

In Search of Common Ground

Human Rights Law and Muslim Legal Tradition

The encounter between Islam and human rights has been the subject of impassioned and tangled debate. With the expansion of human rights discourses in the 1970s and 1980s, and the concurrent rise of Islamist political movements, adherents both viewed each other with growing distrust and contempt; they seemed to be polarized forces, destined to clash. But the clash is not inevitable; recent scholarship and analysis have shown how the two traditions share aims and much common ground. In this talk, I shall explore the political and hermeneutical challenges faced by advocates of human rights in Muslim contexts, and how the terms of the debate between Muslim legal tradition and international human rights law are being changed.

Guest lecture by

Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini, SOAS University of London, United Kingdom

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