geographic area of interest includes the local, national, and global, spanning both Muslim-majority and Muslim-minority communities in regions that stretch from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, to Australia, Europe, and the Americas. The Program is neither a religious nor an advocacy organization, but rather aims to foster excellence in the study of Islamic law in an atmosphere of open inquiry.

Going forward, the Program will be dedicated to facilitating and building three main academic fields of study: Islamic legal history and theory, Islamic law and society, and Islamic comparative law. Islamic legal history and theory includes the study of intellectual and social history, of any historical period—early, medieval, or early modern. Islamic law and society includes anthropological, sociological, and political scientific approaches to the study of Islamic law and law in Muslim societies in contemporary times. Islamic comparative law refers to research that places the study of

legal doctrines, processes, and institutions in conversation with research on other legal systems, comparative legal history, comparative constitutional law, and other comparative approaches. In all three areas, the Program encourages interdisciplinary research as well as qualitative and quantitative empirical methodologies.

ILSP also supports the Islamic law collection in the Harvard Law School Library, and provides faculty, students, and visitors the opportunity to take advantage of Harvard's unparalleled library holdings. The Fellowship Program annually supports the work of junior and senior scholars of Islamic law, who are also able to access the Library's rich store of Islamic law materials while at Harvard. The student support program provides scholarships and research grants for dozens of students at Harvard Law School each year.





Report of Activities

SUMMARY OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013–2014

Executive Summary

The 2013–2014 academic year was a tale of two halves for ILSP. For the first half of the year, Dr. S. Nazim Ali, Director of the Islamic Finance Project (IFP), guided the Program in his fourth year as ILSP Acting Executive Director. On January 1, 2014, Professor Intisar Rabb joined the faculty of Harvard Law School as a Professor of Law and took leadership of ILSP as its Faculty Director. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Rashid Alvi joined the Program as Deputy Director. Ms. Ceallaigh Reddy continued as Program Administrator. During this time of transition and renewal, ILSP has worked to continue and hone some inherited traditions while also creating some new ones. The transition has entailed a considerable amount of strategic planning, overhaul, and programmatic shifts in areas that encompass ILSP's public face, its programs, and its projects. In terms of ILSP's public face, we began renovating Program space in Austin Hall; we designed a new Program newsletter—which we now distribute electronically rather than on paper; and we started work on creating a new website to launch in Fall 2014. In terms of programming, we admitted a slate of three new Fellows in a pared down and more directed Fellowship Program. Finally, we also began a massive overhaul of the Program's global network of scholars and lawyers with interest and expertise



in Islamic law, with an eye toward galvanizing existing relationships and forging new ones with interested members of the Harvard Law School community, the wider University community, and colleagues at other academic and policy institutions in an interdisciplinary way.

Fellows, Events, Research, Projects

The Program's support of research and scholarship on Islamic law is the defining characteristic of its mission. The Program seeks to accommodate the diverse nature of Islamic legal studies and the multiple intellectual communities it serves.

Overview

Each year the Program hosts a number of Visiting Fellows, who reside at Harvard Law School and spend a single term or the entire academic year conducting independent research and writing at the Program. During the 2013–2014 year, ILSP visiting fellows



Rashid Alvi



Intisar Rabb



Ceallaigh Reddy

hailed from India, Indonesia, Italy, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Program's Islamic Finance Project, under the direction of Dr. Nazim Ali, held two major events in the 2013–2014 academic year. These events marked the culmination of ten years of IFP at ILSP. This year also marked the last year that IFP will be housed at Harvard, as Dr. Ali moved to a new position at the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies at Hamad bin Khalifa University in Doha in September 2014.

Support of students has always been a priority of the Program. Accordingly, last year ILSP continued its student grant and scholarship programs. ILSP funds have traditionally supported student-organized lectures, panels, and other events; and a large amount of ILSP funds were used to provide financial aid to HLS students.

The Program continues to give high priority to expanding and maintaining Harvard Law School Library's renowned research collection in Islamic law and in the constitutions and legislation of jurisdictions where Muslims form a major component of the population. To serve this goal, the Program contributes considerable funds to the Law School Library, including substantial funding in support of the salary of the Librarian for Islamic Law and for procuring the books and other research tools necessary to support the ongoing research of faculty, students, and fellows working in this and related fields.

