



Genres of the *Imaginaire*

How Creativity Mediates Islam through Local Vernaculars

13–15 February 2014
Sarratt Student Center 216/220

Thursday 13 February

9:00: INTRODUCTIONS AND THE MAPPING OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROJECT

Tony K. Stewart, Vanderbilt University
Carolyn Dever, Vanderbilt University

9:30-12:30: WRITING AND NOVELTY

Gabeba Baderoon, Pennsylvania State University
“Demotic Expressions: Writing Islam and the Everyday in Post-Apartheid South Africa”
Sadaf Jaffer, Harvard University
“Social Justice in Islamicate South Asia: Ismat Chughtai and Cosmopolitan Urdu Literature, 1911-1991”
Benjamin Gatling, Duke University
“Post-Soviet Tajik Hagiography in Performance and Print”
Respondent: Anand V. Taneja, Vanderbilt University

1:15-2:30: PLENARY SESSION

Lenn E. Goodman, Vanderbilt University
“The Satiric Flights of al-Hamadhani or Islam is Not Necessarily What You Thought”
Chair: Richard McGregor, Vanderbilt University

3:00-5:00: LITERARY EXPLORATIONS OF THE *IMAGINAIRE*

Tony K. Stewart, Vanderbilt University
“Subjunctive Explorations: How Fictive Discourse Habituates Islam to Bengal”
Syed Akbar Hyder, University of Texas at Austin
“Escaping the Prison of Prose: Aesthetics of Mourning and the Story of Hind”
Respondent: David Wasserstein, Vanderbilt University

Friday 14 February

8:30-12:30: MATERIALITY AND PERFORMANCE

Owen Cornwall, Columbia University
“Alexander and the Astrolabe in India”
Lisa Homann, University of Pennsylvania
“Being Muslim Made Visible: Dancing White Masks in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso”
Karen Ruffle, University of Toronto
“Meditations on a Water-skin: Lingayat Influences on the Development of Somatic Ritual in Deccani Shi’ism”
Joseph Hellweg, Florida State University
“‘The Harp is the Dozo’s Qur’an’: Islam, Hunting, and Performance in Northwestern Côte d’Ivoire”
Respondent: Samira Sheikh, Vanderbilt University

1:30-4:30: MANAGING MEMORY

Maria Packman, University of California–Berkeley
“Fencing Off the Precious Plant: *Sira* and *Purāṇam* in Tamil Nadu”
Jeanine Dageyeli, Freie Universität–Berlin
“Folkloristic Literary Genres and their Importance in Shaping Islamic Knowledge in Central Asia”
Jessica Chen, Stanford University
“Prophets and Sages: Chinese Muslim Narratives of Early Human History”
Respondent: Tony K. Stewart, Vanderbilt University

This series of workshops will explore the ways that Islam has habituated itself to local culture in every region of the world and how the ethnic, linguistic, and religious environment in each case has shaped Islam to the needs of the local community. The four workshops will look at historical interactions, the role of the *imaginaire* or exploratory Islam, how Islam interacts with various modernities, and how pilgrimage has served to normalize connections among Muslims from region to region.

Saturday 15 February

9:00-12:00: LOCALS, LOCALITY, LANDSCAPE

Razak Khan, Freie Universität–Berlin
“Local Pasts: Locality, Histories, and Vernacular *Imaginaire* in Urdu Literary Culture”
Radhika Gupta, Georg-August University
“Buddhist Past and Islamic Present: An Exploration of Genres of the *Imaginaire* in Kargil, India”
Anand V. Taneja, Vanderbilt University
“Of Stones, Birds and Other Muslim Saints: The Shifting Moral and Ecological Landscapes of Urban North India”
Respondent: Dianna Bell, Vanderbilt University

12:00-12:30: CLOSING REMARKS

The second workshop of a series, “Being Muslim: How Local Islam Overturns Narratives of Exceptionalism”

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For more information, please visit <http://as.vanderbilt.edu/religiousstudies/IslamProject.php/> or write to Christen Harper <RLST.workshops@vanderbilt.edu>.

Image: al-Buraq (1975) by Gora Mbengue (1931-1988), Dakar, Senegal. Courtesy of Brooklyn Museum.