



Department of **Middle Eastern
Languages and Cultures**



UC BERKELEY DEPARTMENT of
HISTORY

MUSLIM INTELLECTUAL HISTORY IN MUGHAL SOUTH ASIA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023

340 STEPHENS HALL

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

PROGRAM*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

10.10am – 10.25 Opening Remarks by Asad Q. Ahmed

10.30 – 1.00pm **Panel Ia. Philosophy and Theology**

Chair: Nora Jacobsen Ben Hammed UC Berkeley

Nariman Aavani University of Chicago

*Dawānī's Sharḥ hayākil al-nūr and the Spread of
Subrawardī's Thought in Mughal India*

Mahjabeen Dhala Graduate Theological Union

*Nūrullāh Shūstari and Knowledge Production in Mughal
India: Polemics, Persecution, and the Paradox of Liberty*

Daniel J. Morgan Santa Clara University

*Where Angels Fear to Tread: Shāh Walī Allāh of Delhi's
Hawāmi and Intellectual Culture in Late Mughal India*

S. Shiraz Ali UC Berkeley

*Placing Philosophy in Seventeenth-Century South Asia:
'Abd al-Ḥakīm Siyālkōtī on God's Knowledge of Particulars*

1.00 – 3.00 Lunch Break

* Each participant will have up to 30 minutes to present. Every panel will include a 20-25 minute discussion with Q&A.

3.00 – 5.30

Panel II. Jurisprudence and Exegesis

Chair: Madeline Wyse UC Berkeley

Ali Anooshahr University of California, Davis

Logic at Humayun's Court

Naveen Kanalu Ramamurthy EHESS Paris

The Rent-Free Grant in Hanafi Law: Legal Doctrine and Imperial Practice in the Mughal Empire

Ahmad Khan American University in Cairo

Tafsīr and Rhetoric in Mughal South Asia: Mahmūd Jawnpūrī's Farā'id fi sharḥ al-fawā'id

Sumayyah Bostan UC Berkeley

Rasm-o-Rawāj, Muslim Identity, and Legal Dynamics in Eighteenth-Century India: Insights from Selected Fatwas in Shāh 'Abd al-'Azīz's Fatāwā-i 'Azīzī

7.00pm

Dinner

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

9.00am – 10.00

Panel Ib. Medicine

Chair: Munis Faruqi UC Berkeley

Sonia Wigh University of Cambridge

Ilm-i Bāh to 'Ilm-i Kōkā: Translating Early-Modern South Asian Knowledge of Sex

Khushboo Rashid Jamia Millia Islamia

*From Decoction to Electuary: The Therapeutic Journey of
China Root from Chinese Medicine to Early Modern Ṭibb*

Anurag Advani UC Berkeley

*Madness, Medicine, and Poetry in Late Mughal India:
Arzānī's Ṭibbī Innovations and Mīr Taqī Mīr*

11.00 – 1.00pm

Panel III. Literature and Representation

Chair: Abhishek Kaicker

Hasan Siddiqui University of British Columbia

Encyclopedic Autobiography in the Late Mughal Empire

Zoë W. High University of Chicago

*The Sovereign as Artist:
Aesthetic Kingship in Ibrahim 'Ādil Shāh II's Bijapur*

Hasan Hameed Princeton University

*Engaging a Persian Classic:
Late Mughal Commentaries on the Gulistān of Sa'dī*

1.00 – 3.00

Lunch Break

3.00 – 5.30

Panel IV. Persian-Sanskrit Encounters

Chair: Sally J. Sutherland Goldman UC Berkeley

Shankar Nair University of Virginia

*Sat-cid-ānanda (Being, Consciousness, Bliss) in a Persian
Inflection: The Taittirīya Upaniṣad in the Sīr-i Akbar*

Ayelet Kotler Leiden University

Ram's Cautionary Tale: Excessive Jealousy and Ethical Edification in Mas'ih's 17th-Century Persian Ramayana

Luther Obrock UC Berkeley

*Sanskrit Histories from Above:
Himalayan Accounts of the Mughal War of Succession*

Daniyal Channa UC Berkeley

*'The Gift of India':
Indo-Persian Poetics in Early Modern South Asia*

5.30 – 6.15

Roundtable + Closing Remarks

7:00pm

Dinner

CONFERENCE THEME

Recovering from the long shadow of decline theories and narratives, the ongoing study of intellectual pursuits in Muslim South Asia reveals a world far more dynamic than previously believed. The region appears better situated within transregional contexts and offers unique trajectories with reverberations across a broader range of fields. This conference collates said trajectories and presents new research on Muslim intellectual history in Mughal South Asia.

In history of ideas we are gradually overcoming the trappings of conventional accounts of intellectual life in the region, specifically the sweeping theses of intellectual marginality and decline grounded in dichotomies like canon vs. commentary, rationalism vs. mysticism or scripturalism, Arabic-Islamic orthodoxy vs. Indian-Persian cosmopolitanism. The projection of such binaries onto the source material at face value has long tended to obfuscate actual literary practice, frameworks of disciplinary knowledge, and infrastructures of intellectual production. Meanwhile despite great strides in

the study of the social, political, and cultural institutions of the Mughal world, these efforts are yet to be reconciled with ongoing developments in the study of knowledge production in Persianate frontiers of and around South Asia. This conference attempts to provide fresh recourse against such challenges.

The selected papers explore distinct aspects of intellectual life in the Mughal world, ranging from engagements in philosophy, jurisprudence, theology, scriptural exegesis, occult knowledge, medicine, political thought, historiography, literature, language, and rhetoric. The presentations emphasize a variety of contexts and cross-sectional themes, including the interplay of orality and textuality; commentary and translation; inheritance and exchange across intellectual networks. They also reflect on the roles of literary prose, poetry, courtly patronage, diplomacy, and migration in mediating the history of ideas.

ORGANIZERS

S. Shiraz Ali, Daniyal Channa, and Asad Q. Ahmed

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