A publications program, consisting of the monograph series "Harvard Series in Islamic Law," of Occasional Papers, and of published proceedings of the IFP forum, has been suspended indefinitely following a strategic planning process and new budget constraints.

Details about fellows, events, publications, library resources, and student opportunities follow.

ILSP Visiting Fellows

Each year, following a formal application process, ILSP chooses a group of Visiting Fellows to spend an academic year or term pursuing innovative research projects of their own at HLS. During their stay, fellows make use of the research facilities of the Law School and the University, and they participate in the intellectual life of the Program. Visiting Fellows receive HLS appointments, office space, and, usually, a stipend. They participate in all Program activities and are asked to present their ongoing work at a lecture or workshop at some point during the academic year.

In 2013–2014 the Program welcomed the following six researchers from India, Indonesia, Italy, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States:

► **Fachrizal Halim**

PhD, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Canada

September 2013–December 2013

Research Topic: “The Digital Madhhab: Reformulation of Islamic Legal Authority in New Media”

► **Shariq Nisar**

Director, Research and Operations, Taqwaa Advisory and Shariah Investment Solutions, India

September 2013–May 2014

Research Topic: “Application and Accommodation of Shariah Financial Concepts in Secular Jurisdictions”

► **Tahsin Özcan**

Professor of Islamic History, Head of Turkish History Branch, Marmara University, Theology Faculty, Islamic History Department, Turkey

September 2013–May 2014

Research Topic: “Waqf and Civil Society: Management of Foundations from the Ottomans to the Republic of Turkey”

► **Lu’ayy al-Rimawi**

Co-Director, LLM Module in Islamic Financial Law and Co-Director, LLM Module in Islamic Business Law, BPP University, United Kingdom

February 2014–May 2014

Research Topic: “Comparative Aspects of Prospectus Liability under Islamic General Law in Arab Countries, the UK, and the US”

► **Ayman Shabana**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar

September 2013–May 2014

Research Topic: “Paternity Regulations between Islamic Law and Bioethics”

► **Serena Tolino**

Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Zurich, Switzerland

September 2013–January 2014

Research Topic: “Eunuchs in Medieval Islamic Law: Discourses on the Gender of Castrated Men”

An additional scholar, **Saied Edalatnejad** (Department of Law, Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation, Iran) had been chosen to join the program as a fellow for the spring semester to work on his project, “Legal Status of Religious Minorities in Shiite *Fiqh* and Iranian Laws (1906–2012),” but was unable to secure a visa.



Events

In 2013–2014 the Program offered a diverse range of events, both singly and in collaboration with various fora at the University.

► September 16, 2013

ILSP Open House

Orientation to ILSP and reception for HLS and Harvard University students and faculty

► November 18, 2013

ILSP Fellows Lecture Series

“The Islamic School of Law in the Digital Age: Reformulating Legal Authority, Doctrines, and Ijtihad among Contemporary Shafi’ites.” Lecture by ILSP Visiting Fellow Fachrizal Halim (PhD, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Canada)

► January 27, 2014

ILSP Fellows Lecture Series

“Eunuchs in Islamic Legal Discourse: Reflections on the Gender of Castrated Men.” Lecture by ILSP Visiting Fellow Serena Tolino (Post-doctoral fellow, University of Zurich, Switzerland)

► February 12, 2014

IFP Public Lecture

“Risk Sharing and Cooperative Finance.” Harvard University-London School of

Economics public lecture, held in London and organized by the Islamic Finance Project

► February 13, 2014

IFP Annual Workshop

“Use and Abuse of Limited Liability.” Harvard University-London School of Economics annual workshop, held in London and organized by the Islamic Finance Project

► March 12, 2014

ILSP Fellows Lecture Series

“Legitimization of Technology or Secularization of Law: Islamic Lineage Regulations in the Age of Biomedical and Genetic Technologies.” Lecture by ILSP Visiting Fellow Ayman Shabana (Visiting Assistant Professor, Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Qatar)

