

Call for articles for a special issue of the *Journal of Muslims in Europe*
on:

Mapping Shia Muslim Communities in Europe: Local and Transnational Dimensions

The current political situation in the Middle East influences and shapes the perception of Islam and of Muslims in Europe. The ambitions of Iran and its use of Shia Islam to mobilise Shia minority communities in the region, not least since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, have been, a major focus of academic research. In Europe, however, although Islam and Muslims more generally have received extensive attention by the media, the wider public and in academic research in recent decades, Shia Muslims have only very lately attracted the attention of some scholars working on Shia communities in Europe and their transnational links.

This planned special issue intends to fill this gap in academic research and aims at mapping Shia communities in various European countries. Shia Muslims in Europe constitute a minority within a minority and are characterised by being highly diverse in terms of their ethnic background, ideological orientation and socio-political and migratory status. The purpose of this issue is to bring articles together that discuss the presence of Shia Muslims in Europe and to cover a broad range of topics which include mapping the historical development of Shia Muslim communities and changing demographics as well as investigating their local- and trans-local communal and organisational connectivities and religious ritual practices within a European context.

Submission guidelines and procedure

The articles should be between 5000-7000 words (including notes and references). Article proposals may engage with the overall topic of Shia Islam and Shia Muslims in Europe from any discipline on the following topics (not exhaustive):

Shia communities in different European contexts

Shia ritual practices in Europe

Shia Islam and gender in Europe

Demotic processes in the articulation and performance of Shia identities in Europe

Shia Muslims of diverse backgrounds (Iranian, Iraqis, Pakistanis, Indians, Khojas, Lebanese, Saudi-Arabian, Bahraini, Kuwaiti etc.) and their relationship to each other in European minority contexts

Generational dynamics within European Shia communities

Articles can discuss Shia communities in a broader European context across different nation-states or focus on case studies within a particular European country. We also welcome abstract submissions that explore various transnational links between European and other Shia Muslim communities across the world.

Individuals who are interested in submitting an article for consideration should submit an abstract between 300-500 words in a Microsoft Word or pdf document together with a short bio (not more than 300 words) to

y.shanneik@chester.ac.uk

We encourage PhD students and early-career researcher to submit proposals as well.

Important dates:

Abstract deadline: **1 July 2015**

Notification of abstract acceptance: **17 July 2015**

Submission deadline of full articles: **1 February 2016**

Planned publication: **Spring 2017**

The editors are seeking original research only. Articles submitted must therefore not have been published, accepted for publication or currently be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Article guidelines will be sent upon acceptance notification.

The editors are seeking to publish a special edition in the *Journal of Muslims in Europe* published by Brill: www.brill.com/jome.

We are looking forwards to receiving your abstracts.

Guest-Editors:

Dr Yafa Shanneik

Dr Sufyan Abid

Chris Heinhold