

Transnational forms of Islamic law

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MJTILP

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About:

The MJTILP (formerly the Journal of Islamic State Practices in International Law) was founded in 2005. The Journal is independent of any State or institutional affiliation with a truly diverse and global editorial and advisory board. It is published once a year by Electronicpublications.org Ltd; and available both in electronic and printed forms.



Aims of the Journal:

The principal objectives of the Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law & Practice (MJTILP) are to provide a vehicle for the consideration of transnational forms of Islamic law and practice. Transnationalism in Islamic law is taken broadly as communications and interactions linking Islamic thoughts, ideas, people, practices and institutions across nation-States and around the globe. In recent times, research in Islamic law has shaped narratives based on nation-States, demographics, diasporic communities, and ethnic origins instead of developing around a central core. Contemporary issues of Islamic law are increasingly linked to geographical locations and ethnic or parochial forms of religious beliefs and practices. Expressions like American, European, British, Asian and Arab Islam have widely gained acceptance.

Despite the growing importance of dialogue to develop shared understandings of issues facing Islamic law and proposing coordinated solutions, the contemporary research and scholarship has not developed harmoniously and remains piecemeal and sporadic. Researchers and practitioners of Islamic law are drawn from a wide variety of subjects and come from various regions of the world but have insufficient institutional support for sharing information and comparing experiences. Innovation in various strands and paradigms of Islamic law and practice is stifled because there are limited spaces where evolutionary, collaborative and interdisciplinary discourses can take place. This in turn hampers the ability to build on past research and record best practices, negatively impacting a consistent and orderly development of the field. There is a need to constitute a world community of Islamic law scholars based on interactions and aspirations moving across linguistic, ethnic, geographical and political borders.

The MJTILP is inspired by the need to fill these gaps. It provides a platform to legal and interdisciplinary scholars and researchers for critical and constructive commentaries, engagements and interactions on Islamic law and practice that are built upon configurations in contemporary contexts. It welcomes contributions that look comparatively at Islamic law and practice that apprise and inspire knowledge across national boundaries whether enforced by a State or voluntarily practised by worldwide Muslim communities. We are equally interested in scholarships on encapsulated cultural worlds, diaspora, identity and citizenship that are embedded and circumscribed by religious ties. As it has been the practice of the journal since its establishment in 2005, it also has a specific interest in issues relating to the practice of Muslim States in international law, international law issues that may concern Muslim countries, and all aspects of law and practice affecting Muslims globally.

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Transnational Forms of Islamic Law

September 2020 brings the Volume 16, Issue 1 of the Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law & Practice (MJTILP). Since its establishment in 2005 as the Journal of Islamic State Practices in International Law, this journal has evolved responding to specific needs in the Islamic law scholarship. It has also carried the title of Journal of Islamic Law and International Law for some years meeting similar scholarly objectives. Passing through another phase of evolution to the MJTILP in 2020, the journal continues with its original aims to encourage national and international Islamic law scholarship. The rebranded MJTILP combines these two forms of scholarship together as transnational Islamic law and provides a unique space for discussion and innovation in various strands of Islamic law and practice across national boundaries. Transnationalism in Islamic law is taken broadly as communications and interactions linking thoughts, ideas, people, practices and institutions across nation-States.

We are very proud to have put together this first Issue of the rebranded MJTILP. In accordance with the core objectives of MJTILP, the articles published in this Issue present constructive and interdisciplinary commentaries on Islamic law and practice that are built upon configurations in contemporary contexts. The published articles and recent developments represent critical engagements with Islamic law and practice, whether enforced by a State or its institutions or voluntarily practised by worldwide Muslim communities, that apprise and inspire knowledge across national boundaries. The published book reviews also provide substantive accounts of the reviewed books, critically engaging in the on-going debates in various strands of the Islamic law scholarship.

The coverage of MJTILP is not restricted to any specific field of law and we aim to cover a wide range of subjects relevant to Islamic law and practice. This is effectively reflected in our first Issue, which includes articles covering various doctrines; theories and practices related to the evolution of Islamic political thoughts; politico-legal intersections; banking and commercial practices; criminal, family and succession law; environmental law; and international law. The first Issue is also a glaring example of our aim to provide an inclusive and wide-ranging publication platform for Islamic law scholarship regardless of any distinctions based on schools of thought, origin or subject matter addressed. Indeed, the MJTILP aims to promote diverse perspectives, which are critical to the development of transnational forms of Islamic law. Going forward, the MJTILP will continue to provide a unique space for discussion, critique and innovation in various strands of Islamic law and practice across national boundaries.

The MJTILP is keen to maintain a truly international and diverse outlook in its subject matter coverage, and the origin, school of thought and gender of its contributors, reviewers

and editorial team. We are blessed to have a highly proactive and supportive team of editors. I am very thankful to all members of our editorial team who have devoted significant time and energy to facilitate the publication of our first issue. Your teamwork and dedication have given a lively momentum to our journal, which I believe will only flourish in the future. I am also highly grateful to all our external reviewers for their valuable feedback on each submission.

Ahmad Ghouri
Editor-in-Chief