



## *Encounters with Islam*

Too often, Western encounters with the Islamic world commence with stereotypes and end with a renewed distance. Drawing from decades of experience studying the Muslim world, Lawrence Rosen challenges these narrow understandings. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, Rosen shows the wide-ranging significance of Muslim art, culture, and law around the world. Exploring political, economic, and social encounters within and with the Muslim world across the eras, he considers a wide range of contexts – from fifteenth-century mosaics in Central Asia that reveal a complex understanding of mathematics to the political choices available to the youth of modern-day Morocco and Cairo. With in-depth analyses of art, law, and religion, and how they inform one another, Rosen develops a vibrant, nuanced portrait of the Islamic world. Drawing linkages across time, regions, and cultures, this is a significant anthropological study of the Islamic world from a seasoned scholar.

LAWRENCE ROSEN is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Princeton University. As both an anthropologist and a law scholar, he has worked for over forty years in the Arab world. Rosen was named to the first group of MacArthur Award Fellows and has been a visiting fellow at Oxford and Cambridge. He has written prolifically, and his previous publications include *Law as Culture* (2008) and *Islam and the Rule of Justice* (2018).

# Encounters with Islam

Studies in the Anthropology  
of Muslim Cultures

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*Princeton University*



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*For Judith*

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The book is dedicated to Judith Blank, anthropologist and artisan, whose insight and sense of wonder are as contagious as they are endearing.

## *Note on Transcription*

Arabic spellings, with allowance for Moroccan dialect where appropriate, broadly follow the system used by Hans Wehr in *A Dictionary of Modern Arabic*, with some significant modifications. For example, ‘ d ā ḥ ī ṭ ṣ sh kh ṣ will be used where a word first appears but not necessarily thereafter. Terms that have gained currency in English, such as Quran, shari’a, and qadi will be presented in recognizable spellings rather than with full diacritics.