

the First Spring School:

***The Study of Islam Today:
Contemporary Approaches to Religious Studies***

First Spring School

29-31 March, 2019

Marrakech, Morocco

Mominoun without Borders for Studies and Research, organizes the First Spring School under the theme:

The Study of Islam Today

Contemporary Approaches to Religious Studies

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Call for Papers and Participation

About the School:

The institute of *Mominoun without Borders* for Studies and Research offers PhD scholars in the field of humanities and Islamic Studies this academic and educational opportunity to discuss current researches and approaches to the study of Islam. This school is aimed at PhD researchers from different countries whose research projects are linked to the school's theme. The school sessions will be chaired by distinguished scholars who will supervise novice researchers during the school's workshops and courses and help them acquire the necessary skills needed for their ongoing research projects.

Rationale:

The study of Islam has gone through different phases in western academia ranging from the traditional schools of criticism such as orientalism, the new criticism to the past of the last post such as post-colonial, post-orientalism, post-secondary studies and other academic concerns in Islamic studies or Oriental studies. Indeed, the study of Islam has always been subject to extensive research

authored by western academics who generated a large corpus of publications. Their approach to Islamic studies has drawn upon a variety of disciplines and methodologies which has stressed the diverse aspects of knowledge production related to Islam as embedded in a given civilization and culture. Hence, such prolific studies have reintroduced new understandings of Islam and other religions and cultures of the globe to be understood within a universal and pluralist context that enriches world cultures and histories.

However, that enormous body of literature which was generated by the western academics on religion has remained unknown to scholars in the Arab and Muslim world because of the language barrier. Most of this religious knowledge was mainly written in English, German, French or Spanish; whereas rare are the works which have been translated into Arabic and which have reached out a minority of Arab Muslim readers not to mention the dominant Orientalist imagination of Islam and Muslims. On the other hand, the academic study of religion in academia remained unknown to Western scholarship that Western scholars do rarely refer to academic studies written in Arabic, despite their mastery of the Arabic language which might refer to the fact that Western scholars would perceive their writings as being irrelevant to Western readers, their history and culture formation.

In spite of all the above apparent differences between western and Arab-Muslim scholars' approach to religious studies, there is consensus on the question of the need to revisit one's history and cultural heritage within the linguistic and cultural traditions of the Islamic civilization and with a much more broad context that of the diverse worldwide cultures and global patterns of knowledge production with regard to religion.

All these issues will be debated in this First Spring School which will gather American, European, Middle Eastern and North African researchers in an

attempt to understand research approaches to the study of Islam and its civilization in the West as well as in the Islamic world. To this end in view, this school will be a great opportunity for researchers to exchange the knowledge and experiences related to the study of Islam and hence upgrade the contemporary approaches that are adopted in the study religion as a dynamic field of study relevant to both Muslim and western scholarship.

Thus, researchers majoring in Islamic studies will be first enlightened about the technical and pedagogical aspects of pursuing higher studies in America, Europe and the Islamic world. They will be also introduced to the contemporary issues and tense debates around Islam and Muslim communities and to the latest research methodologies adopted in the study of Islam in academia. Throughout the course of this spring school, the interaction of researchers from the west and the Islamic neighbours, Islam as a religious, cultural and socio- political entity and the study of Islam today will be the main concern of this First spring school.

Indeed, the intention of this Spring School is to bring together researchers who will bridge the gap of understanding between Islamic and Western scholarship in religious studies; they will embrace differences as well as similarities to promote objective scientific researches in this field. It will be also a great opportunity for researchers to engage in joint scientific researches and that will trespass religious hostility and the Orientalist school of thought which prized a certain antagonism between Islamic culture and its western counterpart.

