

International Conference: Call for Papers

**Wrestling with Ethical Decisions –
Theories of Ethics in Islamic Theology and Law
and their Relevance to the Modern Discourse on Applied Ethics**

29th & 30th of May 2020, Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main

In recent years, the term “Islamic ethics” has become omnipresent: in the titles of an increasing number of publications, in the curricula of the Centres for Islamic Theology at German universities and in the context of society’s frequent demand for a Muslim perspective on ethical questions. However, it remains unclear what exactly is meant by the term “Islamic ethics” and what would be Islamic about this kind of ethics. The international conference “Wrestling with Ethical Decisions” seeks to develop a working definition of “Islamic ethics” in order to enable a reflective debate on ethical questions. In this sense, “Islamic ethics” is conceived of as a domain of study within the larger field of Islamic theology, in which ethical concepts, principles and theories of several classical disciplines are critically reflected and analysed with respect to their relevance for the contemporary discourse on ethics.

We welcome papers (in English or German) related to the following questions which reflect on the concept of (Islamic) ethics within the context of the proposed study:

- 1. Historical questions:** How did Muslim scholars approach ethical questions within the Islamic disciplines? What were the contexts of these discussions? Which continuities and discontinuities can be traced?
- 2. Systematic questions:** What are the sources of ethical thought in the Islamic tradition? What role does reason play in the different contexts of arguments and ideas? Which concepts and theories are of essential relevance to the development of a contemporary Muslim understanding of ethics?
- 3. Applied ethics and societal questions:** Which ethical questions arise from the Islamic tradition itself (e.g. gender relations and human rights)? What can the theories of ethics in the Islamic tradition contribute to the current discourse on societal challenges? How can “Islamic ethics” be established as a field of study within Islamic theology?

We invite you to send the abstract of your proposed paper (max. 250 words) by the **7th of February 2020** to the following email addresses: alsoufi@em.uni-frankfurt.de and sievers@em.uni-frankfurt.de. Travel expenses and accommodation will be covered by the organising institutions.

The conference will be the kick-off event of the AIWG-funded short-term research group “Wege zu einer Ethik: Neue Ansätze aus Theologie und Recht zwischen modernen Herausforderungen und islamischer Tradition”, which is a joint research project of the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and the Institute for the Study of Islamic Culture and Religion (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main). The Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) is a university platform for carrying out research and debates on Islamic-theological and social issues. It facilitates nationwide projects and exchange among researchers in Islamic-Theological Studies, in related disciplines and with different players in civil society, including Muslim communities. The AIWG is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Stiftung Mercator.



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