

Sociology of Islam:

History of Sharia and Society in Classical and Post-Classical Islamic Contexts

online lecture series | SS 24

organized by Dr. Abderrahmane Zaatri (ZIT, University of Münster)

Lecture:

Waqf and Sect in Beirut

by Prof. Dr. Nada Moumtaz, Toronto University



(Zoom Registration required)

Abstract: Lebanon is often described as plagued by “sectarianism,” the primacy of citizen identification with a religious sect over the nation. This identification is compounded by the mediation of an individual’s marriage, divorce, and even charitable endowments through each community’s personal status laws developed by its official religious representatives. Defined as the “religious property of the Muslim (Sunni) sect,” charitable endowments, or waqfs, present a rarely used lens to analyze the reproduction of sect through “religious” property. Ethnographic and archival research in Beirut since the mid-2000s demonstrates that, paradoxically, while these endowments mobilize the community as a sect both individually and through the actions of the official body in charge of their administration, they also are fertile grounds for a critique of the official religious representatives of the sect and for division within the community.



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July 29, 2024 | 16:00 PM | Via Zoom