



RELIGION AND CULTURE
SEMINAR

Moderator: Professor Simeon Evstatiev

You are cordially invited to a lecture by

PROFESSOR YOHANAN FRIEDMANN

Topic

Messianic movements in Sunni Islam

The lecture will take place on 15 April 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at Hall 243

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Nord Wing of the Rectorate), 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.

THE LECTURE will analyze the main ideas of four Sunnī messianic movements: the Almohades in North Africa and Spain (12th – 13th centuries), the Mahdawīs in India (15th – 16th centuries), the movement of Muḥammad Aḥmad in 19th century Sudan and the Aḥmadī movement in modern India. It will show that the first three movements can be seen as precursors of contemporary radical trends in Islam.

YOHANAN FRIEDMANN is Max Schloessinger Professor Emeritus of Islamic Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Professor at Shalem College, Jerusalem, and Member, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Between 2007 and 2013, he served as the Chair of the Division of Humanities of the Academy. At the Hebrew University he served in various administrative positions, including Dean of Humanities (1985–1988). In 2001, he was a fellow at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies. In 2002, Professor Friedmann was member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. In 2003, he received the Landau Prize in the Humanities. Since 1991, he has been the editor of *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*. In 2016, he was awarded the Rothschild Prize in the Humanities and the Israel Prize in Near Eastern Studies.

Yohanan Friedmann's field of research is Islamic thought – mainly in the Indian subcontinent but also in the Middle East. In addition to articles in scholarly journals and professional encyclopedias, as well as several edited volumes, his books include: *Prophecy continuous. Aspects of Aḥmadī religious thought and its mediaeval background*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1989; *Tolerance and coercion in Islam. Interfaith relations in the Muslim tradition*. Cambridge, 2003; and *Messianic ideas and movements in Sunnī Islam*. London: Oneworld Publications 2022.

For a full list of Yohanan Friedmann's publications, please [visit this link](#).



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