



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
(International) in the United Kingdom
Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

Islam and Creativity in Popular Culture

12, 19 and 26 September 2022, 13:30-16:00

Lecture One: The Islamic Discourse on Art and Creativity

Date: Monday 12 September 2022

Time: 13:30 - 16:00, London

This session provides a broad introduction to the topic, and then becomes dedicated to how art and cultural creativity have been dealt with in texts by Islamic intellectuals. It will look into the changing discourse on art and cultural creativity among some Islamic intellectuals. Not least, we will focus on writings about purposeful and clean art.

Lecture Two: Gender and Artistry

Date: Monday 19 September 2022

Time: 13:30 - 16:00, London

This session will discuss what a focus on gender can illuminate in relation to creativity and Islam. The case study in question is: Pop-nashid music. Taking its departure in his book *The Awakening of Islamic Pop* (published in August 2021) by Jonas Otterbeck, this session will discuss the growth of nashid music as a popular cultural genre and how an ethical masculinity became a requirement for artists to appear authentic.

Lecture Three: What Are the Limits of Creativity in Relation to Islam?

Date: Monday 26 September 2022

Time: 13:30 - 16:00, London

The session will focus on expressions of creativity, made by Muslims as well as non-Muslims, and the suggested limits that others try to impose on them. It will bring to your

attention interesting examples which may be difficult to analyse. The key question for this session is: How do we analyse references to Islam when they are not necessarily affirmative in a manner expected by opinion makers and audiences?

Furthermore, we will broadly discuss art, migration, identity, Islam, and creativity to exercise the ideas that have materialised over the whole course.