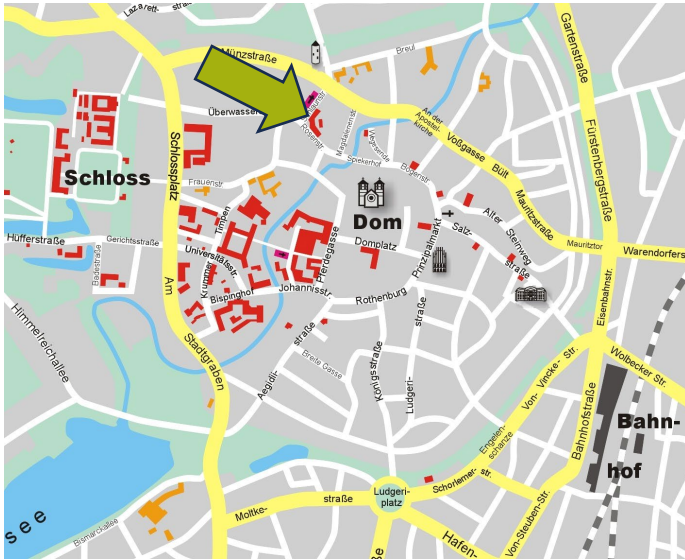


LOCATION



VENUE

Institut für Sinologie und Ostasienkunde
Room: RS 23
Schlaunstr. 2, 48148 Münster

MUNĀZARA – SEEING EYE TO EYE?

Theological and literary disputations, *munāzarāt*, were and are a popular and in many ways entertaining art in the Islamic world. Studying, practicing, writing and participating in debates was a tour de force from the Abbasids to modern times, from theologians debating the nature of God, to litterateurs imagining objects arguing over superiority.

Western academia has only recently started to analyze and appreciate these vast and complex arguing practices, and yet so much still remains unknown. Through a comparison of theological and literary disputations with a focus on forms and functions, this conference aims to highlight continuities and differences over the centuries.

ORGANIZATION

Cluster of Excellence 'Religion and Politics'

Syrinx Hees, Nandagopal R. Menon, Johannes Ruhstorfer
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Institut für Arabistik und Islamwissenschaft, Münster DFG-Langfristvorhaben "Edition des Gesamtwerkes von Ibn Nubātah al-Miṣrī (1287-1366)"

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Conference of the Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics" in cooperation with the DFG Long Term Research Project "Complete Edition of Ibn Nubātah al-Miṣrī's Works (1287-1366)"

MUNĀZARA – SEEING EYE TO EYE?

Theological and Literary Arguing Practices in Comparison

10th -12th June 2025



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PROGRAMM

TUESDAY, 10 JUNE

17:00-17:30

Welcome and Introduction

Syrinx von Hees, Nandagopal R. Menon and Johannes Ruhstorfer

Keynote Lecture Literature

17:40-18:20

Al-ʿilm wa-l-jahl (Knowledge vs. Ignorance), Wytty and Wyttyles (Witty and Witless): A 19th-Century Arabic Literary Debate and a 16th-Century English Dialogue, Compared and Contrasted

Geert Jan van Gelder, University of Oxford

Keynote Lecture Theology

18:20-19:00

Technique vs Ethics: The Art of Debate according to Ibn Wahb al-Kātib (Mid-Tenth Century)

Abdessamad Belhaj, Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest

WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE

10:00-10:40

Exploring Dialectical Strategies in the Literary Debates over Boys and Girls

Aurora Magliozzi, University of Naples L'Orientale

10:40-11:20

At the Munāẓirīn's Gymnasium: Ibn Abī ʿAwn's (d. 322/934) al-Ajwibah al-muskita as a Case Study

Chiara Fontana, University of Bologna

Coffee break

11:40-12:20

Munāẓara in Legal Context(s): The Perspectives of al-Khaṭīb al-Baghḍādī (d. 1071)

Ali Rida Rizeq, University of Göttingen

12:20-13:00

The Floral Literary Debate After the 12th Century: Trajectories and Functions

Arianna Tondi, University of Bergamo

Lunch

15:00-15:40

Mā warāʾ an-nahr and the Lands of Disputations (*munāẓarāt*): Faḥr ad-Dīn ar-Rāzī's Autobiography as a Witness to Knowledge, Debate, and Dynamism in 12th-Century Muslim Culture

Kamil Öktem, University of Vienna

15:40-16:20

Form and Genre in Mamluk Literary Debates

Johannes Ruhstorfer, University of Münster

Coffee break

16:40-17:20

Analyse de l'épître intitulée Mufaḥḥarāt Mālaqa wa-Salā d'Ibn al-Ḥaṭīb 713-776/1313-1374

Brigitte Foulon, Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris

17:20-18:00

(Con-)Figuring Theological Dispute in Debate Literature of the 14th Century

Syrinx von Hees, Universität Münster



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THURSDAY, 12 JUNE

10:00-10:40

The Debate of Arquebuse and Bow: A Stylistic and Textual Analysis of the Yemeni Munāẓara by Ibrāhīm b. Šāliḥ al-Hindī (d. 1689)

Gianluca Saitta, University of Palermo

10:40-11:20

Pre-modern Turkish Munāẓara: Features, Topics, and History of the Genre

Şeyma Benli, Istanbul Medeniyet University

Coffee break

11:40-12:20

The *munāẓara* in Print: Mustafa Sabri and other Late Ottoman Scholars' Engagement in a New Public Sphere

Andrew Hammond, University of Oxford

12:20-13:00

A Carnavalesque Dispute between Ignorance, Wastefulness, Failure and Laziness from the 19th Century

Asmaa Essakouti, University of Münster

Lunch

15:00-15:40

Contemporary Debates Published on Social Media by British and German Muslims

Danial Zaidi, University of Münster

15:40-16:20

A Semiotics of the Munāẓara: Disputation as a Sign in Pakistan

Mohammad Nabeel Jafri, University of Göttingen

Coffee break

16:40-17:20

Intra-Muslim Polemics as Mass Publicity in Contemporary South India

Nandagopal R. Menon, University of Münster

17:20-18:00

Final Discussion