

Call for Papers:
Special Edition of *Islamic Perspective Journal*

Topic: “The State of Islam amidst the growth of the European Far-Right”

The 2019 European Union elections saw an unprecedented number of far-right anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim candidates elected to the EU Parliament. Vowing to halt immigration, deport refugees, and close Europe’s borders to those fleeing conflict zones and economic depression, the “defenders of European culture and heritage” argue that such newcomers to Europe are not refugees and immigrants at all, but are rather “invaders” who intend to colonize Europe for Islam. Just a decade ago, such arguments remained on the fringes of the political discourse, but now they have gone mainstream, garnishing a significant amount of support even amongst some liberals. Whether such arguments are rooted in the fear of cultural change, the reality of economic insecurity, or simple prejudicial resentment towards “the others,” far-right populists have made it clear: Islam and Muslims are not welcome in Europe.

These recent trends have put the Muslim community in Europe at risk. Just as in Donald Trump’s United States, hate crimes against Muslims and recent immigrants/refugees have increased dramatically. For many, the ideologies of *Le grand remplacement* (The Great Replacement) and *Überfremdung* (over-foreignization) are not mere rhetoric, but are experienced as existential threats. As such, they have turned to the far-right to defend the “Judeo-Christian” heritage of Europe. In some cases, this has led to an increase in palingenetic ultra-nationalist politics via the democratic process, while in other cases it has led to direct violence against Muslims, immigrants, and refugees. In the case of the Norwegian bomber, Anders Behring Breivik, such hatred led to the 2011 murderous attack on the “enablers” of the “Islamization of Europe,” the political Left, who were targeted in Oslo and on Utøya island, the Norwegian Labor party’s summer camp. The culmination of these events in Europe have led to a state of pessimism among some Muslim scholars. Even prominent sociologists, such as Bassam Tibi, openly question whether “Euro-Islam” – a friendly living together or the Europeanization of Islam – can ever truly be achieved.

The *Islamic Perspective Journal*, published by the London Academy of Iranian Studies, would like to issue this call for papers to all scholars interested in the recent developments concerning Muslims and Islam in Europe. As such, we are especially interested in, but not limited to, the following subjects:

- State of Islam and Muslims in particular countries, especially the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Romania, Greece, and Italy.
- Critiques of anti-Muslim and anti-Islam ideologies.
- Critiques of specific anti-immigrant and anti-Islam thinkers, such as Renaud Camus, Martin Sellner, Anders Behring Breivik, Geert Wilders, Marine Le Pen, Matteo Salvini, Steve Bannon, Viktor Orbán, Guillaume Faye, Dominique Venner, Daniel Friberg, etc.
- Critiques of far-right political parties and nationalist movements, i.e. *The League* (Italy), *Alternative für Deutschland* (Germany), *National Rally* (France), *Generation Identitaire* (France and Austria especially), *Freedom Party* (The Netherlands), *Golden Dawn* (Greece), etc.
- Anti-Islam and anti-immigrant nationalist movements in Eastern Europe, especially Putin’s “Traditionalist” Russia.
- The effects of such far-right movements on Muslim women, children, and family life.
- The effects on Muslims in the public sphere, civil society, and in government positions.
- The challenges faced by Muslims attempting to assimilate and/or integrate into European life amidst the rise of the far-right.
- Connections between anti-Muslims rhetoric and nationalist policy, violence, and/or discrimination.
- The relationship between Islamist terrorist attacks in Europe and the growth of far-right movements.

- The anti-racist yet Islamophobic “defenders” of European culture, i.e. the ideology of the “Enlightenment Fundamentalists.”
- The debate among religious and secular scholars as to what an appropriate “Islamic” response should be to such far-right politics.
- The role of the media in heightening or diminishing the threats against Muslims and those perceived to be “others.”
- The shadow of the Holocaust on resurgent forms of neo-fascism: i.e. Muslims as the “new Jews” of Europe.
- Philosophical and religious responses to the politics of xenophobia and xenophilia.
- The future of immigration in Europe.
- Forms and strategies of Muslim resistance to far-right politics.
- The influence of the New Right (*Nouvelle Droite*) in anti-Muslim and anti-Islam rhetoric.
- The question of whether “Euro-Islam” is at all possible in what Jürgen Habermas calls the “post-secular” Europe.

The *Islamic Perspective Journal* is an inter-disciplinary peer-reviewed journal. It publishes essays from various disciplines, including religious studies, philosophy, political science, sociology, cultural studies, history, psychology, and theology. The special issue on the “State of Islam in Europe” will be published in the Winter 2020 issue of IPJ.

Authors are invited to submit their abstracts and short bios by September 15th, 2019 (500-word limit).

Deadline for the final essay submission on January 1st, 2020. Essays should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words, including notes and references.

Please send your materials to the editors below.

If you have any question, feel free to contact us.

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