



Call for Papers
for a Special Section on
“Recent Legal Developments in Post-Soviet Central Asia”



The **Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law and Practice (MJTILP)** is pleased to announce a special section dedicated to exploring recent developments on Islamic law and its practice in Post-Soviet Central Asia, scheduled for publication in 2025. We invite scholars, practitioners, and researchers to submit papers that critically analyse the evolving landscape of Islamic legal norms, institutions, and practices in this historically complex and dynamic region.

Context and Scope:

Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the Central Asian republics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – have experienced a significant revival of Islamic practices, institutions, and legal traditions. This resurgence has unfolded within a context marked by the legacy of Soviet secularism, the construction of new national identities, and the complex interplay between state power and religious authority.

This region holds significant importance due to the coexistence of various





Islamic traditions, including Salafism, Deobandi-Hanafi jurisprudence, and mostly the remnants of the Hanafite-Maturidite tradition. These diverse schools of thought and practices have influenced the way Islamic law is understood and applied in the region, creating a unique and multifaceted legal landscape.

In recent years, Central Asia has witnessed growing interest in re-establishing and reinterpreting Islamic legal principles, both in formal legal frameworks and in everyday social practices. Governments have navigated a delicate balance between promoting state-led versions of “national and traditional Islam” and controlling religious expressions perceived as threatening to social stability or political authority. This has resulted in a diverse array of Islamic legal practices.

The region is striving to develop a resilient intellectual and religious foundation rooted in the Hanafi-Maturidi worldview, nurtured by the rich traditions of Bukhara and Samarqand. Although governments in the region favour secularism, the Muslim population continues to value and apply Islamic law in everyday life – ranging from birth to death, and from marriage to financial transactions – even if only at a traditional level.

Given the current political climate, there are pressing issues concerning Islamic law and practice in the region, including, for example, the questions related to polygamy, the ban on wearing Islamic signs such as turbans, women’s participation in social life, and the diversity of worship practices in mosques. These issues reflect broader debates about the role of Islam in public life, the rights of individuals, and the limits of religious expression in post-Soviet Central Asia.

Topics of Interest:

We seek contributions that provide fresh insights into the current state of





Islamic law and its practice in Post-Soviet Central Asia. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

State Governance of Religion: Examination of state policies towards Islam and their impact on the development of Islamic law in the region.

Islamic Jurisprudence: Analysis of contemporary Islamic legal thought and its application in Central Asian societies.

Legal Pluralism: Studies on the coexistence and interaction between Islamic law, customary law, and state law in the region.

Gender and Islamic Law: Exploration of how Islamic legal practices affect gender relations and women's rights in Central Asia.

Family Law and Social Norms: Investigations into the legal and social dimensions of family law in the region, such as issues related to polygamy.

Religious Signs and Attire: For example, the implications of bans on wearing turbans and other religious garments on religious freedom and identity.

Women's Participation: Analysis of women's participation in social, political, and religious life under Islamic legal frameworks.

Worship Practices: Comparative studies on diverse worship practices in mosques and their relation with Islamic jurisprudence.

Transnational Influences: The role of transnational Islamic movements and networks in shaping the practice of Islamic law in Central Asia.

Comparative Studies: Comparative analysis of Islamic law and its practice in different Central Asian countries or in relation to other Muslim-majority regions.





Islamic Banking and Finance: Exploration of the development and challenges of Islamic banking and finance in the region, including its alignment with the sharia principles and its impact on the economy.

Islamic Legal and Religious Education: Studies on the evolution of Islamic legal and religious education in Central Asia, including the role of madrasas, religious scholars, and other institutions in shaping contemporary Islamic thought.

Contributors are invited to submit short papers that offer sharp insights, scholarship, and critical analysis of the current or most recent legal, social, cultural, economic, religious, and political developments in the region having transnational implications for Islam, Islamic law and practice, or Muslims generally.

Contributors should explain the previous situation on the issue addressed and the underlying reasons leading to change. Additionally, they should identify recent development in the light of thinking of traditional Islamic schools of jurisprudence and current international sources, and discuss the possible impact on the region's social, political, and legal landscape. Contributors may also delve into the intricacies of contemporary developments in Islamic law and its relationship with the recent change or development, and how societal norms and values and their intersections with international sources are reflected in the recent development.

Guidelines:

1. The length of the submitted paper should be **2,500 words (excluding the abstract and footnotes) but must not exceed 3,000 words under any circumstances.** Manuscripts should be in Microsoft Word format and double-spaced.





