Thursday, September 19, 2019

Thompson Room, Barker Center
12 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Welcome Addresses
David Hempton, Dean of Harvard Divinity School
Ousmane Kane, Harvard Divinity School

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Opening Lecture
Zekeria Ould Ahmed Salem, “Global Shinqit. Mauritanian Islamic Scholars and the re-making of religious authority in the Muslim world”

Friday, September 20, 2019

60 Oxford St. Room 119, Cambridge, MA 02138

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
The Long Presence of African Muslims in the Americas
Chair: Charles Hallisey, Harvard Divinity School

Diego Giovanni Castellanos, National University of Colombia. “Muslim identity and social marginality among an African descendant Colombian community”

Madina Thiam, University of California Los Angeles, “Absolutely and utterly free” Sahelian Kinship: Muslim Schooling and Emancipation between Jamaica and the Middle Nigeria c. 1790-1854”

Ayodeji Ogunnaike, Bowdoin College, “Bilad al-Brazil: The Importance of West African Scholars in Brazilian Islamic Education and Practice in Historic and Contemporary Perspective”

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Transnational Islam I
Chair: Ousmane Kane, Harvard Divinity School

Irit Back, Tel Aviv University, “Sufis from West Africa in Jerusalem: Dynamic of Religious Exchange during Colonial Times”

Rhea Rahman, Brooklyn College, “Racializing the Good Muslim: The Whiteness of ‘soft power’ and Black Muslim Activism in South Africa”

Steve Howard, Ohio University, “On the Path of the Prophet in Unsettled Times: Sudan’s Republican Brotherhood Looks Abroad”

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Transnational Islam II
Chair: Rebecca Shereikis, Northwestern University

Amidu Sanni, Fountain University Nigeria, “Glocalization in Globalization: New Epistemology and Source on African History and Scholarship”

Cheikh Niang, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal, “Beyond Senegal. The Socio-Political Perspectives of a Globalized Muslim Community”

Youssef Carter, Harvard University, “Tarbiyah as Liberation. From Senegal to the American South”

 Asserting Identity and Expressing Spirituality: Young Muslims in the West

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Roundtable with the Baraka Boys
Chair: Zachary Wright, Northwestern University-Qatar

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Concert by Baraka Boys

Saturday, September 21, 2019
Center for African Studies, 3rd Floor
1280 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02138

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Transnational Islam III
Chair: Zekeria Ould Ahmed Salem, Northwestern University

Mara Leichmann, “Transnational Networks and Global Shi‘i Islamic NGOs in Senegal and Tanzania”

Ezgi Guner, University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign, “Turkish State and Sufi Brotherhoods in Muslim Africa”

Gadija Ahjum, University of Cape Town, “Constructing a South African Shi‘ism: The case study of a Cape Town Shi‘i community”

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

New Paradigms in the Study of Islam in Africa
Chair: Sean Hanretta, Northwestern University


Samihah Rahman, University of Pennsylvania“Pedagogy of Place and Classical Islamic Education in Contemporary Senegal”

Oludamini Ogunnaike, University of Virginia, “Have the Poets Left a Place for a Path to be Stitched? Intertextuality and Creativity in Contemporary West African Madīḥ Poetry and Song”

Felicitas Becker, Ghent University, “Divergent temporalities of progress and religious reform in Swahili Muslim sermons”