

About the contributors

Maurits Berger is a lawyer and Arabist. He holds the chair of Islam in the contemporary West at the Institute for Religious Studies at Leiden University, and is a senior research associate with the Clingendael Institute for International Relations in The Hague. He has written extensively on Sharia and Islamic law in the Arab as well as the Western world, and translated the Moroccan family law into Dutch.

Léon Buskens is Professor of Law and Culture in Islamic Societies, both at the Faculty of Humanities as well as at the Law Faculty of Leiden University, including the Van Vollenhoven Institute. He completed his degree in anthropology at the University of Nijmegen and in 1993 obtained his Ph.D. in Leiden with a thesis on Moroccan family law. His research focuses mainly on the relationship between Islamic norms and practises.

Albert Dekker is coordinator of the library of the Leiden University Law Faculty, with particular focus on the collection of the Van Vollenhoven Institute. The collection includes many works on modern and colonial Indonesia. He graduated in law and library sciences in Groningen. He has published law & development bibliographies in the Van Vollenhoven Publication Series and authored and co-authored two index volumes on the law and jurisprudence of the Netherlands Indies, published by the Royal Institute of Linguistics & Anthropology.

Esther van Eijk is a Ph.D. Candidate at Leiden University in the Netherlands, studying family law in Syria. She completed degrees in law and Arabic at Leiden University and specialises in Islamic law. She contributed to a variety of projects, including a publication on the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the Sharia and National Law project, carried out by the Van Vollenhoven Institute.

Andrew Harding is Professor of Asia-Pacific Law at the University of Victoria, BC (Canada). He is a former Head of Department and Professor of Law in the Law School, School of Oriental and African

Studies (SOAS), University of London and formerly taught at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore, and as a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School. He is the author of 'Law, Government and the Constitution in Malaysia' (1996). He is co-editor of 'Constitutional Courts: A Comparative Study' (2009), and 'New Courts in Asia' (2010). He is presently working on books on Thailand and Malaysia for the Hart Publishing series 'Constitutional Systems of the World', of which he is also co-general editor.

Mustafa Koçak is currently the Professor of Public Law and Founder Dean of the Okan University Faculty of Law in Istanbul, Turkey. He studied law at the University of Istanbul, held positions as lawyer and journalist and was a temporary researcher at the law faculty of the University of Glasgow. He did research into the history of Turkish (constitutional) law, sovereignty, political parties and human rights.

Olaf Köndgen is currently preparing a Ph.D. dissertation on Islamic criminal law in the Sudan (University of Amsterdam). He holds an M. A. in Islamic Studies from the Free University of Berlin and worked as Senior Acquisitions Editor on Islam and the Middle East for Brill Academic Publishers in Leiden. He published on political and economic issues related to the Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

Martin Lau is a Reader in Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he teaches courses on South Asian law. He is a regular visitor to Pakistan and has published widely on the country's legal system.

Ziba Mir-Hosseini is an independent consultant, researcher, and writer on Middle Eastern issues, based at the London Middle East Institute and the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Law, both at SOAS, University of London; since 2002 she has been Hauser Global Law Visiting Professor at New York University. She specialises in gender, family relations, Islamic law and development, and is a founding member of Musawah Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family.

Philip Ostien is an independent scholar, working from Madison, Wisconsin, USA. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania, and also holds J.D. and LL.M. degrees from the University of Iowa. Having taught at the University of Iowa and practiced law in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1991 he joined the Faculty of Law of the University of Jos, Nigeria, where he taught (with some interruptions) until his retirement in 2007. He is the author or editor of a

number of works on the laws and legal institutions of northern Nigeria and the programmes of sharia implementation that began there in 1999.

Jan Michiel Otto is Professor of Law and Governance in developing countries and director of the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law, Governance, and Development. He studied law at the University of Leiden and wrote his Ph.D. thesis on public administration in rural Egypt. Since 1983 he has conducted comparative studies of law, governance, and development in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Mohammad Hamid Saboory is an independent consultant, providing services to several NGOs in Europe and North America on legal reform and development issues related to Afghanistan. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from Syracuse University and an M.A. in Middle/Near Eastern Studies from New York University. He studied law in Kabul and as researcher contributed to projects run by the Max-Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg.

Dorothea E. Schulz is professor of anthropology at the University of Cologne. Her expertise is on Islam in Africa, the anthropology of religion, gender studies, media studies, public culture, and the anthropology of the state. She is currently a professor at the University of Cologne. She obtained her Ph.D. from Yale University, USA, and her habilitation (second doctoral degree required for promotion in the German academic system) from the Free University, Berlin. She taught at Cornell University, New York, and Indiana University, Bloomington, USA. Her regional expertise is in West Africa (particularly Mali) and East Africa (Uganda).

Nadia Sonneveld is a senior researcher on the implementation of Islamic law in practice affiliated with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and the Van Vollenhoven Institute, University of Leiden. While earlier research focused on Egypt and Indonesia, she now focuses on comparative research in a number of Muslim majority countries. She graduated in law in 2009, Arabic in 2002 and cultural anthropology in 2000.

Nadima Yassari is a senior fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative and International Private Law in Hamburg, where she heads the Department for the Laws of Islamic countries. She was born in Iran and studied law in Austria, France and the United Kingdom. Her main fields of research are private national and private

international law of Islamic countries, in particular the Arab Middle East, Iran and Afghanistan with a special focus on family and inheritance law. Since April 2009 she is leading a Max-Planck Research Group investigating the scope and limits of contractual freedom in Islamic family law.