

Islamic Studies
Speakers Series Fall 2022

Gender Performance in Islamicate Contexts

Islamic Feminism and Sufi Imaginaries

Muslim ways of being and becoming in the world are multiple and derived from cosmopolitan imaginaries. Islamic feminism represents one such contemporary development, focused on fostering ever-more comprehensive forms of gender and social justice. This body of scholarship addresses crucial epistemological questions, including, what analytical methods are illuminating when engaging Muslim tradition, what core resources within tradition need to be foregrounded; how to critically engage contemporary forms of religious authority, and most significantly, how to develop inclusive and emancipatory horizons of imagination for our times. In this paper I reflect on some of these questions in relation to my current research project on Muslim feminist ethics. In particular I outline some of my developing and creative theorization of Islamic feminism as a project of human and divine friendships, inspired by Sufi ideas of walaya.



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