► March 26, 2014

ILSP Fellows Lecture Series

“Waqf and Civil Society: Management of Foundations from the Ottomans to the Republic of Turkey.” Lecture by ILSP Visiting Fellow Tahsin Özcan (Professor of Islamic History, Marmara University, Turkey)

► April 7, 2014

ILSP Fellows Lecture Series

“Legal Obstacles to Islamic Banking and Finance in India.” Lecture by ILSP Visiting Fellow Shariq Nisar (Director, Research and Operations, Taqwaa Advisory and Shariah Investment Solutions, India)

► April 23, 2014

ILSP Fellows Lecture Series

“Mandatory Securities Disclosure under Shari’a and Comparative Aspects of Prospectus Liability for Fraudulent and/or Negligent Misstatements.” Lecture by ILSP Visiting Fellow Lu’ayy Al-Rimawi (Co-Director, LLM Module in Islamic Financial Law and Co-Director, LLM Module in Islamic Business Law, BPP University, United Kingdom)

► April 25–27, 2014

IFP Forum

“Takaful and Alternative Cooperative Finance: Challenges and Opportunities.” Eleventh Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance, organized by the Islamic Finance Project

In addition to the public events listed above, ILSP also hosted a monthly coffee hour. These meetings, while primarily for staff and fellows to share news and information about their research and activities, also regularly included invited students and faculty from around the University, as well as other occasional visitors and friends of the Program.

Publications

Newsletter

In late May 2014, the Program produced a single combined issue of its newsletter (covering the full academic year). We distributed the newsletter to the Harvard Law School community, the Harvard University community, and to institutions and individuals in our network of scholars and via our website.

Website

This year, we began the process of a massive overhaul to the website—giving it a new look that draws on the textured world of Islamic art and architecture, adding new information that incorporates fresh course and program ideas, and otherwise preparing for a new ILSP. ILSP’s website is kept up-to-date with event notices, a listing of fellows, and announcements of various Program activities and opportunities. The site overhaul was completed in time for the Program re-launch in September 2014.

Books

The Islamic Finance Project compiled and edited papers from the presentations given at the Tenth Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance. In Spring 2014, the proceedings were published in a book, edited by Dr. Nazim Ali with Drs. Umar Oseni and Shariq Nisar, both former ILSP Visiting Fellows: *Islamic Finance and Development* (Cambridge: Massachusetts, Harvard Law School, Islamic Finance Project, 2014, 315pp).

Articles

Dr. Ali authored two articles published during the academic year, 2013–2014: “Perceptions Surrounding the Contemporary Practice of Islamic Finance,” *New Horizon* 138 (July–September 2013), pp. 12–16, and “Islamic Finance at Harvard,” *Economic Cooperation and Development Review*, vol. 7, 1 (2014), pp. 23–41.

Islamic Finance Project

The Islamic Finance Project held three major events during the 2013–2014 academic year. On February 12–13, 2014, the Harvard University-London School of Economics public lecture and annual workshop were held in London on “Risk Sharing and Cooperative Finance” and “Use and Abuse of Limited Liability,” respectively. The Eleventh Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance took place on April 25–27, 2014. The three-day event, “Takaful and Alternative Cooperative Finance: Challenges and Opportunities,” featured over 70 researchers and experts from both industry and academia.



Nazim Ali

These events marked the final year that IFP will be housed at ILSP, as Dr. Ali took up a new position at the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies at Hamad bin Khalifa University in September 2014. On June 18, 2014, ILSP held an appreciation dinner for Dr. Ali for his approximately nineteen years of service to Harvard and ten years at Harvard Law School. The dinner was attended by deans, professors, and friends of Dr. Ali and IFP at Harvard and elsewhere. Dean Martha Minow, Vice Dean William Alford, Professor Intisar Rabb, Professor William Graham, and Dr. Frank Vogel spoke at the event. All expressed hearty thanks to Dr. Ali for his many years of service at Harvard, as we bid him farewell and wish him the best in his new endeavor.

