Justice, Punishment, and the Medieval Muslim Imagination

How was the use of violence against Muslims explained and justified in medieval Islam? What role did state punishment play in delineating the private from the public sphere? What strategies were deployed to cope with the suffering caused by punishment? These questions are explored in Christian Lange’s in-depth study of the phenomenon of punishment, both divine and human, in eleventh- to thirteenth-century Islamic society. The book examines the relationship between state and society in meting out justice, Muslim attitudes to hell and the punishments that were in store in the afterlife, and the legal dimensions of punishment – how different types of retribution were justified, circumscribed, or rejected altogether by Muslim jurists. The crossdisciplinary approach embraced in this study, which is based on a wide variety of Persian and Arabic sources, sheds light on the interplay between theory and practice in Islamic criminal law, and between executive power and the religious imagination of medieval Muslim society at large.

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Justice, Punishment, and the Medieval Muslim Imagination

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Abbreviations

BSOAS  Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
EI1  The Encyclopaedia of Islam. 5 vols. Edited by T. Houtsma et al. Leiden: Brill, 1913–34
IJMES  International Journal of Middle East Studies
ILS  Islamic Law and Society
IOS  Israel Oriental Studies
JAOS  Journal of the American Oriental Society
JRAS  Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
SI  Studia Islamica
ZDMG  Zeitschrift der deutschen morgenländischen Gesellschaft