

Demystifying Sufism : Rethinking Origins, Institutions and Politics

20 November 2020, Université de Lausanne, Anthropole
convened by the Section de langues et civilisations de l'Asie du Sud

This international symposium is organized to address questions in the development of Sufi communities of the medieval and early modern periods. Attention is given to questions of origins of Sufi communities, the development of Sufi institutions, and the relationship between Sufis and politics. Emphasis is placed on the social, cultural and political influence on the formation of Sufi communities in specific historical contexts. Contributions are also welcome on approaches to the historical study of Sufism and critical reflections on contemporary Sufi studies.

Program Morning Session

9.45-10.00 : Welcome

10.00-11.15 : Session 1, Chair : Blain Auer

Blain Auer, Université de Lausanne

Letters and the Institutionalization of a Sufi Order: The Case of the Firdawsiyya

Corinne Lefèvre, Le Centre national de la recherche scientifique-Paris

Sufi stories of a city: (a historiographical review of) the case of Hazrat-i Delhi

11.15-11.45 : Break

11.45-13.00 : Session 2, Chair : Corinne Lefèvre

Alexandre Papas, Le Centre national de la recherche scientifique-Paris

Re-exploring Ottoman Sufism in the Early Modern Period: Enfi Hasan's *Tezkiretü'l-müteahhirîn*

Ines Aščerić-Todd, University of Edinburgh

Mysticism and Politics in the Ottoman Empire: the Case of 'Institutionalised' Sufism in Ottoman Bosnia

13.00-14.30 : Lunch

Program Afternoon Session

14.30 -16.30 : Session 3, Chair : Alexandre Papas

Alexander Knysh, University of Michigan and St. Petersburg State University

Ibn al-‘Arabi’s Imaginary Universe: Between Mystical Epistemology and Mystical Fiction

Elizabeth Thelen, University of Exeter

Being Pirzada: Kinship, Community and Competition in Early Modern Nagaur

Mikko Viitamäki, University of Helsinki

Aesthetics and Entertainment in Mystical Music