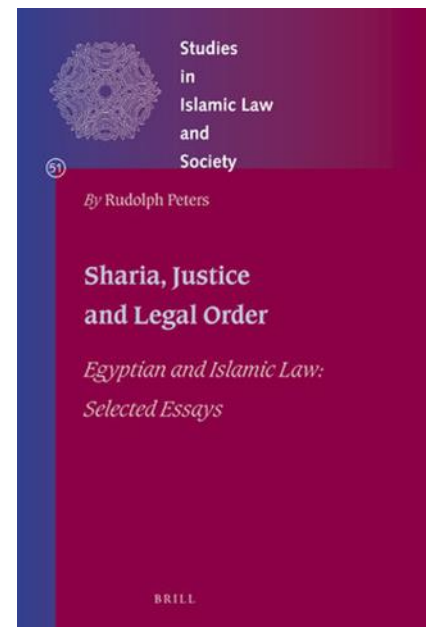




ACMES panel on Sharia, Justice and Legal Order

In celebration of the publication of

Sharia, Justice and Legal Order
Egyptian and Islamic Law: Selected Essays (Brill, 2020)
by Rudolph Peters



The Amsterdam Centre for Middle Eastern Studies is glad to celebrate the publication of the latest book by professor emeritus at the University of Amsterdam, Ruud Peters.

Peters' contribution to the field of Islamic law is difficult to overestimate: with his pioneering work on classical *fiqh*, Egyptian legal history, and many other topics, he belongs to the most important scholars in the field. The book *Sharia, Justice and Legal Order* is a tribute to his impressive track record.

By organizing this book launch with speakers working in the field of Islamic law, ACMES wishes to draw attention to the publication of this important work of scholarship.

This is a hybrid event: it takes place at UvA in the presence of Ruud Peters, and live on Zoom. UvA students and staff may attend the event on campus (OMHP D 1.08, max. 30 persons). All other interested persons can attend live via Zoom. In both cases, please register by sending an email to acmes@uva.nl.

The book

In *Sharia, Justice and Legal Order: Egyptian and Islamic Law: Selected Essays* Rudolph Peters discusses in 35 articles practice of both Sharia and state law. The principal themes are legal order and the actual application of law both in the judiciaries as well in cultural and political debates. Many of the topics deal with penal law. Although the majority of studies are situated in the Ottoman and, especially, Egyptian period, few of them are of another region or a more recent period, such as in Nigeria or, also, Egypt. The book's historical studies are mainly based on archival judicial records. The book contains a selection of articles that are the fruit of more than forty years of research and contains a foreword by Robert Gleaves.

Rudolph Peters (1943) is professor emeritus of the Law of Islam and the Middle East at the University of Amsterdam. He is also the former director of the Netherlands Institute for Archeology and Arabic Studies in Cairo (1982-1987) and the former president of the Dutch Association for the Study of the Law of Islam and

the Middle East (1992-2011), among many other memberships and roles. Peters has published extensively on law and the legal history of the Muslim world, with a focus on Egypt. His works are widely cited in the field of Middle Eastern and Islamic law and beyond.

Program:

prof. Khaled Fahmi

“Law and state-building in nineteenth-century Egypt”

This talk analyses the role law played in enabling Mehmed Ali's dynasty to entrench itself firmly in Egypt. It looks in particular at the newly created legal councils, *magalis al-siyasa*, and how they helped transform Egypt from being ruled by a household to being governed by law.

prof. Maaïke van Berkel

“Who owns and controls the water? The *muhtasib* and water management in Mamluk Cairo”

Water plays a prominent role in the Qur'an. It symbolizes Creation, as “every living thing is made from water” (Qur'an 21:30). The Qur'an further instructs believers how to manage this natural resource: “Inform them that the water is to be shared between them, each one's right to drink being established” (Qur'an 54:28). Offering water to the poor and needy, and building public water works, were important acts of charity from early Islam onwards. According to a well-known saying by the Prophet Muhammad: “In every thirsty living thing, there is charity”.

On the basis of these sources Islamic jurists argue that water, in its natural form, is one of the resources man holds in common. No person may appropriate it or directly tax it. Selling water is possible only after value is added, for example, by transporting the water from the source to the city. *Hisba* treatises (on the supervision of the market and enforcing of public order), in turn, formulate regulations about the control of water used in the *ḥammām* or the market or sold by water carriers. In this lecture I will analyse these juridical and administrative regulations as formulated by Ibn Ukhuwwa (d. 1329), author of a famous *hisba* manual, and its possible practical applications in Mamluk Cairo.

prof. Gerard Wiegers

“Four Chief Judges of Cairo and their views on Translating the Qur'an in the Early sixteenth Century”

An Arabic manuscript from Tetuan includes fatwas which shed light on the views of four Chief Judges of Cairo on translating the Qur'an into non-Arabic languages. In the framework of my participation in the ERC funded project *The European Qur'an. Islamic Scripture in European culture and religion* (EuQu) I will discuss the differences and commonalities from a juridical and theological perspective and ask how their views should be interpreted against the background of the religious lives of Muslims in different parts of the Mediterranean, both in majority and minority positions.

About the speakers:

Khaled Fahmi

Khaled Fahmy is Professor of Modern Arabic Studies at the University of Cambridge. His research interests revolve around nineteenth-century Egyptian history, with a particular focus on legal and medical history.

Maaïke van Berkel

Maaïke van Berkel is Professor of Medieval History at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. She is a social and cultural historian of the medieval Middle East, with a particular interest in literacy and

communication, court culture, and urban organisation. Her current research project investigates drinking water supply in premodern Middle Eastern cities.

Gerard Wiegers

Gerard Wiegers is Professor of Comparative Religious Studies in the Department of History at the University of Amsterdam. His research concentrates on the relations between Islam and other religions in Europe and the Muslim West, and the history of Islamic and Jewish minorities. He is a member of the editorial boards of a number of books series in the field and has directed research projects funded by private and public funding organisations. His projects have led to publications in major peer-reviewed journals and book series.