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**Brinkley M. Messick**

*Sharīʿa Scripts: A Historical Anthropology*

**Speakers:**

Brinkley M. Messick, Columbia University  
Intisar A. Rabb, Harvard Law School  
Gil Anidjar, Columbia University  
Mashal Saif, Clemson University  
Guy Burak, New York University  
Islam Dayeh, Freie Universität Berlin  
Mahmood Mamdani, Columbia University

A case study in the textual architecture of the venerable legal and ethical tradition at the center of the Islamic experience, *Sharīʿa Scripts* is a work of historical anthropology focused on Yemen in the early twentieth century. There—while colonial regimes, late Ottoman reformers, and early nationalists wrought decisive changes to the legal status of the sharīʿa, significantly narrowing its sphere of relevance—the Zaydi school of jurisprudence, rooted in highland Yemen for a millennium, still held sway.

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