



**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
The Netherlands

**LUCIS** | Leiden University Centre  
for the Study of Islam & Society



*CALL FOR PAPERS*  
*“Travelling Islam”: The Circulation of Ideas in Africa*  
Leiden, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We cordially invite you to the two days' workshop on *Travelling Islam* which will be held in Leiden from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2020.

Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (LUCIS) promotes high-quality research on Islam and Muslim societies and actively communicates the insights and findings of that research to the larger public. We are happy that this year, LUCIS has decided to fund our workshop programme on the circulation of texts, ideas and people in Islamic Africa with the objective to develop further synergies on this important theme (such as a book-project, a larger research proposal).

**Thematic orientation**

This programme starts from the idea that cultural discourse is one of the main engines of intellectual history and the history of ideas. By following examples of Muslim discourse that have travelled across Islamic Africa, in different languages, scripts and registers of expression, and through different social environments and periods, we can deepen our understanding of the shaping of Islam in and through various African milieu. Bringing together perspectives of literature studies, history, and anthropology, this workshop aims to study circulating Islamic



texts and discourses, not as monolithic and fixed archives but rather within a framework of ongoing translocal negotiation, hence, creation, circulation, transformation and re-appropriation.

The major questions on which we intend to focus are clustered around the interplay between cultural discourses, mobility, and intellectual history. We would like to look at a number of texts and their adaptations (e.g. *Umm al-barahīn*, *Qiṣaṣ al-anbīya'*, *Qaṣīdat al-burda*) to start investigating:

- by which type of individuals or, networks (professional, family, trade, religious such as sufi brotherhoods) they were promoted;
- through which media (i.e. manuscript, print, radio) they have spread and circulated;
- how shared stories and themes (i.e. the *Qiṣaṣ al-anbīya'*) have been adapted to new cultural environments, into new languages and genres;
- how they have shaped intellectual discourses in multi-lingual regions of sub-Saharan Africa;

Furthermore, we would like to look at

- how people's mobility has influenced ideas, ( e.g. with regard to social practices like burial, divorce, the idea of the "other", of authority) in the localities of arrival as well as back home.

### **Key-note**

Prof. dr. Fallou Ngom, anthropologist at Boston University will give the key-note lecture.

### **Registration**

This workshop is by invitation only.

Please confirm your participation via email (to Fatima el Boujdani [f.el.boujdani@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:f.el.boujdani@hum.leidenuniv.nl)) and send her the provisional title of your presentation and a brief abstract of approximately 300 words before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Papers may be presented in French or English. Each contribution will be granted 30 minutes (and ten minutes for the discussion).

We will take care of your accommodation and travel expenses in accordance with the limited budget granted by LUCIS.

### **Location**

The two days' workshop will take place at Leiden University, Rapenburg 70, 2311 EZ Leiden, The Netherlands.

## Contacts

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach us by contacting Fatima el Boujdani [f.el.boujdani@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:f.el.boujdani@hum.leidenuniv.nl) and/or Annachiara Raia [a.raia@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:a.raia@hum.leidenuniv.nl) .

You are welcome!

The organizational team

Annachiara Raia, Fatima el Boujdani, Dorrit van Dalen, Mayke Kaag and Maarten Kossmann