In the process of surveying the study of Islam in both the western and Islamic academia, it would be significant to stress the western expertise in the field so as to introduce researchers to the various disciplines that make up Islamic studies majors, the scientific models for religious knowledge, the forms of the integration religion and academia and research projects and religious product, etc. Besides, it is no longer possible to overlook the scientific disciplines that

exist, with their multiplicity and methodological diversity, which are all important fields for the study of religions today, and the study of Islam. It is no longer possible to ignore the multiple pedagogic and methodological approaches to the study of Islam nowadays given the pressing need for contemporary methodologies and approaches that upgrade religious understanding of world religions.

This School is designed for PhD students and young researchers coming from Western and Arabic universities and from various disciplinary backgrounds within the social sciences and humanities. Researchers will be trained and informed about the latest scientific developments and research methodologies related to religious and Islamic studies worldwide. Further, an opening lecture on research methodologies in the west, the study of Islam, research, scholarship and academic jobs in western universities will be of great significance to fulfill this school's aim which resides in engaging young researchers in the scientific research in its global dimension and enlighten them about the prospects studying Islam and the Islamic heritage at a universal scale. Whereas researchers from Arab universities who reside in Muslim countries will highlight the study of Islam and religious studies within Arab Muslim universities and with reference to the multiple disciplines within the Islamic studies departments.

The School Courses :

1. Western and Islamic academia (scientific interventions)

- Religious studies and Islamic sciences as a major in Western universities
- Researcher's graduate years, courses and degrees in Islamic studies majors.
- The teaching and the study of Islam in western universities, classical and contemporary approaches and methodologies to the study of religion in western universities.

- Doctoral researchers and most frequent research concerns in Western universities
- Departments of Religious Studies and research centers in the most famous world- universities.

2. Scientific disciplines related to the study religions and Islam (scientific interventions)

- Philological studies and the study of Islam today: classical and modern trends.
- Language and linguistic sciences and literary approaches to religious texts.
- Schools of anthropology and multiculturalism across the world.
- Modern sociology and re-reading of Islam
- The science of comparative religions and the path to religious knowledge and understanding of religious life
- Schools of Historical studies and the buildings of cross-cultural historical studies.
- Islamic sciences and its role in the construction of world history and civilization.
- Transnational Islam (across Asia, Europe, Africa and the Arabian Peninsula)

3. The impact of modern methodologies of the study of religion with regard to global issues (workshops)

The workshops will follow a methodology based on looking at a theoretical horizon of what the modern methodologies and mechanisms of religion may think differently from, and represent many, highly sensitive issues in our societies and the world through three major workshops: the first on the issue of

secularism and the transcendence of religion in different areas of life; Justice and human rights in Muslim societies, and the third on the issue of religious reform and transformations of religiosity in our societies and in the world.

Application and Submission Guidelines:

- Doctoral student or PhD holders majoring in Islamic sciences or other majors within the humanities (Anthropology, sociology, philosophy, philosophy, linguistics, etc.).
- Applicants are required to submit a proposal for individual papers; the submission must include the applicant's name, title, affiliation and E-mail address as well as a short biography. Paper abstracts must not exceed 500 words.
- Proposals should be accompanied with a curriculum vitae and a photograph of the applicant, phone number and e-mail.
- The Foundation will cover access to all sessions, accommodation and meals.
- Accepted applicants from outside Morocco won't be reimbursed for the travel expenses; but they will be delivered a letter of acceptance for prospective donor's support.
- A certificate will be delivered at the end of the course.
- Suggestions and recommendations to be documented and taken into account for the second spring session following the same thematic issues related to the study of Islam and religions.
- The proceedings will be readied for publication and published under the supervision of a scientific committee.

Important Dates:

- Abstract submission deadline: 15th February, 2019.

- Notification of acceptance: 25th February, 2019.

Please submit your abstracts to the Following E-mail:

winterschool.islam@gmail.com.

Review results will be communicated via E-mail by February 25th, 2019.

Questions and queries can be directed to the same E-mail address:

winterschool.islam@gmail.com

or

workshop@mominoun.com.

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