

Lecture as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2019

Women in Sufism: from Mastership to Apprenticeship, Revisiting Annemarie Schimmel's works

Organizational details

Instructor: Nourhan Kassem

Date: June 26th, 2019, from 16.00 to 18.00 h

Location: Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Strasse 68, D-35390 Giessen, room 020 (HS 020)

Content

Love, as a human emotion, could summarize the main characteristics of this special way to know the universe. Although we might regard Sufism as a way of making use of the emotional faculties, women being that creature symbolizing sentiment approaches have been neglected in the Sufi traditions. Such seizure on the role of women came after long exerted efforts from their side in dismantling mystic traditions and teaching many of the well-known Sufi figures such as Ibn Arabi who got his early mystic teachings from two old women.

In my presentation, I am going to address this topic through discussing three main questions:

The first question pertains to the supreme role that women occupied in Sufism and I am going to answer it through exploring numerous Sufi women who served as instructors in teaching Sufism.

The second question will deal with the main obstacles that hindered women from continuing their path in teaching Sufi traditions hence limited their efforts in producing such knowledge.

The third question will be about the recent efforts contributing to the resurrection of the role of women in Sufi tradition. It includes the translations of many western researchers who devoted their lives to writing about women in Sufism, such as Annemarie Schimmel.

Structured timetable

- First 10 minutes: Deliberating on the concept of “sufism”
- Following 15 minutes: Exploring numerous Sufi women who served as instructors in Sufism
- Following 15 minutes: The decline of women’s leadership in Sufism: The obstacles
- Following 15 minutes: Recent efforts contributing to the resurrection of women’s role in Sufism
- Following 15 minutes: Western researchers interested in women in Sufism: Annemarie Schimmel
- Following 10 minutes: Conclusion
- Last 10 minutes: Wrap up of what we were discussing, receiving feedback and proposing upcoming topics of shared interest

Key words: sufism, mastership, Apprenticeship, Anne Marie Schimmel

Learning Targets

- Gaining knowledge about the sphere of Sufism in general
- Getting to know more about the Sufism realm in the religious sphere
- Knowing more about the old female Sufi masters
- Understanding the transformations of the females from being teachers to being students in the current era
- Grasping the reasons behind this transformation
- Discussing the works of Anne Marie Schimmel as one of the German scholars who is a specialist in Sufi studies

Target group

Students, Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs of all Faculties

Course language

English

Registration No registration needed