



Call for Papers
for a Special Section on
“Recent Developments in
Iraq”



Following 2003, Iraq underwent profound social, economic, and political transformations that reshaped its societal structure. Politically, these changes enabled the participation of religious, national, and ethnic groups in governance, allowing them to secure parliamentary representation and influence the legislative process. As a result, numerous laws have been enacted since 2003 to address Iraq's evolving political, social, and economic landscape. A significant portion of these laws reflects the unique characteristics and priorities of the influential religious groups within Iraqi society.

These developments have presented considerable challenges to Islamic law, particularly due to the varying interpretations of religious principles, which frequently give rise to disagreements among the diverse religious sects in Iraq. A prominent example is the recent amendment to the Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1959, passed by the Iraqi Parliament. This amendment grants individuals the option to regulate their family affairs in accordance with the provisions of the Shiite sect, the Sunni sect, or the original 1959 Personal Status Law. This legislative change has ignited substantial debate among human rights advocates, civil society organizations, and leaders of religious communities.

In response to these dynamics, the *Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law and Practice* (MJTILP) will feature a special section in a forthcoming 2025 issue dedicated to recent legal developments in Iraq. Scholars are invited to contribute concise papers that provide insight, critical analysis, and scholarship on these legal transformations, with particular emphasis on their implications for Islamic law.



Guidelines:

1. The length of the submitted paper should be between 2000 words (excluding abstract and footnotes), but not exceeding 2500 in any event. Manuscripts should be in Microsoft Word format, and double-spaced.
2. No more than two authors.
3. Submitted papers should examine specific legal, social cultural, economic, religious and political developments in Iraq and their impact on the application of Muslim law, linking it with principles of Islamic law. Comparative approaches, such as the application of personal or regional laws within Iraq or application of Islamic law in other countries, are encouraged. Descriptive papers that merely present the legal context are discouraged; constructive legal analysis is preferred.
4. An abstract of no more than 200 words should be included with all submissions, along with 3-5 key words.
5. Contributions must be original and not previously published elsewhere.
6. Submissions must comply with the standards and rules of MJTILP, including research ethics, style and citation.
7. The MJTILP primarily follows the OSCOLA 4th edition referencing style with slight modifications suited to specific citation requirements of the MJTILP. Please see the MJTILP author guidelines for further information on formatting the referencing style.
8. 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



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This section should incorporate discussion of the implications of the change or development for 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 corresponding to the **Call for Papers for a Special Section** on “**Recent Legal Developments in Iraq**” should be submitted to the Recent Legal Developments Editor **Dr Mohamad Janaby**, via email: mjjanaby@gmail.com. All contribution should be submitted to **Dr Mohamad Janaby** at the latest by **30 March 2025**

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Manchester Journal of Transnational Islamic Law & 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 publish 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.



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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.