



Ask a Rabbi / Ask a Mufti: Rethinking Religious Authority in Judaism and Islam

Programme

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

10:30 Opening Remarks

10:35 Dr. Miri Freud-Kandel, Oxford University

Religious Authority Reinterpreted: Orthodox Judaism and the challenge of Biblical Criticism

11:00 Dr. Samia Bano, SOAS

Religious Authorities and Muslim Family Law in Britain: Socio-legal Perspectives

11:20 Response and Discussion

Dr. Ed Kessler (Woolf Institute) and Dr. Qudsia Mirza (Birkbeck)

11:45 Coffee Break

12:15 Roundtable: Gender and Religious Authority – Naheed Ghauri and Lea

Taragin-Zeller

13:15 Lunch at Westminster College

14:00 End

Presenters:

Dr. Samia Bano is a senior lecturer in Law at SOAS, University of London. She has written extensively about Muslim family law in the UK and Europe, multiculturalism, citizenship, Islamic jurisprudence and human rights and issues concerning the rights of Muslim women and gender equality.

Dr. Miri Freud-Kandel is a fellow in modern Judaism at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include: modern Judaism, Jewish theology, religious fundamentalism, the nature and study of religions and religious beliefs, and women and religion.

Naheed Ghauri is a visiting scholar at the Woolf Institute. Her research interests are combined with practice as a qualified practising solicitor in family law, migration law, Muslim family law and international human rights law.

Dr. Ed Kessler, MBE is Founder Director of the Woolf Institute and a leading thinker in interfaith relations. He is an affiliated lecturer at the Faculty of Divinity and much of his academic work has focused on the encounters between Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Dr. Qudsia Mirza is a senior lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London teaching Legal Theory, Islamic Law, Equality and Diversity and Freedom of Expression on the QLD programmes. She has published widely on the operation of state and Islamic laws in the British and wider European context.

Lea Taragin-Zeller is a research fellow at the Woolf Institute. Her academic interests lie at the intersection between gender, text, body and religion. She is currently working on a comparative study about female authority and leadership in contemporary Judaism and Islam.

Contact:

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