

Balkan Islam and Balkan Muslims

European Perspectives. Diasporic Trajectories, Institutions, Identities

5–6 October 2026 | MISHA, 5 allée du Général Rouvillois, 67000 Strasbourg |

Convened by Samim Akgönül (akgonul@unistra.fr) and Dževada Garić (garic@unistra.fr)

Day 1 MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

09h00 Opening and keynote lecture

Baskin Oran — Emeritus Professor, Ankara University

From Majority to Minority, from Minority to Diaspora: Concepts and Realities in the Post-Ottoman Space

10h15 Coffee break

10h45 Session 1 · Institutions of Balkan Muslim Diasporas in Western Europe

Zehra Senem Demir-Dalay — University of Oxford

Constituting Religious Authority and Representation: The Islamic Community of Bosniaks in Germany

Besnik Sinani — University of Tübingen

Mosques Without Minarets: Albanian Muslim Communities in Switzerland

Dževada Garić — University of Strasbourg

Bosniaks in France and the Transnational Dynamics of Diasporic Religious Life

General debate

12h30 Lunch (buffet on site)

14h00 Session 2 · Migratory Trajectories, Return and Transnational Circulations

Kemal Nedžibović — Bosnia and Herzegovina

From Guest Workers to Organised Diaspora: Bosnian-Herzegovinians in Germany

Zeynep Akhanlı — Galatasaray University

Late-Life Return to Turkish Thrace among Pomaks: Transnational Housing and Spatial Tensions

Adriana Cupcea — Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities

Religious Soft Power in Turkey's Kin-State Policy in the Balkans: Turkish State Actors among Muslim Communities in Kosovo and Romania's Dobrogea Region

15h30 Coffee break

16h00 Session 3 · Belonging, Visibility and the Place of Balkan Islam in Europe

Ružica Čubela-Bajramović — Sarajevo School of Science and Technology

Religiously Grounded Pluralism and European Belonging: Bosnian Muslim Religious Leaders Beyond Securitised Narratives

Melik Karagöz — Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University

A Blind Spot in European Islam Literature: Balkan Bektashtis in Western Europe and Diasporic Invisibility

Artela Roshi — Transnational Crimes and Justice, University for Peace

The Albanian Diaspora and Western Law and Legal Institutions

17h30 Close of Day One

Day 2 TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

09h00 Session 4 · Women, Gender and Religious Practice

Ayça Çavdar — Koç University

Mevlî as Diasporic Practice: Memory, Gender, and Boundary-Making

Philippe Gelez — professeur des universités

L'émoi chez Nafîja Sarajlić (1893–1970) : esthétique et éthique chez les femmes de la communauté musulmane de Bosnie-Herzégovine

Samim Akgönül — University of Strasbourg

The experience of international theology for Turkish communities in Europe: gender, professionalisation and national discourse

10h30 Coffee break

11h00 Session 5 · Historical Legacies, Memory and Islamic Thought

Gianfranco Bria (Roma Tre University) and **Abdulla Rexhepi** (University of Pristina)

The Tekke of Frashër as a Network Node: Bektashism, Nationalism, and the Making of Albanian Islam

Haydar Eren Akin — Université Paris Nanterre / Istanbul University

Les métamorphoses de la légitimité religieuse et politique chez les musulmans de Bulgarie

Jeton Mehmeti (University of Graz / RIT Kosovo) and **Nora Huseinović Velju** (Kosovo)

Religious Neutrality and Muslim Visibility in Kosovo

12h30 Concluding remarks (conveners)