Library

The Library's research collection of Islamic and Middle Eastern law materials is a virtually unparalleled trove of materials essential



Yahya Melhem

to the academic study of Islamic law, and the only one of its kind at a US law school library. The collection is essential to ILSP and its mission of promoting research and resources in the study of Islamic law. To this end, ILSP substantially and enthusiastically contributes to the salaries of Law Library personnel and to funding new acquisitions for the collection. Harvard Law School Library's Islamic and Middle Eastern law collection is constantly being enhanced by the work of the Librarian for Islamic Law and his staff, often assisted and influenced by the research, activities, and travel of ILSP faculty and affiliates.

The position of Librarian for Islamic Law is held by Mr. Yahya Melhem. This position, two-thirds of which is funded by ILSP, is critical to the Harvard Law School Library's collection of Islamic law materials. Mr. Melhem is assisted by Ms. Eve Lauria, Islamic Acquisitions Assistant. Ms. Lauria's duties

include ordering, cataloging, and establishing authority control for materials added to the collections, which are primarily in the Arabic and Persian languages.

The Law School's library for Islamic law as well as the jurisdictional laws of Muslim countries and the Middle East collects legal materials from the Middle East, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and elsewhere in the languages of each of these regions. These materials currently number tens of thousands of monographs plus major serials, databases, and electronic resources related to the subject, with some 2,000 new resources added each year. The collection contains materials in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, English, and French, among other languages, and includes a wide range of resources covering both classical Islamic law and the current jurisdictional law of countries with predominantly Muslim populations.

At ILSP's request, the library staff worked closely with ILSP leadership on a major project to identify and sort the Islamic and Middle Eastern law collection at the Harvard Law School Library. Existing library systems were inadequate for the task, and after several makeshift attempts, the project was completed using a new tool, Library Cloud, conceived and coded by web developer Paul Deschner in the Harvard Library Innovation Lab. Professor Rabb and Deputy Director Rashid Alvi worked closely with Deschner, Islamic Law Librarian Yahya Melhem, and International and Comparative Law Librarian Aslihan Bulut, and other library staff to formulate the inquiries necessary to run the search on Library Cloud to develop a comprehensive understanding of our library

holdings on Islamic and Middle Eastern Law for the first time.

HLS Student Participation in Program Activities

ILSP has consistently supported Harvard students in their academic endeavors and considers this an important priority. Ranging from travel grants to financial aid for HLS students, and from support for student-organized activities to support for research assistance, the Program encourages students to take advantage of opportunities to conduct Islamic law-related research and build Islamic law-related programming. We also welcome and encourage student participation in the ILSP scholarly community.

Student Participation at ILSP Events

Since instituting the ILSP Fellows Lecture Series in 2008, the fellows' public lectures have always drawn several HLS students as well as researchers and faculty members from across Harvard's campus.

In the fall of 2013, ILSP once again hosted an open house and orientation to the Program, geared toward students. Some 35 attendees, mostly students from both HLS and the University at large, enjoyed a reception that featured welcoming remarks, a summary of program activities, and an announcement of student travel grants and student group funding awards. The event also included introductions to this past year's group of ILSP Visiting Fellows. Invited students were also welcome at monthly ILSP coffee hours held throughout the year.



Travel Grants and Internships

The Program awarded its first student travel grant in January of 1996, and since, we have facilitated the research of many students at the Law School—including candidates for the JD, LLM, and SJD degree programs—and occasionally Harvard University graduate students researching topics on or related to Islamic law. Specifically, ILSP funds provide needed financial assistance for these students to travel abroad to conduct research, to work at internships, or to take part in conferences or courses relevant to their work. In 2013–2014 ILSP awarded two student travel grants. During Winter Term 2014, Akhila Kolisetty, a Harvard Law School 2L, traveled to India to research the legal rights of Muslim women in the Mewat district of Haryana state. Matthew Steele, a Harvard University PhD candidate in Islamic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, spent several weeks this winter in Mauritania researching the history of Islamic juridical scholarship.

Tuition Assistance

In 2013–2014, the Program provided financial aid to eight SJD candidates and nine LLM students from the Muslim world.

Mentoring and Guidance

ILSP staff and visiting fellows continue to serve as resources and mentors for HLS and Harvard University students interested in the field of Islamic law. ILSP encourages active student participation in Program activities and provides opportunities to work with staff in developing these events.

