

Call for Papers – International Workshop and Edited Volume on

Practices of Preaching in the Islamic Context – Text, Performativity, and Materiality of Islamic Religious Speech

*by the Junior Research Group “Islamic Theology in Context: Science and Society”
of the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology,
Humboldt University of Berlin*

17th – 18th March 2022, Berlin

Submission of abstracts: **31st October 2021**

Submissions for the edited volume: **30th June 2022**

Preaching, a practice composed of and accompanied by a myriad of different activities, is an essential element of **Muslim religious life** both within and beyond institutional settings. Apart from the sermons at Friday prayers (*ḥutba*) there are many other occasions for religious oration (e. g. *wa‘z*), be it during Ramadan, at religious feasts and commemorations, or on personal occasions such as weddings and funerals. In its different shapes, preaching is a means of religious promulgation, knowledge transfer and communication, of pastoral guidance and uplift as well as of communication between believers. It has multiple forms in both the analogue and the digital world, and a multitude of social actors and artefacts are involved. As such, preaching is a recognised source for negotiating **religious normativity**, power relations, and societal relevance. In this context, performative, spatial and temporal aspects, and things and objects involved interact and relate to each other just like the sermons’ content and intertextual references.

Given the centrality of preaching in religious proceedings, the workshop invites contributions on the **performative, textual, spatial, and material aspects of Islamic religious speech in past and present**. Through this interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary range the focus lays on all aspects of Islamic preaching. The workshop aims at representing the inner-Islamic diversity by depicting preaching as it came about in different times and geographical locations. To that end both inner-Islamic and cross-religious comparative studies, as well as theory-driven evaluations on Islamic teachings on preaching are welcome.

We invite researchers – especially junior researchers – to submit their analyses on one or several (but not limited to) of **the following subject areas**:

- Bodily performances and choreographies, routines, and rituals in preaching occasions
- The interrelation between preachers, listeners, and other recipients: activities, expectations, motivations, and results
- Processes of communication (e. g., the forms of preaching, language and style, references, practices of listening etc.)
- The context of origin, circulation, and selection of sermons
- The preparation, genealogy, and arrangement of sermons
- Networks, continuities, and ruptures

- Sermons and preachers within relations of authority and power, particularly with regard to gender
- Processes of authorising and legitimation through preaching
- The temporality and spatiality of preaching
- The objectual/material dimensions of preaching
- Analogue and digital preaching

Organisational Matters

The workshop is organised by the junior research group “Islamic Theology in Context: Science and Society” of the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology at Humboldt University of Berlin and takes place in Berlin from **17th to 18th March 2022**. Depending on the total amount, the speakers’ travel expenses (transport, accommodation) will be covered fully or partly. If the pandemic situation prevents a physical event, the workshop will be held in hybrid form or fully online. The papers can be contributed either in English or in German and will be published in a peer-reviewed edited volume by De Gruyter (print and open access).

Time Schedule

Please submit your proposal before **31st October 2021** to Dr. Ayşe Almila Akca (almila.akca@hu-berlin.de). The proposal should include a title, an abstract (**about 500 words**), a short academic biography, and details on anticipated travel expenses. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by **30th November 2021**. All participants will participate in one or two online meetings previous to the workshop in order to discuss general objectives as well as the theoretical, methodological, and conceptual framework. After the workshop, the authors are expected to submit their final contributions (about 7,500 to 10,000 words) by 30th June 2022.

For further information on the junior research group “Islamic Theology in Context: Science and Society”, please visit the Website of the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology:

https://www.islamische-theologie.hu-berlin.de/en/research-groups/islamic-theology-in-context-scholarship-and-society/islamic-theology-in-context-scholarship-and-society?set_language=en

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