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A SECULAR NEED: ISLAMIC LAW AND STATE GOVERNANCE IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

SPEAKERS:



**DR JEFFREY
A. REDDING**

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**DR MATTHEW
NELSON**

ASIA INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY
OF MELBOURNE

MODERATOR:



**DR DIAN A H
SHAH**

FACULTY OF
LAW
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF
SINGAPORE

THURSDAY
25 FEBRUARY 2021
1.30PM (SGT) (90mins)

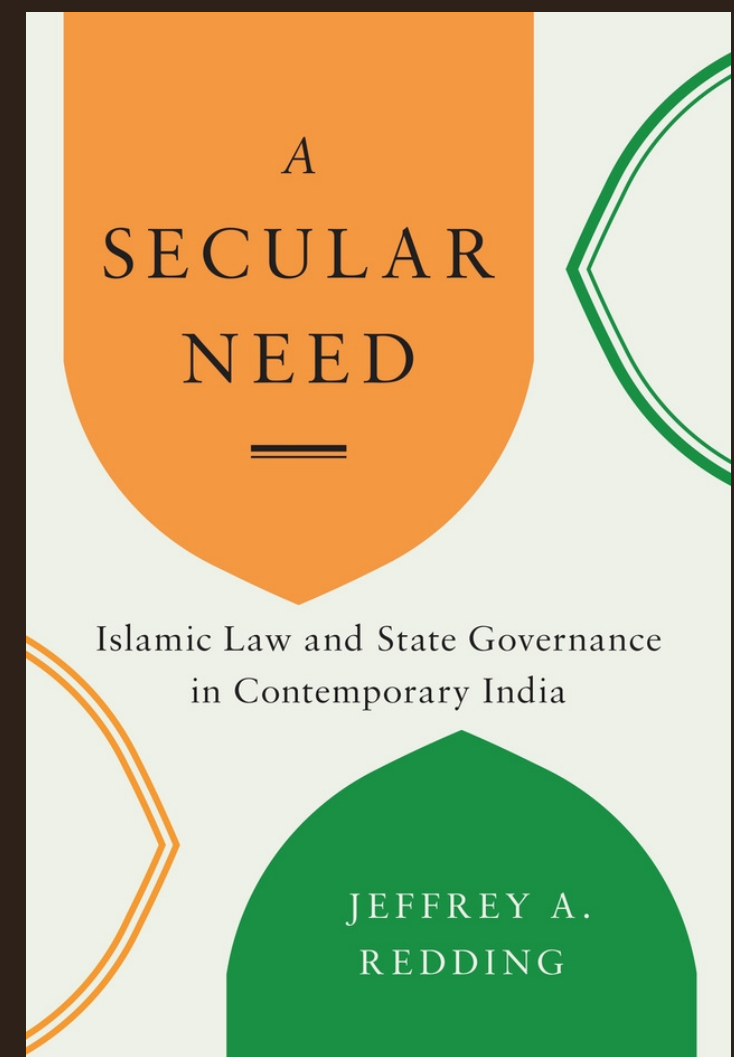
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ABSTRACT:

Many see the relationship between Islamic law and secularism as antagonistic and increasingly discordant. Jeffrey Redding's exploration of India's non-state system of Muslim dispute resolution—known as the dar-ul-qaza system and commonly referred to as “Muslim courts” or “shariat courts” — challenges conventional narratives about the inevitable opposition between Islamic law and secular forms of governance, demonstrating that Indian secular law and governance cannot work without the significant assistance of non-state Islamic legal actors.



SPEAKERS' BIOS:



DIAN A H SHAH (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)

Dian Shah is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, NUS. Her research interests include law and religion, comparative constitutional law, and human rights, and her work focuses on the interaction of law, religion, and politics in plural and divided societies. Dian is the author of *Constitutions, Religion and Politics in Asia: Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka* (CUP 2017) and the co-editor of a volume on *Law and Society in Malaysia: Pluralism, Religion and Ethnicity* (Routledge 2018). She has also published in the *International Journal of Constitutional Law* (I-CON) and *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*. She serves as Editor of the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* (AsJCL).



JEFFREY A. REDDING (THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE)

Jeff Redding is Senior Research Fellow at Melbourne Law School, with teaching and research interests in the areas of comparative law and religion, Islamic law, and law and sexuality. He has published extensively, and his publications include articles in *Modern Asian Studies*, *Modern Law Review*, and *South Asia: A Journal of South Asian Studies* (forthcoming). His next major book project will be on the multiple historical roots of the current transgender rights movement in Pakistan. He is also working on an edited volume exploring convergences between queer and religious politics in the domain of law.



MATTHEW NELSON (THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE)

Matthew J. Nelson (PhD, Columbia) is an Associate Professor in the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne. His research concerns politics, law, and Islam, with a focus on South Asia. Before arriving in Melbourne he was a Professor of Politics at SOAS, University of London; he has also held visiting appointments in New Haven (Yale), Princeton (IAS), Washington (Woodrow Wilson), and Germany (ZiF). He has served as an elected board member for the American Political Science Association (Religion and Politics), the Association for Asian Studies (South Asia Council), and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies.