

Dear ACS members,

Here is a book that has just been published by one of our members (Dr Akel Ismail Kahera, director of the Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture). I am sure that many of you will find it useful.

Reading the Islamic City: Discursive Practices and Legal Judgment [Hardcover]

Reading the Islamic City offers insights into the implications the practices of the Maliki school of Islamic law have for the inhabitants of the Islamic city, the madinah. The problematic term madinah fundamentally indicates a phenomenon of building, dwelling, and urban settlement patterns that evolved after the 7th century CE in the Maghrib (North Africa) and al-Andalusia (Spain). Madinah involves multiple contexts that have socio-religious functions and symbolic connotations related to the faith and practice of Islam, and can be viewed in terms of a number of critiques such as everyday lives, boundaries, utopias, and dystopias. The book considers Foucault's power/knowledge matrix as it applies to an erudite cadre of scholars and legal judgments in the realm of architecture and urbanism. It acknowledges the specificity of power/knowledge insofar as it provides a dominant framework to tackle property rights, custom, noise, privacy, and a host of other subjects. Scholars of urban studies, religion, history, and geography will greatly benefit from this vivid analysis of the relevance of the juridico-discursive practice of Maliki Law in a set of productive or formative discourses in the Islamic city.

http://www.amazon.com/Reading-Islamic-City-Discursive-Practices/dp/0739110012/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1319502298&sr=8-1

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"yield and overcome, bend and be straight"