

The Social Dynamics of Communal Affiliation in Early Islam

Universiteit Leiden

11–12 June 2026



Day 1

11 June



- 09:30–09:45 Welcome and Introduction (Adam Ramadhan & Edmund Hayes)
- 09:45–10:45 Plenary
Philip Wood (Aga Khan University, London)
Approaches to the Study of Group Formation for Historians
- 10:45–11:00 Break
- 11:00–12:30 Panel I (Chair: Adam Ramadhan)
Edmund Hayes (Leiden)
What Kind of Group Were the Imāmī Shi‘a?
James Weaver (Oxford)
Heresiography, Communal Boundaries and Back-Projection
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–15:00 Panel II (Chair: Leone Pecorini Goodall)
Natalie Kontny-Wendt (Hamburg)
Changing Alliances: Supporters of Zaydī Revolts in the Long 8th Century CE
Yi-Chia Chang (Edinburgh)
Framing ‘Rebellions’ in Ḥadīth Literature: Anti-Khārijī Ḥadīths as Mechanisms of Social Exclusion and Identity Negotiation
- 15:00–15:30 Break
- 15:30–17:00 Panel III (Chair: Edmund Hayes)
Adam Ramadhan (Leiden)
Congregational Prayer and Communal Boundaries in the Early Imāmī Community
Vinay Khetia (Shi‘a Research Institute, Toronto)
Communal Boundaries and the Invocation of Divine Vengeance Through Shi‘i Liturgy
- 18:30 Dinner for Speakers



Day 2

12 June



- 10:00–11:30 Panel IV (Chair: Adam Ramadhan)
Ahmed El Shamsy (Chicago)
Social Relations as a Site of Communal Boundary Formation Among Early Sunnis
(Second to Fifth Hijri Centuries)
Clément Salah (Oxford)
Beyond Legal Doctrine: The Social Dimensions of Madhhab Identity in Early Islamic
North Africa
- 11:30–12:00 Break
- 12:00–13:30 Panel V (Chair: Zahra Azhar)
Raashid S. Goyal (Tübingen)
'Khārijite' and 'un-Khārijite' Activities in the Vitae of the Udayya Brothers, Abū Bilāl
Mirdās and 'Urwa
Hannah-Lena Hagemann (Hamburg)
Khārijite Marriage and Communal Belonging in the Early Islamic Period
- 13:30–15:30 Lunch
- 15:30–17:00 Panel VI (Chair: Aila Santi)
Muhammed Omar (Exeter)
The Socio-Epistemic Rupture in Early Medinan Islam
Adrien De Jarmy (Strasbourg)
The People of Medina: The Formation of a Local Communal Belonging and Its
Universalization in the Islamic Tradition (1st/7th–3rd/9th c.)
- 17:00–17:30 Concluding Remarks & Discussion about Publication



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