CALL FOR PAPERS
SoCal Graduate Student Conference on Islamic Studies

Sharia and the Secular
Featuring a keynote by Sherman A. Jackson, University of Southern California

October 19-20, 2018
University of California, Santa Barbara
The SoCal Islamic Studies Graduate Student Consortium invites papers exploring the theme of “Sharia and the Secular.” Does Sharia rule Muslims’ lives? Is there a non-shari side of life that could be conceived of as ‘secular’? How do non-shari aspects of state policy relate to Sharia? We are interested in papers that interrogate how Sharia and the realm of the non-shari has been constructed historically and how the practical application of Sharia reflects the non-shari domain. Papers that address shari and non-shari themes pertaining to the economy, medicine, society, public policy, and family life are especially welcome. In honor of Saba Mahmood, the conference also invites proposals that focus on her approach to the secular and secularism and how these relate to Sharia.

This call is not limited to any specific geographic location, theoretical approach, or methodology. Anthropologists, sociologists, comparative literature scholars, historians, religious studies scholars as well as scholars of Islamic law whose work includes a focus on Muslims are invited to submit an abstract. We especially welcome abstracts that extend disciplinary boundaries. And we encourage submissions from all graduate students and recent graduates whose work intersects with the study of Islam.

Please submit a 300-word abstract indicating the topic, main argument, and methodology of your paper. Proposals should be sent to isgsc@cmes.ucsb.edu and must be received by July 30, 2018.

This year’s conference is co-sponsored by the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara as the 7th Annual Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference at UCSB and is the first in a new conference series organized cooperatively with the Center for Islamic Thought, Culture and Practice at the University of Southern California.

All inquiries can be directed to the organizers at isgsc@cmes.ucsb.edu.

Organizers
Esra Tunc, University of California at Santa Barbara
Omar Qureshi, University of Southern California
Brendan Newlon, University of California at Santa Barbara
Hadi Qazwini, University of Southern California