During the Spring semester, in her capacity as Faculty Director, Professor Intisar Rabb, held several meetings with current and former HLS and Harvard University students. For example, she hosted former Harvard Law School professor John Palfrey, now Headmaster of Phillips Academy, Andover and two of his students to provide research and guidance on their senior theses in Islamic law. Both students were admitted to and decided to matriculate to Harvard College, and have expressed interest in being involved in ILSP in the coming year and beyond. We also hosted scholars from the Gulf, Syria, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere who had overlapping interests in the study of Islamic law at Harvard.

Other Contributions to the HLS Community

Bringing an ongoing research and technology project to ILSP, Professor Intisar Rabb initiated a new flagship project, SHARIAsource, in Spring 2014. SHARIAsource will be an online portal that will host primary sources on Islamic law, provide informed analysis of

those sources in the form of academic journal articles and short plain-English commentary on a blog platform, and promote the comparative study of Islamic law and policy in cooperation with scholars of Islamic law and policy in the United States and around the world. SHARIASource aims to be the go-to site for researchers, policymakers, and journalists, as well as generally interested readers seeking to grasp the basics and the complexities of Islamic law. Think SCOTUSblog for Islamic law.

SHARIASource will also include policy papers on pressing issues of Islamic law. At a later stage and subject to funding and resolution of intellectual property matters, we hope to work with the Harvard Law School Library to help in its aim to digitize, among other holdings, thousands of volumes of Islamic and comparative law materials from the Library's extensive collection. Down the line, the plan is to make those materials available on SHARIASource.

In addition to its student grants, ILSP generally contributes funds to faculty research and travel. However, due to new budgetary restrictions, no faculty grants were made in 2013–2014.

Connections with the Practice and Profession

The Program receives many requests each year to share its expertise on aspects of Islamic law and law of the Muslim world from law firms, academics, authors, human rights practitioners, government agencies, international organizations, and media outlets; and the Program

provides answers and assistance as appropriate. In that vein, Professor Rabb participated in a variety of activities and meetings in which she shared her knowledge of the field with a targeted audience.

Professor Rabb participated in the International Global Law & Policy Workshop (IGLP) in Qatar (January 2014), an initiative organized by HLS Professor David Kennedy, designed to promote innovative ideas and alternative approaches to issues of global law, economic policy, and social justice. Professor Rabb also advised the planning committee of the IGLP workshop on Islamic law held at Harvard Law School in June 2014.

In addition, Professor Rabb provided pro bono consulting on family law asylum cases relating to Islamic law; participated in the Aspen Institute's Justice and Society Project's Summer Seminar; and consulted on a major documentary production involving issues of Islamic law.

Through the University Marshal's Office, ILSP also hosted a delegation of judicial officials from Afghanistan in March 2014. The distinguished group, whose trip was sponsored in part by the US Department of State, included sitting judges from the Afghan Supreme Court and from Afghan provincial courts, officials from the Afghan Ministry of Justice, and legal academics from Kabul University. The visitors were in Boston for meetings with members of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts and to learn more about Islamic jurisprudence in relation to American culture and the legal system.

Also in March, ILSP participated in the HLS Program on Negotiation (PON), which invited Dr. Mohamed Keshavjee, an internationally recognized expert on alternative dispute resolution among Muslims. Dr. Keshavjee was in Cambridge to discuss his book *Islam, Sharia and Alternative Dispute Resolution* (London and New York: I.B. Tauris, 2013, 288pp). ILSP staff and fellows attended a cross-disciplinary seminar with Keshavjee, at which faculty from various Harvard schools were present. PON also hosted a lunch-time presentation by Dr. Keshavjee, moderated by Deputy Director Rashid Alvi.

In June, Mr. Rashid Alvi attended the Brookings Institution's US-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar. Along with scholars and activists from Europe and North America, Mr. Alvi participated in the working group, "Muslim Communities in Europe and North America: A Transatlantic Dialogue on Contextualized Religion."

