

The Social Dynamics of Communal Affiliation in Early Islam

Universiteit Leiden

11–12 June 2026



Day 1

11 June



- 09:30–09:45 Welcome and Introduction (Adam Ramadhan & Edmund Hayes)
- 09:45–10:45 Plenary
Philip Wood (Aga Khan University, London)
Approaches to the Study of Group Formation for Historians
- 10:45–11:00 Break
- 11:00–12:30 Panel I (Chair: Ahmed El Shamsy)
Edmund Hayes (Leiden)
What Kind of Group Were the Imāmī Shi‘a?
James Weaver (Oxford)
Heresiography, Communal Boundaries and Back-Projection
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–15:00 Panel II (Chair: Leone Pecorini Goodall)
Natalie Kontny-Wendt (Hamburg)
Changing Alliances: Supporters of Zaydī Revolts in the Long 8th Century CE
Yi-Chia Chang (Edinburgh)
Framing ‘Rebellions’ in Ḥadīth Literature: Anti-Khārijī Ḥadīths as Mechanisms of Social Exclusion and Identity Negotiation
- 15:00–15:30 Break
- 15:30–17:00 Panel III (Chair: Edmund Hayes)
Adam Ramadhan (Leiden)
Building and Breaking Boundaries in the Early Imāmī Community
Vinay Khetia (Shi‘a Research Institute, Toronto)
Communal Boundaries and the Invocation of Divine Vengeance Through Shi‘i Liturgy
- 18:30 Dinner for Speakers



Day 2

12 June



- 10:00–11:30 Panel V (Chair: Zahra Azhar)
Ahmed El Shamsy (Chicago)
Social Relations as a Site of Communal Boundary Formation Among Early Sunnis
(Second to Fifth Hijri Centuries)
Hannah-Lena Hagemann (Hamburg)
Khārijite Marriage and Communal Belonging in the Early Islamic Period
- 11:30–12:00 Break
- 12:00–13:30 Panel IV (Chair: Aila Santi)
Muhammed Omar (Exeter)
The Socio-Epistemic Rupture in Early Medinan Islam
Adrien De Jarmy (Strasbourg)
The People of Medina: The Formation of a Local Communal Belonging and Its
Universalization in the Islamic Tradition (1st/7th–3rd/9th c.)
- 13:30–15:30 Lunch
- 15:30–16:15 Panel V (Chair: Adam Ramadhan)
Aila Santi (Leiden)
Sacred Space and Communal Boundaries: Tracing Shi'ite Micro-Topographies in Early
Islamic Kūfa
- 16:15–17:00 Concluding Remarks & Discussion about Publication



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