



Book Review

**Aligning Religious Law and State Law: Negotiating Legal
Muslim Marriage in Pasuruan, East Java, by Muhammad
Latif Fauzi, Leiden, Boston, Brill, 2023, 236 pp., €69.00
(Paperback), ISBN 978-90-04-51610-6**

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Abstract

The abstract should be 100–150 words, single-spaced, in 12 pt Palatino Linotype. It is neither a “summary” of the book nor a mere conclusion of the review. Instead, the abstract should introduce the background and relevance of the book, outlining its central theme and scope. It should then situate the book’s scholarly position by indicating its contribution to Islamic legal studies, its relation to current debates, or the theoretical perspective it employs. The reviewer should briefly indicate the approach taken in engaging with the book, such as thematic, comparative, or critical analysis. This should be followed by the main assessment and argumentation, highlighting both the strengths and limitations of the work. Finally, the abstract should emphasise the significance of the book for further research, teaching, or legal practice within the field of Islamic law. While other important aspects that enhance the scholarly contribution of the book may be included, authors must be rigorous and attentive to the limited space of the abstract.

[Put here the Indonesian version of your abstract.]



Keywords: Mention only specific concepts [word or phrase], 3-5 concepts, truly conceptual words, and not too general ones.

Introduction

This section serves as an entry point for readers. The reviewer needs to explain the academic context and the relevance of the book: why the book is important for the field of Islamic law, how it relates to current scholarly debates (for example, issues of gender in family law, *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, or Islamic law and the state), and who the target audience is (academics, students, legal practitioners, or the general public). At this stage, the reviewer may also indicate their position: whether the review is written to examine the book's theoretical contribution, its relevance in legal practice, or its connection to a particular academic debate.

Example narrative: "This book review situates X's Islamic Family Law in Contemporary Contexts within the broader scholarly discourse on gender and reform in Islamic law. Given the growing interest in *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* as a methodological tool (Kamali 2019), this work provides timely insights into how classical doctrines are revisited in modern courts and legislation. The review aims to assess the extent to which the book contributes to this ongoing debate."

Critical Outline of the Book

This section forms the core of the review, where the reviewer presents the book's content in a structured manner—either chapter by chapter or organised around major thematic concerns—while simultaneously offering critical analysis. Rather than providing a simple summary, the description should integrate evaluation throughout. The reviewer should examine the theoretical framework and methodology employed by the author, analyse the central arguments and how effectively they are supported, and assess the book's strengths, such as its analytical depth, engagement with current literature, or use of primary data. Equally important is the identification of limitations, including potential source biases, methodological weaknesses, or overlooked areas. The review should also situate the book in relation to other works within the field, particularly those appearing in Scopus- or WoS-indexed journals, in order to provide a comparative perspective that underscores the book's contribution to ongoing scholarly debates. The narration should maintain a

technical, academic tone, emphasising evaluative judgement rather than mere description.

Example narrative: “The author divides the book into three main parts: historical foundations, contemporary challenges, and reform initiatives. In the first section, the treatment of classical juristic debates is rigorous, though at times overly descriptive without engaging newer theoretical perspectives (see Hallaq 2009). The second part is particularly valuable, as it draws on case studies from Indonesia, Egypt, and Morocco, thereby situating the discussion in diverse socio-political contexts. However, the book would have benefited from deeper engagement with recent works on legal pluralism (Bowen 2016).”

Conclusion

This section concludes the review by providing a comprehensive assessment of the book’s contribution to the study of Islamic law. The reviewer should clearly articulate the book’s principal intellectual contributions and identify which audiences benefit most—whether academics, practitioners, or policymakers. The evaluation should also consider how the book may stimulate further research or enrich the teaching of Islamic law. Finally, the reviewer should indicate whether the book is recommended, specifying the contexts in which it is particularly valuable. The narration should remain analytical and authoritative, emphasizing the book’s significance within ongoing scholarly and practical discourse.

Example narrative: “Overall, the book makes a significant contribution to the field of Islamic legal studies by demonstrating how reformist interpretations are negotiated in diverse Muslim societies. Its comparative approach enriches scholarly debates and offers valuable insights for both academics and practitioners. While its treatment of theoretical debates could be more robust, the work remains an essential resource for those interested in the intersections of Islamic law, society, and politics.”

Bibliography

Please manage references according to the Chicago Manual of Style, 18th edition (notes and bibliography) guidelines. Bibliographies should be arranged in alphabetical order.

Author(s) Description

At the end of an article, the author description should provide a concise yet comprehensive overview of each contributor's academic and professional profile. Each entry begins with the author's full name followed by their institutional affiliation, including university, faculty, and country. The narrative should then outline the author's educational background and current academic or professional position, highlighting relevant degrees and appointments. Next, the description should summarize the author's primary research interests and areas of expertise, especially those connected to the article's topic. It is also important to include professional roles, such as editorial positions or leadership in research institutions, that establish the author's authority in the field. Finally, provide contact information, typically a professional email address, to facilitate correspondence. The narrative must remain formal, in the third person, and focused on credentials and contributions, avoiding personal anecdotes or overly detailed biographical information. Optional details, such as notable publications, awards, or major projects, can be included if they are concise and relevant.

Example:

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Note: Indonesian Journal of Islamic Law (IJIL) – Citation and Reference Style

The IJIL applies the **Chicago Manual of Style, 18th edition (author-date system)** as its official guideline for in-text citations and reference lists. To ensure accuracy and consistency, authors are required to follow this style in preparing manuscripts. The complete citation and reference guide can be [downloaded here](#).