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## EXPECTATIONS OF JUSTICE AND POLITICAL POWER IN THE ISLAMICATE WORLD (CA. 600-1500 CE)

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THURSDAY 28- FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2021 – ONLINE CONFERENCE



Universiteit  
Leiden



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

SPEAKERS: SEAN ANTHONY, NASRIN ASKARI (KEYNOTE), MUSTAFA BANISTER, ENKI BAPTISTE, LINDA DARLING, SÉBASTIEN GARNIER, HANNA-LENA HAGEMANN, NAJAM HAIDER, ANGELA ISOLDI, NOÉMIE LUCAS, TARYN MARASHI, CHRISTIAN MAUDER, ASEEL NAJIB, MARTA NOVO, AMIR OR, RANA OSMAN, MARINA RUSTOW, DEBORAH TOR.

## EXPECTATIONS AND NOTIONS OF JUST RULE

In the Islamic world, as elsewhere, requests for just rule surface constantly as notions of justice are debated and contested. Exemplary rule can be sought in direct and open ways, through entreaties and demands, but also subversively through irony, flattery and satire. Expectations of justice can be pursued through reform or revolution, or via secession, utopianism and millenarianism. This conference, organised in the framework of the ERC-funded project *Embedding Conquest: Naturalising Muslim rule in the Islamic empire (600-1000)*, examines how such expectations of justice shaped political discourse and behaviour in the early and medieval caliphate (ca. 600-1500 CE).

Participants will present case studies discussing how just rule was defined and what actions and reactions it precipitated in specific historical, geographical and cultural contexts (local, regional and imperial). How was just rule or, conversely, the abuse of political power understood and defined? What solutions were at hand to redress unjust rule or to institute just rule? How was the call for just rule theorised, and what values (scriptural, moral, customary) were invoked? What concrete actions followed from them? Case studies may discuss single instances initiated by individuals (petitions, speeches, literary works) or groups (utopian settlements, revolts) or long-term initiatives (organised, large-scale, revolutionary movements, institutions and structures to implement just rule). Discussion is not limited to Muslim debates and initiatives but can include any group or individual in the Islamic world.

- THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM.
- A ZOOM ACCOUNT IS NECESSARY TO JOIN THE SESSIONS (CAN BE MADE WITH ANY EMAIL ADDRESS FOR FREE)
- COLLEAGUES, STUDENTS AND OTHERS ARE WELCOME TO LISTEN IN AND SHOULD REGISTER THROUGH: [EMCO@HUM.LEIDENUNIV.NL](mailto:EMCO@HUM.LEIDENUNIV.NL) TO RECEIVE THE LINK FOR THE MEETING.

## THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER

### MORNING SESSION

Chair: Petra Sijpesteijn

#### *10.15 OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE*

#### *10:30 ENKI BAPTISTE*

In quest of justice: making and unmaking a ruler and the issue of violence in Ibādī political thought

#### *11:10 OR AMIR*

The Sufi Shaykh as a Channel for Redressing Injustice in the Mamluk Sultanate

#### *11.50 DEBORAH TOR*

Expectations of Justice in the Late Seljuq Period: Case Studies in Petitioning the Ruler

#### *12.30 BREAK*

### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Cecilia Palombo

#### *13.00 SÉBASTIEN GARNIER*

Policing the ruler. The ṣāliḥ in al-Tiğānī's Riḥla

#### *13.40 NOËMIE LUCAS*

'He who tortures people in this world, God will torture him on the Day of Resurrection': Taxation narratives in the development of a literary discourse on good governance

#### *14:20 ANGELA ISOLDI*

A case of illegal manipulation of an endowed property

#### *15:00 BREAK*

#### *15.20 RANA OSMAN*

The Expectation of Political Justice in *Fatāwa* in the Mamluk Sultanate (1258-1517)

#### *16.00 NAJAM HAIDAR*

The Rebellion at Fakhkh(169/786): Balancing Political Pragmatism and Just Rule in Zaydī Shī'ism

#### *16.40 BREAK*

### KEYNOTE

#### *17.00 KEYNOTE: NASRIN ASKARI*

18.00 End of day one

## FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER

### MORNING SESSION

Chair: Petra Sijpesteijn

#### 11.00 OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

##### 11.10 HANNAH-LENA HAGEMANN & ALON DAR

'The World Will Not Forgive Their Misdeeds': Rebellion as Response to Injustice

##### 11.50 CHRISTIAN MAUDER

Taxes, Advice Literature, and the Sultan's Wrath: Emotional History and Competing Notions of Just Rule at the Mamluk Court of Qāniṣawh al-Ghawrī (r. 1501–1516)

#### 12.30 BREAK

### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Cecilia Palombo

#### 13.00 MUSTAFA BANISTER

Defining 'adl for a Fifteenth-Century Courtly Context: 'Seeking Justice' in the Writings of Ibn 'Arabshah (d. 1450/854)

#### 13:40 ASEEL NAJIB

Popular Understanding of Fiscal Justice in Second-/Eighth-century Kufa

#### 14.20 SEAN ANTHONY

The Justly Killed Imam: An early Mu'tazilī *apologia* for the killing of the caliph 'Uthmān ibn 'Affān (r. 23-36/644-656)

#### 15.00 BREAK

#### 15.20 TARYN MARASHI

Political Undercurrents. Justice and Interpersonal Politics in the Abbasid Bathhouse

#### 16.00 MARTA G. NOVO

Just rule and political dimensions in the works of Aḥmad Bābā al-Tinbukṭī (d. 1036/1627).

#### 16.40 LINDA T. DARLING

The Enforcement of Justice in the Laws (*Kanun*) of the Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II (1451-1481)

#### 17.20 MARINA RUSTOW

Expectations of Justice under the Fatimids

18.00 Closing remarks by Petra Sijpesteijn