



Anthropology of the Middle East

Call for Papers

Ritual Performance and Religious Identity

Reshaping Traditions in Contemporary MENA and its Diasporas

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Guest Editors

Paulo Pinto, *Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) and Centre for Middle East Studies (NEOM/UFF)*

Liza Dumovich, *Centre for Middle East Studies (NEOM)*

Religion as a category of investigation has occupied an important place in anthropology as a whole and, specially, in researches on Muslim and non-Muslim religious contexts of the Middle East & North Africa and its diasporic communities. From a dominant focus on an alleged opposition between “the religious” and “the secular/liberal”, or religion and “modernity”, ethnographic researches became more sensitive to how religious identities, beliefs, and performances intertwine with power, gender, class, ethnicity, and nation, producing complex discourses and dispositions that shape social imaginaries and practices. Also, the assumed antithesis of the East and the West has been revised in favour of an approach that locates people’s world-views in both the local context, transnational networks, and global connections of which they are products and producers.

Therefore, the scholarly perspective on religious contexts of the MENA expanded to include the existential and pragmatic sensibilities of everyday lives of people who present themselves as pious or religiously committed. Religious identities and performances have been understood in their inexorable connections to realities of social and political life and to the pursuit of a meaningful existence that encompasses multiple discourses other than religious. In this sense, ethnographies have more and more accounted for the motivations, experiences, complexities, and ambiguities in living in an often complicated and troubling world.

We invite papers with ethnographic approaches to religious identities and performances related to the wider context of maintaining, transforming and inventing Muslim traditions in the MENA and its diasporic communities in order to establish a productive dialogue between the various perspectives and ethnographic contexts.

Submission

Please direct submissions to guest editors Paulo Pinto (philu99@gmail.com) and Liza Dumovich (lizadumovich@gmail.com).

Deadline for submitting articles: 15 January 2023

More information on submission guidelines, including the style guide, can be found at www.berghahnjournals.com/ame.

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