

# The Heirs of Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī (d. 1505 AD)

## Zoom series

### on the Persistence of Islamic Scholarship in the Early Modern Period

Organizers: Berenike Metzler, Patrick Franke, and Ahmed Gad Makhlof

Every Wednesday, April 22–July 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm (CEST)

[Zoom link](#)

[About the series](#)

Up until the 1980s, the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in 1517 was considered the beginning of the end of Islamic scholarship, an „intellectually barren period of Ottoman rule, a period in which Egypt ceased to be the intellectual and religious center of Islam“ (Michael Winter). Accordingly, the polyhistor Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī (d. 1505) figured as the most prominent and, at the same time, one of the last true medieval Islamic scholars. Although historians have begun to distance themselves from this decline thesis in recent years, the impacts of the Mamluk-Ottoman transition on Islamic scholarship and on individual scholars in and beyond Egypt still need to be explored.

The Zoom series aims to begin to fill this gap. After introductory sessions on Suyūṭī’s legacy and the historical context, the presenters will shed light on eight figures from this transition period who were direct students of Suyūṭī’s or dealt intensively with his legal, theological, historical, philological, or mystical oeuvre in the decades that followed. The presenters of the lecture series will especially address the extent to which these „heirs of Suyūṭī“ followed his ideas or engaged with them and how they framed their own thinking along the continuum between tradition and innovation. Thus, they will track Suyūṭī’s traces through a wide range of disciplines, from the 16th to the 19th century, from the Maghreb to Southeast Asia. From these assessments, the series will, finally, ask whether it is justified to concentrate on Suyūṭī as a starting point for the question posed.



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# Program

**22.04.26** Rachida Chih (CETOBAC/EHESS)

*Historical-cultural portrait of the Mamluk-Ottoman transition*

**29.04.26** Ahmed Gad Makhlouf (University of Göttingen)

*„Sohn der Bücher“: Gelehrsamkeit und literarisches Erbe von Ğalāl ad-Dīn as-Suyūṭī*

**06.05.26** Berenike Metzler (Orient Institute Beirut/Washington)

*The Value of Asking the Right Questions. Al-Suyūṭī's Influence on the Arabic Linguistic Tradition as Reflected in the “Ḥilya” of Abū Bakr al-Shanawānī (d. 1611)*

**13.05.26** Gürzat Kami (Istanbul University)

*Tracing al-Suyūṭī's Impact on Sixteenth-Century Syrian Scholars: A Quantitative Analysis of Najm al-Dīn al-Ghazzī's (d. 1651) Biographical Dictionary al-Kawākib*

**20.05.26** Scott Kugle (Emory University)

*The World is Grateful to al-Suyuti, but al-Suyuti is Grateful to Shaykh 'Ali Muttaqi—Sufism and Hadith Studies combined in a South Asian scholarly network*

**27.05.26** Bruce Hall (University of California)

*The Authority of al-Suyūṭī in West Africa: Reception, Correspondence, Mythology*

**03.06.26** Patrick Franke (University of Bamberg)

*A Ḥanafī version of Suyūṭī? The Meccan scholar Mullā 'Alī al-Qārī (d. 1606)*

**10.06.26** Matthew B. Ingalls (American University in Dubai)

*'Abd al-Wahhāb al-Sha'rānī's Indebtedness to al-Suyūṭī*

**17.06.26** Ervan Nurtawab (Jurai Siwo Lampung State Islamic University of Indonesia)

*Jalal al-Dīn al-Suyuti (d. 1505) in the makings of Southeast Asian Islamic scholarship*

**24.06.26** Naser Dumairieh (Ibn Haldun University Istanbul)

*Abū al-Mawāhib al-Shinnāwī (d. 1028/1619): The Junction of the Two Seas*

**01.07.26** Bernard Haykel (Princeton University)

*The 'Heirs of Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī' in Yemen*

**08.07.26** Stefan Reichmuth (University of Bochum)

*Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī and Murtaḍā al-Zabīdī (d. 1205/1791): Towering scholarly figures in different epochs”*

**15.07.26** Aaron Spevack (Brandeis University/Harvard)

*Ibrahim al-Bajuri's Selective Inheritance of al-Suyuti's Theological, Legal, and Mystical Thought*