

Deadline for manuscript proposal

31.10.2022

Deadline for final manuscript

01.07.2023

International
Quarterly for



**Asian
Studies**

Call for Papers

“Gender and Religious Knowledge in Asia: Muslim Women Going Professional”

Guest Editors: Faiza Muhammad-din, Manja Stephan-Emmrich and Claudia Derichs

The Special Issue is envisioned as an outcome of the research project “Women's Pathways to Professionalization in Muslim Asia: Reconfiguring Religious Knowledge, Gender, and Connectivity” (<https://hu.berlin/professional-muslim-women>). It addresses the contemporary religion-profession nexus in Asia's Muslim societies from the vantage point of vocational professionalization through religious knowledge. The analytical lens chosen is intentionally gender-sensitive; the regional focus includes empirical cases from South, Southeast and Central Asia.

The Special Issue's major aim is to investigate how Muslim women from the regions under study introduce, perform and conceptualize professionalism in the dynamic fields of global economy and social activism. Thus, particular attention will be paid to the multiple ways in which Muslim women produce, disseminate, apply, and translate religious knowledge into their professional activities, and by doing so re-negotiate authority and establish new forms of social leadership. The focus on Muslim women from South, Southeast and Central Asia is not coincidental. It responds to the increasing participation of Asia's Muslims as pro-actively shaping notions and visions of modernity and development that present alternatives to the model of European-Western modernity. At the crossroads of globalized markets and new forms of religiosity and faith expressions, Asia's new Muslim middle classes have become trendsetters in the creation of new hubs for globalization in and outside the Muslim world. A vibrant Islamic economy, the growing global *halâl*-market as well as the growing field of faith-driven forms of entrepreneurship in the online and offline world are just a few examples of the visibility and creative power of this dynamic development. Muslim women from South, Southeast and Central Asia are leading actors in the global Islamic knowledge circulation, pushing forward new configurations of faith, knowledge, and professional activity.

Articles submitted for this special issue will particularly address how to:

- **rethink established concepts of professionalism by tracing Muslim women's multiple pathways to professionalization** in fields dominated by patriarchal principles and strict gender norms. This may include strategies, resources as well as aspirations and visions for claiming legitimacy, articulating authority and leadership and carving out space for being mobile physically, virtually, and socially;
- include **multiple notions, connotations and understandings of professionalism and professionalization** in different parts of Muslim Asia;

- think about *local ontologies of professionalism* via the individual professional biographies, experiences, narrations of Muslim women and their own self-image as 'professionals'.

Moreover, we welcome that contributions submitted address the following themes:

- Professionalization and knowledge production in the global economy and social activism
- Alternative understandings of professionalism
- Muslim women's professionalism in the domestic (home-based work), public and digital spheres
- Muslim professionalism in relation to formal and informal work
- Faith and work
- Women's professional connectivities and networks
- Gender myths, biases, and stereotypes
- Gender and the morality of discrimination
- Feminism and intersectional justice
- Neoliberal piety, capitalist ethics and its interaction with professionalism.

All methodological approaches in the field of empirical social science and humanities are welcome. We particularly invite contributions that propose innovative and critical methodological approaches in multidisciplinary and transregional fields. Case studies and proof-of-concept studies should present new and unique findings and highlight future research possibilities and developments. Review articles, book reviews are also welcome.

Keywords: Profession(alisation), religion, religious knowledge, gender, Asia

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Manuscript submissions to the Special Issue should be sent to Faiza Muhammad-din at:

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Please provide along with the manuscript a

- 300-500-word abstract, which should detail the empirical focus and main research questions addressed, as well as a
- 150-word biographic note.

After a blind peer review process, final manuscript submissions are due by 1st July 2023 with a prospective publication in IQAS in winter 2023.