

### International Online Workshop

## Practices of Preaching in the Islamic Context – Text, Performativity, and Materiality of Islamic Religious Speech

Junior Research Group “Islamic Theology in Context: Scholarship and Society”  
Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology, Humboldt University of Berlin

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Workshop Program

Preaching, a practice composed of and accompanied by a myriad of different activities, is an essential element of Muslim religious life both within and beyond institutional settings. Apart from the sermons at Friday prayers (ḥutba) there are many other occasions for religious oration (e. g. wa‘z), be it during Ramadan, at religious feasts and commemorations, or on personal occasions such as weddings and funerals. In its different shapes, preaching is a means of religious promulgation, knowledge transfer and communication, of pastoral guidance and inspiration as well as of communication between believers. It has multiple forms in both the analogue and the digital world, and a multitude of social actors and artefacts are involved. As such, preaching is a recognized source for negotiating religious normativity, power relations, and societal relevance. In this context, performative, spatial and temporal aspects, and things and objects involved interact and relate to each other just like the sermons’ content and intertextual references.

Given the centrality of preaching in religious proceedings, this workshop highlights the performative, textual, spatial, and material aspects of Islamic religious speech in past and present. Through this interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary range the focus lays on all aspects of Islamic preaching. The workshop aims at representing the inner-Islamic diversity by depicting preaching as it came about in different times and geographical locations.

For registration and further inquiries contact Dr. Ayşe Almila Akca at [almila.akca@hu-berlin.de](mailto:almila.akca@hu-berlin.de). You will be sent the zoom link after your registration has been confirmed.

**Bear in mind that program times are CET.  
Please add or subtract the time difference for your region as follows:**

Berlin, Vienna, Nijmegen, Copenhagen, Tunis	(CET)
London, Exeter	(CET -1)
Toronto	(CET -6)
Denver	(CET -8)
Istanbul	(CET +2)
Karachi, Lahore	(CET +4)
Kerala, Bangalore	(CET +4,5)
Dhaka	(CET +5)

Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	
1:30 pm	<b>Check-in</b>
1:45 pm	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
2:00 pm	<b>Preaching as Practice: Emotions, Materiality, Effects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>'Look towards me and raise your hands': The somatic practices of Urdu Shi'i khitābat</b> Nabeel Jafri (University of Toronto)</li> <li>▪ <b>The minbar as a manifestation of preaching</b> Miriam Kühn (Museum for Islamic Art, Berlin)</li> <li>▪ <b>Implications of Islamic sermons on the urban youth in Bangladesh</b> Bulbul Siddiqi, Sazzad Nayeem (North South University Dhaka)</li> </ul>
3:40 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm	<b>Digital Preaching and the Transition of Preacher Audience Relations?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Contemporary Muslim preacher/believer relationships on religious apps</b> Andrea Stanton (University of Denver)</li> <li>▪ <b>Audiovisual da'wa: Conceptualisation and methodological approaches</b> Christoph Günther (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)</li> <li>▪ <b>Preaching in hypermediated spaces: A case study in contemporary Iran during the COVID-19 pandemic</b> Rasool Akbari (Humboldt University of Berlin)</li> <li>▪ <b>Preaching to the choir and to the bogeymen: The ulama and social media in Pakistan</b> Mohammad Waqas Sajjad (University of Management &amp; Technology, Lahore)</li> </ul>
6:10 pm	<b>Break</b>
6:30 pm	<b>What Makes a Preaching? Deviation and Norm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>A woman's place? Space and gender in the medieval Persian sermon assembly</b> Alexander Hainy-Khaleeli (University of Exeter)</li> <li>▪ <b>"Hikayeyi işittin hikmeti işitgil": A preliminary research on late medieval Muslim preachers in Anatolia based on Bahjat al- Ḥadā'iq fī maw'izat al-khalā'iq</b> Faruk Akyıldız (29 Mayıs University, Istanbul)</li> <li>▪ <b>Islamic preaching activity: Towards a re-enactment of the conflict between literary and religious authorities</b> Thamer Mahfoudhi (Ez-Zitouna University, Tunis)</li> </ul>

Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	
2:00 pm	<b>Establishing Authority: The Socio-Political Embeddedness of Preaching</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mamluk preaching texts and their social repercussions</b> Mohammad Gharaibeh (Humboldt University of Berlin)</li> <li>▪ <b>"May God bless the commander of the faithful": The mentioning of rulers in Friday sermons of the 'Abbāsīd era</b> Ramzi Ghandour (Osnabrück University)</li> <li>▪ <b>Between self-help and salvation: The politics of theology in Dubai</b> Joud Alkorani (Radboud University Nijmegen)</li> </ul>

3:40 pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00 pm	<b>Book Presentation</b>  <b>Islamic Sermons and Public Piety in Bangladesh</b> Max Stille (NETZ Partnerschaft für Entwicklung und Gerechtigkeit e.V.)
5:00 pm	<b>Break</b>
5:20 pm	<b>Preaching as Interaction: Creating New Religious Spaces?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>A seminar vs. the Friday khutba: When is a speech secular and when is it religious?</b> Gulniza Taalaibekova (Goethe University Frankfurt)</li> <li>▪ <b>Articulating rights and morality of women: A comparative study of religious speeches in Kerala</b> Fathima Rasha (University of Hyderabad)</li> <li>▪ <b>Sermon, lecture, or teaching session? On the transformation of a form of interaction</b> Fateme Taheri (Humboldt University of Berlin)</li> </ul>
	<b>Dinner in Berlin</b> <i>(Please let us know in advance if you want to join.)</i>

Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	
1:00 pm	<b>The Vicissitude of Meaning: Incorporating Religious Sources in Sermons</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>The tafsīr-tadhkīr turn in the broadcasts of a contemporary quranic preacher</b> Sohaib Saeed (Centre for Advanced Study of the Quran and its Interpretation, Glasgow)</li> <li>▪ <b>The Farewell Sermon in the context of modern siras</b> Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (University of Copenhagen)</li> <li>▪ <b>Khutba activism in South Africa: The Clearmont Main Road Mosque's community tafsir</b> Margherita Picchi (Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg)</li> </ul>
2:40 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:00 pm	<b>Standardization and Continuity: Cultivating the Normative through Preaching</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Early modern Ottoman sermons on normative rituals</b> Dženita Karić (Humboldt University of Berlin)</li> <li>▪ <b>Standardization and preservation of a tradition: The khuṭba according to an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Malay scholar</b> Philipp Bruckmayr (University of Vienna)</li> <li>▪ <b>“Preaching Islam in a migratory context:” Sermons, migrant spaces, and religious circulations among Keralite Muslim migrants in Qatar</b> Muhammad Ashraf Thachara Padikkal (Free University of Berlin)</li> </ul>
4:40 pm	<b>Round-up</b>