



AIWG Research Group

Islam and  
Digitality

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Islam & Digitality. Media, Materiality, Hermeneutics.

10 – 11 July 2026

Goethe-University  
Frankfurt am Main,  
Germany

Campus Westend  
Cas 1.801  
(Renate von Metzler-Saal)

islamdigitality.com

Zoom  
Meeting



Arbeitskreis  
Islam und Digitalität



## Organisation:

Research Group "Islam and Digitality"  
Prof. Dr. Armina Omerika  
Institute for the Studies of Culture  
and Religion of Islam  
Goethe University Frankfurt

## Contact Persons:

**Prof. Dr. Armina Omerika**  
(omerika@em.uni-frankfurt.de)  
**Nadeem Elias Khan**  
(khan@aiwg.de)

**Design & Art Direction:**  
info@silberbaer.net

## Conference Programme

Friday, 10. July 2026

09:30 - 09:35

**Welcome by AIWG**

09:35 - 10:00

**Welcome and Introduction to the Project**

Armina Omerika, Christoph Günther,  
Mohammad Gharaibeh

10:00 - 11:30

**Panel I: Media 1: Knowledge Production and Memory Practices**

Chair:  
Nadeem  
Elias Khan

**Jasmin Eder (Erfurt):** Between Reach and Responsibility: Audiovisuality and Integrity Within the Social Media Presence of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat

**Lale Diklitaş (Frankfurt):** From the Prophet to Postcolonialism: Imagining #blackmuslimhistory on Instagram

**Fayaz Alibhai (London):** Remembering, Forgetting, and Hallucinating: Sites, Stories, and Studies of the Ismailis

11:30 - 13:00

**Lunch Break**

13:00 - 14:30

**Keynote I: Between the 'Digital' and the 'Analogue': Intergenerational Transformations Within Diverse Muslim Communities**

Chair:  
Christoph  
Günther

Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor (Coventry)

14:30 - 15:00

**Coffee Break**

15:00 - 16:30

Chair:  
**Jasmin Eder**

**Panel II: Materiality: Space, Shrines and Rituals**

**Samuel Ramapuram (Frankfurt):** Holographic Pilgrimage: Reconfiguring Islamic Sacred Spatiality, Virtual Reality Shrines, and Embodied Distance

**Fouad Gehad Marei (Erfurt):** ImamVR: Islamic Digital Devotion and Encounters with the Sacred in Virtual Reality

**Akif Tahiev (Frankfurt):** The Cinematic Face of the Sacred in Contemporary Shi'i Visual Culture on Instagram

16:30 - 17:00

**Coffee Break**

17:00 - 18:30

Chair:  
**Fouad Gehad Marei**

**Keynote II: Reframing Conversations about Islamic AI around Technological, Religious, and Spiritual Affordances**

**Heidi Campbell (Texas A&M University)**

19:30

**Dinner**

**Saturday, 11. July 2026**

09:00 - 10:30

Chair:  
**Lale Diklitaş**

**Panel III: Media 2: Identity, Othering & Community Building**

**Online:**  
**Baktygul Shabdan (Frankfurt):** Islam and Digital Media in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Female Muslim Influencers and Religious Engagement

**Mohammad Usman (Heidelberg):** Theological Enmity in Digital Spaces

10:30 - 11:00

**Coffee Break**

11:00 - 13:00

Chair:  
**Mohammad Gharaibeh**

**Panel IV: Hermeneutics: Reconfiguration of Interpretative Practices**

**Ali Aghaei (Berlin):** Digital Hadith and the Reconfiguration of Shi'i Doctrinal Hermeneutics: Reassessing the Development of the Tradition of the Twelve Imams

**Mashal Saif (Clemson):** Tradition and Technology: Islamic Legal Pronouncements in the Digital Age

**Nor Isma (Singapore):** Islamic Feminist Hermeneutics and Digital Mediation: Women Ulama and Fatwa Making in Indonesia

**Online:**  
**Fatemeh Hajiakbari (Bojnord):** Digital Lexicography and Qur'anic Hermeneutics: The Case of Qāmūs-e Nūr

13:00 - 14:00

**Lunch Break**

14:00 - 15:30

Chair:  
**Ali Aghaei**

**Panel V: Transformations of Tradition 1: Authority and Piety**

**Erkan Binici (Münster):** Negotiating Islam in a Mediatized World: Muslim Youth and the Contested Role of Muslim Influencers

**Online:**  
**Murtala Ibrahim (Berlin):** Algorithmic Religiosity: Social Media Algorithms and the Emergence of Salafi Digital Authority, Community, and Piety in Northern Nigeria

**Online:** **Hina Muneeruddin (New Hampshire):** Twitter (Trans)Formations: Re-Envisioning Queer and Trans Muslim Becoming in Digital Spaces

15:30 - 16:00

**Coffee Break**

16:00 - 17:30

Chair:  
**Akif Tahiev**

**Panel VI: Transformations of Tradition 2: Practice and Piety**

**Muhammad Saifullah (Yogyakarta):** Quran Isyarat App: How Technology Shapes the Ways Deaf Muslims Recite the Quran and Experience Faith in Indonesia

**Farah Hasan (Jerusalem):** 'Halal' Dating: The Semantic Migration of "Halal" to Intimacy

**Hafza Iqbal (Coventry):** Sufis and Saint-hood. Surrendering to Social Media?

17:30 - 18:30

**Roundup**