

**Shari'a, Culture and Legal Pluralism
International Symposium**
School of Law and Religion and Society Research Centre
University of Western Sydney, Bankstown Campus, Building 5, Room LG15
14 & 15 September, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Western liberalism is increasingly challenged by the tensions of respecting diversity, protecting human rights and ensuring civic harmony. Although we better understand the significance of culture, religion and ethnicity in our lives and conflicts, we are less clear about the operation, role and response to informal dispute resolution processes in minority cultural and faith communities or about how people live with their religious laws in their everyday life. The first day of this symposium brings together scholars of international repute from a range of disciplinary backgrounds to critically examine the dispute resolution experiences of people from culturally and religiously diverse backgrounds, and what this tells us about the interplay between identities, laws and lives. The second day will focus more specifically on how Shari'a is lived, understood, and practiced in the everyday life of Muslims.

Day 1: Diversity and Dispute Resolution: Beyond Accommodation?

Opening by Professor Michael Adams, Dean of the School of Law, UWS

Dr Farrah Ahmed, Melbourne University, Australia
Religious ADR and Personal Laws in India

Associate Professor Sue Armstrong, UWS, Australia
Recognition and Relationality with Vulnerable Parties in Family Mediation

Dr Samia Bano, University of London, UK
The Politics of Culture and Muslim Family Law in the UK: Analysing the Role of 'Cultural Experts' and the Rise of 'Islamic Legal Services'

Associate Professor Ann Black, University of Queensland
Australia, *Legal Pluralism, Dualism or Keeping 'One Law For All'?*

Dr Morgan Brigg, University of Queensland, Australia
The Politics of Recognition and Relationality in Dispute Resolution

Ms Anisa Buckley, Melbourne University, Australia
Muslim Identity and the 'Religious Market': Challenges Facing Muslim Women Seeking Religious Divorce in Australia

Dr Ghena Krayem, University of Sydney, Australia
Understanding the Needs of Australian Muslims in the Family Law context

Professor Julie Macfarlane, University of Windsor, Canada
Divorce Practice among North American Muslims, and its Implications for Private Ordering and Public Adjudication in a Secular State

Dr Lola Akin Ojelabi, La Trobe University, Australia
Adopting Cultural/Religious Dispute Resolution Processes in Australia

Day 2: Shari'a in the Everyday Life of Muslims

Opening by Professor Kevin Dunn, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, UWS

Dr Jan A. Ali, UWS, Australia
Understanding and Application of Shari'ah in Muslim Everyday Living in Australia

Ms Ashleigh Barbe-Winter, UWS
Religious Accommodation in the Australian legal System

Dr Arif A. Jamal, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Plurality, Legal Pluralism and Islamic law: the Case of Ismaili law

Professor. Adam Possamai, UWS, Australia
Plurality and Shari'a in the Everyday Life of Muslims in Sydney

Professor James T. Richardson, University of Reno, Nevada, USA
Views of American Civil and Immigration Law among a Crowdsourced Sample of American Muslims

Dr. Arskal Salim, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University of Jakarta, Indonesia
Disputing Women's Property Rights in Contemporary Indonesia

Associate Professor Malcolm Voyce, Macquarie University, Australia
Inheritance and Family Provision Law: A Contrast between Australian law and Islamic ideals as Regards Family Property

Dr. Yuting Wang, American University of Sharjah, UAE
Practices of Islamic Law in China's Muslim Businesses

This is an open and free event. For catering purposes, please register by the 31st of August. For more information and registration go to [http://www.uws.edu.au/school-of-social-sciences-and-psychology/ssap/registration for international symposium](http://www.uws.edu.au/school-of-social-sciences-and-psychology/ssap/registration%20for%20international%20symposium)