ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Third Annual
Aga Khan Conference/Workshop

SHARIA,
GOVERNMENT,
AND DEVELOPMENT
This workshop brings together scholars whose works explore the relationships between Islamic law, governance, and socioeconomic development in early modern and modern settings. In this general vein, the event will focus on two interrelated topics.

Law and Governance: This theme includes a set of issues that combine jurisprudence, legal practice, and politics. The presentations explore the ways in which legal structures and political factors influenced one another in different contexts. Central to this general orientation are the jurisprudential interpretations of political authority and how Islamic governments have interpreted the law to justify political objectives. Also relevant to the theme are the limits of change in Islamic law to address novel concerns, the appropriation of Western-style constitutional principles, and the accommodation of human and animal rights principles. The presentations and discussions in the workshop will explore how such attempts have fared in the past, what contemporary formulations involve, and the possibilities for the future.

Law and Development: This theme concerns the relationship between Islamic law, its various context-based articulations, and socioeconomic development. In particular, the workshop will address the relationship between jurisprudential interpretations and specific economic institutions and/or practices. Relevant to this topic is how the question of economic development in Muslim-majority settings might be treated from a legally informed perspective. In the context of this discussion, the workshop will also explore the scope of and limits to legal improvisation in response to socioeconomic pressures and the ways in which new legal concepts, interpretations, and institutions have been constructed to support economic development.

The workshop is composed of five thematic panels and one open-theme panel over two days.
FRIDAY, APRIL 4

joukowsky forum, watson institute
Ilthayer street, providence, RI

8:30 a.m.

COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

8:45 - 9:00 a.m.

WELCOMING REMARKS
Beshara Doumani, Director, Middle East Studies, Brown University

9:00 -10:30 a.m.

JURISPRUDENCE, INTERPRETATION, AND GOVERNANCE
Panel Chair: Nathan Brown
Brinkley Messick: The Shari’a Archive
Mohammed Fadel: Agency, Representation and the Sunni Conception of Governance
Martha Mundy: Against ‘Islamic Law’: Imagining Normativity Outside Modern Sovereignty

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

LEGAL INTERPRETATION AND PRACTICE IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE
Panel Chair: Palmira Brummett
Guy Burak: The Ottoman Introduction of Kanun to the Arabic-Speaking Middle East
Boğaç Ergene: Law and Legal Practice in a Period of Flux in Ottoman History (17th and 18th Centuries)
William Smiley: Legitimation, Legal Advice, and Statecraft: The Şeyhülislam and the Ottoman Law of Rebellion, 1769-1830

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH AT KIM KOO LIBRARY
For hosts and participants

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

APPROACHES TO WAQF
Panel Chair: Boğaç Ergene
Beshara Doumani: The Waqf as a Family Charter
Timur Kuran: Institutional Roots of Authoritarian Rule in the Middle East: Political Legacies of the Islamic Waqf
Kristin Diwan: Islamic Development and Islamist Politics: The Revival of Awqaf in Kuwait

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK
FRIDAY, APRIL 4 (cont’d)

joukowsky forum, watson institute
11 thayer street, providence, ri

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

ECONOMIC RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND INNOVATION
Panel Chair: Martha Mundy
Maya Shatzmiller: Women’s Property Rights in Islamic Law and Society – Significance and Impact
Mahmoud El-Gamal: Neoliberalism, Islam(ism), and Social Justice in the Arab Spring
Ruth Miller: Bacterial, Computational, and Cloned Life? The Ottoman-Islamic Law and Politics of Nonhuman Vitality

6:30 p.m.

DINNER
For hosts, participants, and invited guests

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

joukowsky forum, watson institute
11 thayer street, providence, ri

8:30 a.m.

COFFEE

8:15 - 9:45 a.m.

LAW-MAKING AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES
Panel Chair: Maya Shatzmiller
Faiz Ahmed: Sharia as Rule of Law in Afghanistan? The Case of Shah Amanullah’s Nizamnama Codes, 1919-1926
Nathan Brown: The Fate of Islamic Inflation after the Arab Uprisings of 2011
Kristen Stilt: Constitutionalizing Animals in Egypt

9:45 -10:15 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

OPEN-THEME DISCUSSION
Discussion Leader: Beshara Doumani

11:45 a.m.

LUNCH IN SOUTH COMMON ROOM
For hosts and participants

END OF PROGRAM