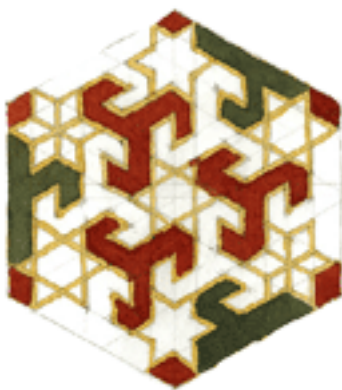


Muslim care beyond the Self

Ethics of care among Muslims and their neighbors

Conference at Moesgaard Museum, December 11-12 2017



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Within the anthropology of Islam, quite a lot has been written about the care of the self, i.e. how Muslims form themselves in relation to particular religious ideals or various moral registers or models. While Such a focus on self-formation has resulted in very important insights into Islam and subjectivity, it tends to downplay how humans are interdependent beings who care for and care about others – and how the care for intimate as well as distant others inform – and sometimes exist in tension with – individual projects of self-cultivation. It also tends to neglect various forms of carelessness and the social, moral and religious implications of not caring. With this conference we wish to explore the various scales, aspirations and orientation, of care in relation to for instance the self, the family, the congregation, the community, nation or God – and the tensions and convergences between them: How do pious Muslims, for example, balance care for their own spiritual and ethical formation with care for intimate others who may not share the telos of their ethical striving as well as for the wider communities in which they live? What does it mean not to care about religion in a Muslim majority context? How can contemporary political, intercultural and interreligious frictions in Muslim majority countries or between minority and majority populations in various migrant destinations be explored and discussed through the lens of ‘care’? May concepts and ideas derived from the Western philosophical tradition’s focus on care (such as the ethical demand as envisioned by Løgstrup or Levinas - or Heidegger’s idea that existence simply means to be engaged in care for existence, one’s own as well as co-existence with others) capture how Muslims live and experience a caring involvement with others? Or is care better explored and understood using Islamic concepts and ideas like *sabr*, *zakat* or *sadaqa*?

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Monday 11 December

Moesgaard Museum, conf. room, 3rd floor 4240-301 (access through back entrance)

9:00-9:30: Coffee, Welcome and Introduction

Theme 1: Health, care and healthcare

Chair: Mikkel Rytter

9:30 – 10:15: Hayder al-Mohammad: What is the 'preparation' in preparing for death?: New confrontations with death and dying in Iraq

10:15-10:45: Christian Suhr: Free choice and respectful coercion: Experiences of being treated for jinn possession and psychosis in Danish psychiatry

10:45-11:15: Mille Kjærgaard Thorsen: 'Subhan Allah, let go of your mind and draw your mandala intuitively' Exploring care as emotional and spiritual work in Cairo, Egypt

11:15-11:30: Coffee

Theme 2: Alterity and care

Chair: Karen Waltorp

11:30-12:00: Thomas Fibiger: Ancient Hatred or Ancient Love? Forms of emic primordialism among Sunni and Shia Muslims in Bahrain and Kuwait.

12:00-12:30: Marie Odgaard: Moral community as a gift and a curse: Orientations of a queer community in Jordan

12:30-13:00: Maria Louw: Atheist care for the self and for religious others in contemporary Kyrgyzstan

13:00-14:00: Lunch

Theme 3: Charity and care

Chair: Thomas Fibiger

14:00-14:45: Amira Mittermaier: Non-Compassionate Care: Giving and Receiving at an Islamic Charity Organization

14:45-15:15: Sara Lei Sparre: Educated hope in Cairo: Young Muslim volunteers between God and the nation

15:15-15:30: Coffee

15:30-16:00: Ida Sofie Matzen: What is love? Food, care and the concept of oneness among Sufi devotees in Lahore, Pakistan

16:00-16:30: Karen Waltoorp: (Muslim) care for others in Afghanistan and Denmark: The Case of AYAD

16:30-17:00: Reflections by discussants: Mark Sedgwick and Anders Sybrandt Hansen

18:30: Dinner at Den Rustikke, Mejlgade 20 <http://denrustikke.dk>

Tuesday 12 December

Moesgaard Museum, conf. room, 3rd floor 4240-301 (access through back entrance)

9:00-9:15: Coffee

Theme 4: Migration, suffering and care

Chair: Mette-Louise Johansen

9:15-10:00: Christine M Jacobsen: Dieu vous le rendra: Caring for others and the self in the context of 'migration crisis' and 'secular suspicion'

10:00-10:30: Emilie Mortensen: When sharing is caring: An ethnographic exploration of experiences of sharing suffering among young Syrian refugees in urban Amman

10:30-10:45: Coffee

Theme 6: Care within and between generations

Chair: Maria Louw

10:45-11:15: Jeppe Christensen: Fatherhood under transformation in ethnic minority families in Denmark

11:15-11:45: Mette-Louise Johansen: Ambiguous parenting: raising children across the private/public domain

11:45-12:45: Lunch

12:45-13:15: Abir M. Ismail and Mikkel Rytter: Caught Between Care and Contract: Ageing Muslim Immigrants and Family Members as 'Self-Appointed Helpers'

13:15-13:45: Marie Fjellerup Bærndt: Tensions of care in nightlife experiences among Muslim women in Denmark

13:45-14:00: Coffee

14:00-15:30: Reflections by discussants: Lene Kühle and xx and common discussion

15:30: tour at Moesgård Museum / Thomas Fibiger (optional)