





UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

PRIORITY PROGRAMME 1981



Book Presentation

Bosnian Hajj Literature: Multiple Paths to the Holy

Date: June 28, 2023, 17.15-18.45 h

Place: room 320 Seminargebäude, Augustusplatz campus, University of Leipzig / online,

zoom link: <u>https://uni-leipzig.zoom.us/meeting/regis-</u> ter/u5wvduGpqjwsE9dUPEUo1CInz2sHSU4ySz7K#/registration

Author:

Dr. Dženita Karić, postdoctoral researcher at the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology at Humboldt University Berlin

Presentation:

Dr. Björn Bentlage, postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for the Near and Middle East at LMU Munich

Undine Ott, postdoctoral researcher at Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) in Leipzig

About the Book

Dženita Karić's book on Bosnian Hajj literature has a special focus and perspective that allows it to capture something unique. Cutting across genres and centuries, from Ottoman early modernity to the present day, and from versified exhortations to social media posts, the book traces how connections to the holy sites in the Hejaz were nurtured and developed as a vital component of Muslim life and culture in Southeastern Europe. At the same time, the perception of the Bosnian lands as being located in the margins of multiple political and religious spheres has often meant a neglect of the region. In Dženita Karić's "Bosnian Hajj Literature" the Bosnian lands take center stage. The book thus provides its readership with exciting discoveries. We will talk with Dženita Karić about the place of the Balkans, the transformation of mobility, and the connective power of devotional cultures.

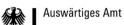
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About the Author

Dženita Karić is a postdoctoral researcher at the Berlin Institute for Islamic Theology (Humboldt University of Berlin). She received her PhD from SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) in 2018. Her book "Bosnian Hajj Literature: Multiple Paths to the Holy" was published by Edinburgh University Press in December 2022. Dženita Karić's work is set at the intersection of Islamic, religious, and area studies. Dženita Karić is currently conducting research on devotional piety in the early modern Ottoman empire.

About the Presenters

Björn Bentlage joined the Institute for the Near and Middle East at LMU Munich in April 2023 where he heads the research group Arab Mass Media and (trans)regional Network Cultures. Previously, he substituted professorships in Islamic Studies in Leipzig and Münster, completed a fellowship at the IAS in Princeton, and worked for many years as a research associate in Arabic Studies/Islamic Studies in Halle (Saale) since 2010. His ongoing habilitation project, "Pilgrimage and visitation in Arabic travelogues from the Ottoman Mashreq," focuses on the increasing emphasis on shrine visits and pilgrimage episodes in the Arabic travel literature of the early modern Mashreq (1480-1730s); other research interests include mediatization processes, interconnected and global historical perspectives on the Middle East, and Islamic and Arab law in the present.

Undine Ott is currently part of a Freigeist Junior Research Group on late medieval climate and epidemic history in Europe and the Middle East at GWZO Leipzig (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe). She received her PhD in Arabic and Islamic studies from the University of Göttingen in 2023 for a thesis on the role of tombs and mausolea in the memory culture of Central Asian political elites in the pre-Mongol and early Mongol periods. The study dealt with, inter alia, practices of tomb visitation among Muslim elites in Central Asia in the 12th to 14th centuries. In the past, Undine Ott has worked in Leipzig, Göttingen, Bonn, and Jerusalem. Her current work focuses on late medieval climate change and the plague and their impact on the social and economic history of the Mamluk Middle East.