

Premodern Muslim Perspectives on Dīn (“Religion”)

Conference program

26.08.2026

10:00-10:30 Yerevan State University
REGISTRATION

10:30-10:45 **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Hayk Kocharyan
Yerevan State University

Sona Grigoryan
University of Vienna

10:45-12:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Dīn and Religio, Milal and "Religions": On the Use of Theo-Anthropological Classifications between Islam and the West

Rushain Abbasi
Stanford University

12:00-13:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

13:00-15:00 SESSION I. CHAIR Mushegh Asatryan, University of Calgary
EARLY NOTIONS OF DĪN

Ilkka Lindstedt
Before Islam: Dīn in pre-Islamic Epigraphy and Verse
University of Helsinki

Dīn in the Poems Attributed to Zayd ibn ‘Amr ibn Nufayl
Nora K. Schmid
Marburg University

The Formation of Arkān al-Dīn in the Hadith Tradition: A Comparative Numerical and Structural Study of the Pillars of Religion

Hayk Kocharyan
Yerevan State University

15:00-15:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:15-17:00 **Visit to Matenadaran**

18:00 **DINNER**

27.08.2026

10:00-12:00 SESSION II. CHAIR Nora K. Schmid, Marburg University
DĪN AND POETRY

“The dīn has become confused”: Metaphorics of Dīn in pre- and early-Islamic Poetry

Alfred El Khoury

University of Münster

Returning Religion’s Debt: Anxiety and Becoming Muslim in Early Arabic Poetry

Rawad Wehbe

University of Utah

Personalized and Private Dīn in the Abbasid Poetry

Sona Grigoryan

University of Vienna

12:00-13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

13:30-14:50 SESSION III. CHAIR Sona Grigoryan, University of Vienna
DĪN AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY

Dīn and Politics in the Letters of the Caliphs in "Ansab alAshraf" by Aḥmad ibn Yaḥyā ibn Jābir al-Balādhurī

Alis Eloyan

YSU

Countercultural Religion: How should we understand Qaramita’s Religiosity?

Mushegh Asatryan

University of Calgary

14:50-15:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:30-17:30 SESSION IV. CHAIR Alfred El Khoury
DĪN IN ADAB AND ETHICS

Adab within the Epistemic Framework of Dīn: Ethics, Social Conduct, and Knowledge in Medieval Islamic Culture

Mariam Elmasyan

Yerevan State University

'Adl and Dīn: In Search of Justice

David Hovhannisyan

Yerevan State University

Mapping the Semantic Field of Dīn in Nahj al-Balāgha: Between Early Islamic Moral Authority and Buyid-Era Intellectual Construction

Tatevik Mkrtchyan

Yerevan State University

17:30

DINNER

28.08.2026

09:00-11:00

SESSION V. CHAIR Rushain Abbasi, Stanford University

DĪN IN KALĀM, FIQH, AND FALSAFA

Al-Taklīf al-‘Aqlī and the Universality of Dīn: Rethinking Moral Obligation Beyond Confessional Boundaries

Mariam Al-Attar

American University of Sharjah

The Term Dīn in Pre-Modern Islamic Legal Hermeneutics and Theology

Katharina Ivanyi

University of Vienna

From Dīn to Milla: al-Fārābī’s Political Conception of Religion

Federico Stella

Università Degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale

11:00-11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:10

SESSION VI. CHAIR David Hovhannisyan

OTHERING THROUGH DĪN

Who is in, who is out? The role of Dīn in constructing “Otherness” in Ibn al-Jawzī’s Talbīs Iblīs (The Devil’s Deceit)

Shushan Kyureghyan

12:10-12:50	FINAL DISCUSSIONS
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12:50-13:30	LUNCH BREAK
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13:45	Visit to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute
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18:00	CLOSING DINNER
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