Sufism and Philosophy: Historical Interactions and Crosspollinations
University of Birmingham, 26-27 April 2019

Conference programme

Friday 26 April

Introduction
10.00 – 10.15 Sophia Vasalou (Birmingham) and Richard Todd (Birmingham)

Session 1: Early Philosophical Sufism
10.15 – 11.00 Joseph Lumbard (Doha), “Abū Ḥāmid al-Ghazālī and the Art of Knowing”
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break
12.15 – 13.45 Lunch Break

Session 2: Philosophy and Sufism in Muslim Spain
13.45 – 14.30 Bethany Somma (Munich), “Andalusī Philosophers on Sufism and Not Living Like an Animal”
15.15-15.45 Coffee Break

Session 3: Sufism and the Avicennan Tradition
16.30 – 17.15 Giovanni Martini (Bonn), “(Fictionally) Debating with Avicenna on the Role of the Intellect: ’Alā’ al-Dawla al-Simnānī’s Criticism of Philosophy and Rational Thinking in Context”
19.00 Conference dinner (by invitation)

Saturday 27 April

Session 4: Philosophical Sufism beyond the Classical Muslim World
9.30 – 10.15 Shankar Nair (Virginia), “‘Brahman Was a Hidden Treasure, Who Loved to Be Known...’: Philosophical Sufism and the Encounter with Sanskrit Non-Dualism”
10.15 – 10.45 Coffee Break
10.45 – 11.30  Muhammad Umar Faruque (New York), “Sufism and Philosophy in the Mughal-Safavid Era: Consciousness and First-Person Subjectivity in Mullā Ṣadrā and Shāh Walī Allāh”

11.30 – 12.15  Oludamini Ogunnaike (Virginia), “Philosophical Sufism in the Sokoto Caliphate: The Case of Shaykh Dan Tafa”

12.15-13.45  Lunch Break

Session 5: Philosophy and the School of Ibn ʿArabī

14.30 – 15.15  Gregory Vandamme (Louvain), “Towards a Correlative Ontology: A New Approach to the Notions of “Being” (Wujūd) and “Fixity” (Thubūt) in Ibn ʿArabī (d. 638/1240), Through his Epistemology of ‘Perplexity’ (Ḥayra)”

Final Discussion
15.15 – 15.45 (Chair: Sophia Vasalou and Richard Todd)