

The international AGYA workshop aims to explore the meaning of cosmopolitanism in Western and Islamic traditions and will provide a forum to investigate the mutual influences in the intellectual history of the concept in different cultural and intellectual traditions.

The concept of cosmopolitanism has always played an important role in philosophical and theological texts of various cultures, including Arab, European, Indian or Persian cultures. In its core, the concept of cosmopolitanism defines all human beings as world citizens—'kosmopolites' in Greek—who thus are all part of a single universal community. The concept of 'universality' or cosmopolitanism also roots in Islamic theology and philosophy: in the history of Islamic thought, universalism is based on the concept of a shared humanity and equality. The unity of world citizens transcends all cultural differences or political borders, based mostly on a shared notion of morality.

In the eighteenth century, a cosmopolitan was a person that was open-minded, led a sophisticated life-style, and liked to travel. In current language, these are still some characteristics we are referring to today, when naming someone a cosmopolitan. Nowadays, cosmopolitanism is receiving more scholarly attention again: in the context of globalization, new (communication) technologies, and increasing digitization, there is a need to reflect in philosophical terms on the new prospects for the individual to interact and communicate with his or her fellow world citizens.

The AGYA conference focuses on intercultural exchange and its influence on the construction of moral and cultural paradigms. This is a rather new approach, considering the history of the concept of cosmopolitanism and the many contemporary moral, socio-political, and economic definitions existing in parallel today.

The first part of the workshop takes place at Freie Universität Berlin from 25 – 26 September 2019. The second part is held at Kuwait University from 09 – 10 December 2019. The idea of this bipartite workshop is to bring together researchers from different fields in order to encourage a fruitful intersection of different perspectives.

### Workshop Venue

25 - 26 September 2019

Freie Universität Berlin  
Institut für Philosophie  
Habelschwerdter Allee 30, 14195 Berlin

### Organisation

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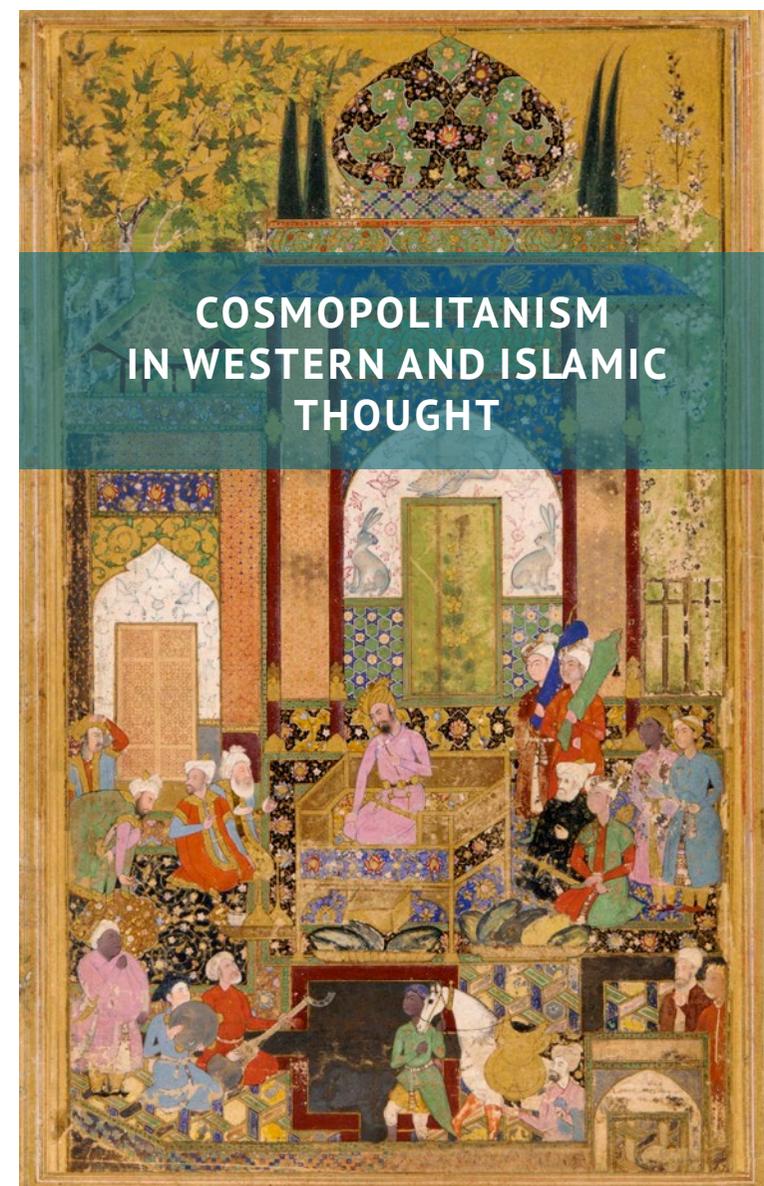
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## International Workshop of the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA)



# COSMOPOLITANISM IN WESTERN AND ISLAMIC THOUGHT



## WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

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Freie Universität Berlin

- 16:00            **Registration/Opening of the Workshop**
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- 16:30 - 17:30    **MATTHIAS PERKAMS**  
(Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena):  
**From Citizens of the World to Critics of Positive Law. A Remarkable Development in Western Intellectual History**
- 17:30 - 18:30    **MASSIMO CAMPANINI**  
(Università di Trento):  
**Cosmopolitanism and the Caliphate: The Multicultural Idea of the Islamic Empire**
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- 20:00            **DINNER**

## THURSDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

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Freie Universität Berlin

- 9.30 - 10.30h    **NUHA AL-SHAAR**  
(The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London)  
**Cosmopolitanism in Fourth/Tenth Century Buyid Baghdad: A Moral Story**
- 10.30 - 11.30h    **WILHELM SCHMIDT-BIGGEMANN**  
(Freie Universität Berlin)  
**Raimundus Lullus - Interconfessional Philosopher or Christian Missionary?**
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- 11:30 - 11:45    **COFFEE BREAK**
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- 11:45 - 12:45    **GÖRGE HASSELHOFF**  
(Technische Universität Dortmund):  
**"Martin Luther on Non-Christian Religions, Cultures, People(s) and Countries"?**
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- 12:45 - 14:15    **LUNCH BREAK**
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- 14:15 - 15:15    **MOHAMMAD HASSAN**  
(Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat)  
**The Relationship Between Ethical Cosmopolitanism and Our Present World: A Critical Philosophical Analysis from Structural Idealism**
- 15:15 - 16:15    **NESMA ELSAKAAN**  
(Università degli Studi di Palermo)  
**Transnational Islamic Feminism. Some Cases of Cosmopolitan Activism**
- 
- 16:30 - 16:45    **COFFEE BREAK**

- 16:45 - 17:45    **THORSTEN BOTZ-BORNSTEIN**  
(Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait)  
**Is There Only Either Egocentric Nationalism or Universalist Cosmopolitanism? Towards an Organic Alternative**
- 
- 20:00            **DINNER**

