Objective

The academic study of Islamic law has, so far, almost exclusively focused on Sunni legal thought. The legal thought and practice of Shi‘ite (and other) traditions has been neglected, and this has created a rather skewed account of the history of Islamic law. This project aims to rectify this inadequacy by producing a body of research in which the Imami Shi‘ite contribution to Islamic legal history is described, analysed and evaluated. Imami Shi‘ites, sometimes termed Twelvers, are the largest branch of Shi‘ism today. Imamis form a majority in Iran and Iraq where the major Shi‘i centres of legal learning are located.
In the project, we aim to examine the theories and methods used by scholars in the study of Islamic law, derived mainly from Sunni sources, and test them against the Shi’ite legal literature. The project aims to demonstrate that a non-Sunni tradition of Islamic legal thought, in this case Imami Shi’i law, can illuminate and enrich the general history of Islamic law. At times, Shi’ite law shares features with other legal schools; at other times it provides an alternative account, challenging long held assumptions concerning Islam’s legal development. The project will do this through 5 independent, but linked, Research Themes, in which research fellows and visiting professors will carry out detailed programmes of research. These will cover Imami law and doctrine, the dynamics of legal authority, the relationship between legal theory and doctrine and the influence of law on political theory. The project will facilitate opportunities to test the researchers' research findings with both international experts in the field, and scholars from within the Imami legal tradition.

The Principal Investigator, Robert Gleave, has made a major contribution to this area in his research, publications and other activities for 20 years, and this project extends and expands this interest, aiming to make a lasting impact on the field of Islamic legal studies in the future.
ERC-ADG - Advanced Grant

Coordinator

THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Net EU contribution
€ 2 212 638,60

Address
The queen’s drive northcote house
EX4 4QJ Exeter
GB

Region
South West (England) > Devon Devon CC

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links
Contact the organisation
Website
Participation in EU R&I programmes
HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding
€ 0,00

Beneficiaries (1)

THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

GB

Net EU contribution
€ 2 212 638,60

Last update: 23 August 2022
Record number: 203427