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Islam and the Requirements of the Time

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 11:45h-13:15h

Hörsaal 47.01 (Heinrichstraße 78, Erdgeschoss)



In this guest lecture, we will explore the topic of Islam and its compatibility with the changing time. The challenging question of whether an unchanging religion such as Islam can reconcile with the ever-changing nature of time will be examined. Islam is often viewed as a strict and unchanging religion, yet time is characterized by constant change and variability. We will discuss the paradox that presents itself, and attempt to answer the question of how the body of laws in Islamic traditions can remain unchanged through the ages.

To address this issue, we will delve into what Islam is as well as discuss the fundamental doctrines that shape its followers' beliefs. We will also examine whether it is possible for Unchanging Islam and Changing Time to be reconciled. This will require taking a deep dive into the role of Islamic scholars, who provide guidance and interpretation of the religious texts to ensure applicability to current contexts. Finally, the lecture will conclude with a discussion of the role of Māṛjayat (religious authority) in Shia Islam, which is an essential component of Shiite Islamic law and plays a vital role in resolving the paradox of unchanging principles in a constantly changing world.

Mohammad Taher Gholi Tabar earned an M.A. in Islamic Sciences Teaching, majoring in Theoretical Principles of Islam from the University of Islamic Sciences in Iran. In addition, he is a graduate of the highest levels of the Seminary of Qom. He is now a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Studies of Religions at the University of Religions and Denominations (URD), Iran. He teaches regularly in various forums and universities in Iran and also in Europe.