

Special Issue

Islamic Reformism with and without the West: Mapping Religious Reformist Discourses in Contemporary Islam

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue invites the contributions of experts whose work addresses the various ways in which contemporary Muslim intellectuals and scholars have wrestled with and responded to the challenges posed by (post)modernity. The key terms here are reform (*iṣlāḥ*) and renewal (*tajdīd*). Both concepts have a long history in Islamic thought and have always emerged in times of perceived crisis and loss of authenticity. It is, however, what the definition of “true” and “authentic” Islam comprises that was—and continues to be—the main point of contention between reformers and their critics, past and present. By questioning the dominant understanding of their societies, Muslim reformist thinkers reconfigure “Islam” in ways that support their religious, social, and political vision in the light of changing circumstances.

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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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