



Shari'a and Muslim Minorities: The wasati and salafi approaches to fiqh al-aqalliyat al-Muslima (Oxford Islamic Legal Studies)

By Uriya Shavit

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Based on a comparative analysis of several hundred religio-juristic treatises and *fatwas* (religious decisions), *Shari'a and Muslim Minorities: The Wasati and Salafi Approaches to Fiqh al-Aqalliyat al-Muslima* offers the most systematic and comprehensive study to date of fiqh al-aqalliyat al-Muslima - the field in Islamic jurisprudence that treats issues that are unique to Muslims living in majority non-Muslim societies. The book argues that two main contesting approaches to *fiqh al-aqalliyat al-Muslima*, the *wasati* and the *salafi*, have developed, in part dialectically. While both envision a future Islamizing of the West as a main justification for Muslim residence in the West, the *wasati* approach is pragmatic, facilitating, and integration-minded, whereas the *salafi* calls for strict application of religious norms and for introversion.

The volume examines diverse and highly-debated juristic issues, including the permissibility of naturalizing in non-Muslim states, participating in their electoral systems and serving in their militaries and police forces; the permissibility of taking mortgages and student loans; the permissibility of congratulating Christians on Christmas or receiving Christmas bonuses; and the permissibility of working in professions that involve breaching of religio-legal prohibitions (e.g. serving pork). Discussions highlight the diversity within contemporary Islamic jurisprudence and introduce new nuances to highly-charged concepts such as proselytizing, integration, and multiculturalism.

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Editorial Review

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Uriya Shavit is a Senior Lecturer at the Department for Arabic and Islamic Studies and the Program in Religious Studies at Tel Aviv University. He specializes in the study of Arab discourses on democracy and science, Islamist ideology and Islamic law, and has published seven books and twenty-five articles in these fields.

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