ILSP Director Nazim Ali represented ILSP at a number of fora during the past year, including the World Islamic Banking Conference in Bahrain, and the Statistical, Economic and Social Centre for Islamic Countries. In addition, Dr. Ali and ILSP Visiting Fellow Shariq Nisar taught a module on Islamic finance at the Harvard Kennedy School's executive education program on "Hot Topics in Finance."

Collaboration with Other Schools and at Harvard University

ILSP continued to be involved in collaborative enterprises at Harvard University in 2013–2014. The Program contributed funds to Dr. Jocelyn Cesari's project on Islam in the West, co-sponsored its lecture series, and supported other activities of the group with intersections on issues of Islamic law. Due to new budgetary constraints, this contribution will not be continued in FY15.

In his capacity as ILSP Acting Executive Director, Dr. Nazim Ali attended the Harvard Business School conference "Capitalism and Culture: International Perspectives." He also conferred with and was assisted by faculty and students from various schools and departments around Harvard University in the organization of the Eleventh Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance, held in April 2014. In June 2014, he participated in Professor David Kennedy's Institute for Global Law and Policy workshop.

PLANS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014–2015

Executive Summary

The academic year 2014–2015 promises to be one of major renewal for ILSP. Faculty Director Professor Intisar Rabb was joined by Professor Kristen Stilt in Fall 2014, to form a co-directorship of the Program. After a long period without a permanent faculty director, ILSP now has two, each bringing new ideas to invigorate the study of Islamic law for specialists and comparatists alike. To our knowledge, Harvard Law School is the only major law school in the United States with two tenured faculty members who have expertise in Islamic law. This is a significant commitment, enriching the HLS curriculum and research profile with a more robust Program in Islamic legal studies at a time when issues involving Islamic law are of increasing pace and consequence in comparative law, international law, and global policy. ILSP looks forward to achieving the full potential of this commitment.

In the academic year 2014–2015, ILSP will continue its mission to promote research and provide resources to advance the academic study of Islamic law. Toward that end, ILSP will welcome opportunities to collaborate with other programs and professors at Harvard Law School, the wider Harvard University community, and the broader academic world on ILSP programs and projects. ILSP will have a pared down and more purposeful fellowship program, to which we are excited to welcome a



Kristen Stilt

very talented cohort of three fellows. Additionally, the Program is keen to create opportunities for students and scholars to engage in ILSP projects, workshops, and conferences. For students, one example is the “Digital Islamic Law Lab” taught by Professor Rabb, as described below. In addition, Professor Stilt brings new interests in Islamic law and human rights as well as animal rights, and plans to teach in those areas in Spring 2015.

As ILSP is re-launched, we will institute changes not only to our programs and projects, but also to our public face. In that vein, ILSP’s web presence received a new and dynamic look in time to announce new programs and projects for 2014–2015 and beyond.



M. Shahab Ahmed



Dörthe Engelcke



Meagan Froemming

Research, Scholarship, and Program Activities

Events

The Program will continue the ILSP Lecture and Workshop Series throughout the academic year, in which each ILSP fellow delivers a lecture or workshop paper on his/her research topic.

Additionally, Professor Stilt plans to bring together academics and activists in a workshop in February 2015 on family law in the Muslim world.

Visiting Fellows

In Spring 2014, the fellowship program was restructured, in light of budgetary restrictions and with an eye toward a more directed Program. Going forward, the aim is to provide opportunities for scholars working on issues of Islamic law to both focus on their own work and contribute to the intellectual life of ILSP

and HLS more broadly. Fellows now spend three quarters of their time working on their own research, they have the opportunity to workshop papers in sessions with other Harvard faculty members (in addition to giving a public lecture), and they spend up to one quarter of their time working on ILSP projects. In addition, fellows' research tends to be related to one of three research streams: Islamic Law and Legal History, Islamic Law and Society, or Islamic Law Themes in Digital Humanities.

