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Understanding Shari'a: Perfect Past, Imperfect Present

(www.usppip.eu)

Uses of the Past in Islamic Legal Thought and Practice

Autumn School

11th - 17th November 2018

Leiden University, The Netherlands

Call for Applications

We are inviting advanced *doctoral students* and *early career researchers* (see definitions below) in the area of **Islamic Legal Studies**, to apply to participate in the USPPIP Autumn School. USPPIP is a collaborative project of the universities of Exeter, Bergen, Göttingen and Leiden. The project (running from 2016 to 2018) aims to explore how the past is employed in Islamic legal thought and practice with a focus on the areas of violence, the state, gender and custom.

The aims of the Autumn School are for the participants to:

1. Share research findings in Islamic law and gain feedback from the peers and the USPPIP project team, preparing that research for publication.
2. Contribute to the research agenda of the USPPIP project through discussions and translations of original source material not currently available in English.
3. Network with an international group of scholars and explore new avenues for future research in Islamic legal studies.
4. Develop an understanding of the various uses of the past in the Islamic legal tradition.

Proposals dealing with custom and Islamic law, the focus of the USPPIP Leiden research team are particularly encouraged.

Autumn School activities will include:

1. The presentation and discussion of a pre-distributed piece of research writing (maximum 10,000 words) from each participant.
2. The development of a translation (with introduction and/or commentary) of original source material, previously unavailable in English which informs our study of the "uses of the past" in Islamic law (maximum 3000 words in English).

Participants will arrive in Leiden by the evening of **Sunday 11th November** and leave on the morning of **Saturday 17th November**. Intensive sessions will take place Monday to Friday and will include private study time, collaborative work and occasional recreational outings exploring the environs of Leiden. It is essential that participants commit to attending the whole week of the Autumn School.

Six fully-funded places are available on the Autumn School. Funding will include travel to and from Leiden, accommodation and subsistence whilst in Leiden. The Autumn School sessions will take place in the University Library, Leiden. Participants will include members of the USPPIP team (drawn from the universities of Bergen, Exeter, Göttingen and Leiden), invited scholars and members of the Leiden University community.

For more information on the USPPIP "Uses of the Past" research award see: <http://heranet.info/projects/hera-2016-uses-of-the-past/understanding-sharia-past-perfectimperfect-present/>

For more information about the USPPIP project, see www.usppip.eu.



Universiteit
Leiden



Application Instructions

1. The deadline for applications is **midnight (UK time) Wednesday 5th September 2018**. We intend to notify successful applicants before Wednesday 12th September 2018.
2. Applications are to be made by email to usppip@exeter.ac.uk in advance of the deadline and should have in the subject line: **Autumn School Application**.
3. Applications should take the form of a single WORD document attachment of no more than 4 pages consisting of:
 - a) Your **CV** including name and contact details, educational qualifications, any academic work experience, principal publications (1 page maximum).
 - b) Your **research proposal**, being a précis of your area of research area (PhD thesis proposal or similar) in Islamic Legal Studies, and a description (or abstract) of the piece of written research you intend to submit for discussion in the Autumn School. This might be a chapter of your PhD thesis or an article or chapter in preparation for publication. It must be written in English. Please do not send the piece itself (1-2 pages).
 - c) An introduction to the **translated text** you intend to present, including the rationale for selecting it, its relation to the "uses of the past" theme. The text can be in any language other than English, and can be a theoretical discussion of how the past is used in Islamic law, or an example of the use of the past in Islamic legal thought and practice. The translation, which will be developed during the Autumn School, will total around 3000 words in English, including an introduction to the text (1 page maximum).
4. For the purposes of the Autumn School application process, the following definitions are used:

Advanced Doctoral Students should be in the final 12 months of their degree before submission (i.e. your submission deadline/target should be before 5th September 2019 -- you must indicate your level of completion in your application).

Early Career Researchers should have received their doctoral within 14 months of the submission deadline (i.e. you must have been awarded your doctorate in 2017 or 2018; you must indicate this in the CV section of your application).
5. The working language of the Autumn School will be English and all participants should be comfortable communicating in English. Written work to be shared and discussed will also be in English.
6. Selection of participants will be carried out by the USPPIP project team on the basis of academic quality of application and fit to the "Uses of the Past" theme of the USPPIP Project. Applications are particularly encouraged which relate to **custom and its interaction with Islamic legal thought and practice**. For more information about the USPPIP Project aims, areas of interest and activities, applicants should consult www.usppip.eu.
7. We will assist, to the best of our ability and resources, with visa applications for the Netherlands for those successful applicants who need a visa, but we cannot guarantee the award of a visa as this is not within our control.

Queries regarding the Autumn School should be addressed in the first instance to Ms Sarah Wood, the USPPIP project officer (usppip@exeter.ac.uk).