2. Submitted papers must examine specific legal, social, cultural, economic, religious, and political developments in the region which are relatively recent, clarifying the change and linking it with principles of Islamic law. Papers may also outline comparisons between the new developments with other legal and political systems and international sources. Merely descriptive papers presenting the content of recent developments will not be accepted.
3. An abstract of no more than 250 words should be included with all submissions along with 3 to 5 keywords.
4. Contributions must be original and not previously published elsewhere.
5. Submissions must comply with the standards and rules of MJTILP, including research ethics, style, and citation.
6. The MJTILP follows the OSCOLA 4th edn referencing style mainly, as adopted with slight modifications suited to the specific citation requirements of the MJTILP. Please see the MJTILP Author Guidelines for further information on formatting the referencing style.
7. Contributions must be written in a scholarly style and academic English. Proofreading may be required by the Journal's editors if a paper is otherwise acceptable.

Structure of Submissions:

All papers must be uniformly structured using the following headings:

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This section should cover the explanation of the previous position [of the legal, social, cultural, family, economic, religious, and political development or issue examined] addressing its strengths and weaknesses or impacts on society.

II. CHANGE AND UNDERLYING REASONS

This section should explain the changes or development in question, discuss





the rationale/ underlying reasons for the change or development, and examine if and how Islam, Islamic law and practice, principles or values have influenced that change.

III. IMPLICATIONS AND INSIGHTS

This section should incorporate discussion of the implications of the change or development for the society and identify gaps in the existing research and areas for further investigation. How the change or development is viewed from a comparative (religious and secular) lens and what transnational impacts it may produce for the contemporary understanding of Islam.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Submission and Deadline:

All contributions in response to the **Call for Papers for a Special Section on “Recent Legal Developments in Post-Soviet Central Asia”** should be submitted to the Guest Editor for this special section, **Dr Ozat Shamshiyev** (Institute for Islamic Studies, Social Sciences University of Ankara) by email: ozat.shamshiyev@asbu.edu.tr

Final review of all contributions will be conducted by the **Editor-in-Chief Dr Ahmad Ali Ghouri**, who can be contacted for general enquiries on our Recent Developments section via email: a.a.ghouri@outlook.com.

This special section will be published in the March/April 2025 Issue. All contributions should be submitted to **Dr Ozat Shamshiyev not later than 15 December 2024**. Submissions well in advance of the deadline are encouraged.





Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law and Practice

About the Journal

The MJTILP is independent of any state, school of fiqh, or institutional affiliation and has a diverse and global editorial board. It is indexed on Scopus and published four times a year.



Aims of the Journal

The principal objectives of the Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law & Practice (MJTILP) are to provide a vehicle for the consideration of transnational forms of Islamic law and practice. Transnationalism in Islamic law is taken broadly as communications and interactions linking Islamic thoughts, ideas, people, practices and institutions across nation-States and around the globe. In recent times, research in Islamic law has shaped narratives based on nation-States, demographics, diasporic communities, and ethnic origins instead of developing around a central core. Contemporary issues of Islamic law are increasingly linked to geographical locations and ethnic or parochial forms of religious beliefs and practices. Expressions like American, European, British, Asian and Arab Islam have widely gained acceptance.

Despite the growing importance of dialogue to develop shared understandings of issues facing Islamic law and proposing coordinated solutions, contemporary research and scholarship have not developed harmoniously and remain piecemeal and sporadic. Researchers and practitioners of Islamic law are drawn from a wide variety of subjects and come from various regions of the world but have insufficient institutional support for sharing information and comparing experiences. Innovation in various strands and paradigms of Islamic law and practice is stifled because there are limited spaces where evolutionary, collaborative and interdisciplinary discourses can take place. This, in turn, hampers the ability to build on past research and record best practices, negatively impacting a consistent and orderly development of the field. There is a need to constitute a world community of Islamic law scholars based on interactions and aspirations moving across linguistic, ethnic, geographical and political borders.

The MJTILP is inspired by the need to fill these gaps. It provides a platform to legal and interdisciplinary scholars and researchers for critical and constructive commentaries, engagements and interactions on Islamic law and practice that are built upon configurations in contemporary contexts. It welcomes contributions that look comparatively at Islamic law and practice that apprise and inspire knowledge across national boundaries, whether enforced by a State or voluntarily practised by worldwide Muslim communities. We are equally interested in scholarships on encapsulated cultural worlds, diaspora, identity and citizenship that are embedded and circumscribed by religious ties. As it has been the practice of the Journal since its establishment in 2005, it also has a specific interest in issues relating to the practice of Muslim States in international law, international law issues that may concern Muslim countries, and all aspects of law and practice affecting Muslims globally.