As ILSP launches its pared down and more purposeful fellowship program, it will have three Visiting Fellows in 2014–2015. These fellows were selected from an extremely competitive pool of some fifty applicants for only three available slots. Fellows will be in residence for the academic year, and will be expected to participate in ILSP activities. Fellows for the coming year are:

► **M. Shahab Ahmed**

PhD, Princeton University; Lecturer, Harvard Law School, 2014–2015

Research topic: “Freedom of Expression and Ottoman Islam”

► **Dörthe Engelcke**

DPhil candidate in Oriental Studies, University of Oxford, and Lecturer in Middle East Politics, Hertford College, University of Oxford

Research topic: “Family Law Reform Processes in Morocco and Jordan: Legal and Societal Change and Continuity in Authoritarian Monarchies”

► **Meagan Froemming**

JD, New York University School of Law, MA, Harvard University

Research topic: “The Promise of Culturally-Specific Development: Using Islamic Finance to Grow Rule of Law in Afghanistan”

Publications

The ILSP newsletter and the ILSP website continue to be published and updated on a regular basis. Joining others in the digital age and committed to preserving the environment, ILSP will now formulate and distribute the newsletter online and by email rather than in print form.



Contributions to the HLS Teaching Program

One of the biggest areas of potential and improvement to ILSP's impact and output next year will be in its Faculty Directors' contributions to the HLS Teaching Program. Here, the Program will gain from the benefits of having two tenured professors with expertise in Islamic law in galvanizing the community of students and scholars with related interests. Professor Rabb will teach five courses next year, and Professor Stilt will teach two.

Professor Rabb will teach the following courses next year, four of which will have some component related to Islamic law:

- ▶ Advanced Legislation: Theories of Statutory Interpretation (Spring 2015)
- ▶ Digital Islamic Law Lab: Online Analysis of Contemporary Islamic Legislation and Interpretation (Spring 2015)
- ▶ International and Comparative Law Workshop (jointly, with Professor William Alford) (Fall 2014)
- ▶ Introduction to Islamic Law (Fall 2014)
- ▶ Islamic Law and Society: Historians, Biographers, Judges (jointly, with Professor Roy Mottahedeh) (Fall 2014)

Professor Stilt will teach the following courses next year, both of which will have a component related to Islamic law:

- ▶ Animal Law (Spring 2015)
- ▶ Islamic Law and Human Rights (Spring 2015)

Student Participation in Program Activities

HLS students will be invited and encouraged to participate in the ILSP Fellows Lecture and Workshop Series, and any conferences or other events organized by the program. Over the last few years, we have observed a growing interest on the part of HLS students in matters of Islamic law, and we expect this to continue over the next academic year as students increase their engagement with Professor Rabb and begin to engage with Professor Stilt.

Faculty Initiatives

For the academic year 2014–2015 we will continue to encourage HLS and Harvard University faculty participation in ILSP events, as topics explored in Program activities are of ongoing concern and interest to faculty from a wide range of disciplines. World events, many of which have intersections with Islamic law, are likely to continue to generate discussion and interest in a variety of topics of interest to ILSP and the broader community. Accordingly, ILSP expects to sponsor related activities that include HLS faculty participation, such as forums for current events involving Islamic law or law in the Muslim world.

Other Contributions to the HLS Community

ILSP continues to collaborate with HLS faculty, programs, and student groups and will continue to further contribute to the intellectual life of the community by participating in and cosponsoring various programs and events. Just one example is the following: ILSP cosponsored a lecture in the Fall by University of Washington in St. Louis Mark Steinberg Weil Early Career Fellow Nurfadzilah Yahaya, organized by the Harvard Asia Center on the subject of “British Colonial Legal Limitations of the Islamic Concept of Charity in Southeast Asia.”

Collaboration with Other Schools at Harvard University

We expect that students from many of the other schools at Harvard University will frequent our Directors’ courses and participate in our workshops and projects—including faculty and students from FAS, HBS, HKS, and elsewhere. Both Professors Intisar Rabb and Kristen Stilt have also joined the Advisory Board of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. In addition, Professor Rabb is an affiliate faculty member in the Department of History and Professor Stilt is a member of the Faculty Steering Committee of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program—affiliations through which we expect to garner more connections between FAS and ILSP.

We provide financial assistance and academic guidance to PhD students from other schools who work on aspects of Islamic law. The new ILSP has an exciting year ahead!



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