



Exploring the Historiography of Muslim Communities in Central Asia

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Message from the Guest Editor

While comprising a substantial body of the literature, the scholarly work on Islam in Central Asia remains divided across numerous disciplines and subfields, including anthropology, history, religion, and philology; Chinese, Islamic, and Russian and Soviet Studies; and medieval, early modern, and modern studies. These divisions continue to complicate efforts to chart transformations in Central Asia's religious life across the longue duree.

The Special Issue seeks to address this unsatisfactory state of affairs by inviting contributions interrogating the historiography of Muslim communities. Taking in the period from 1700 to the present, the volume proposes two questions. First, how have Central Asians expressed the history of their religious traditions? Second, how have outsiders described these traditions?

Possible research questions could include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

- What are the origins of discourses of normativity that position Central Asians as “inferior” Muslims?
- How has the importance of Arabic in the historical consciousness of Central Asian Muslims changed over time, or remained the same?





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Message from the Editorial Board

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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