

## Preface

This issue of the *Scandinavian Journal of Islamic Studies* (SJIS) consists of a thematic section, an open section, and one book review. I would like to thank the authors, the editors in charge of the thematic section, and the SJIS editorial board, Jesper Petersen in particular, for their contributions to this issue.

In the thematic section, which is introduced by editors, Jenny Berglund, Laura Gilliam, and Amina Siječić Selimović on pp. 6-38, Islamic education in the minority setting of Scandinavia is at the center. The section includes five contributions by Maria Lindebæk Lyngsøe, Amna Mahmood, Synnøve Markeng, Nora S. Eggen, and Jenny Berglund, treating various aspects of religious teaching in the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

The open section presents three articles by Naveed Baig, Andreas Dohn, and Tobias Anderson. While these studies are on three rather different subjects – Islamic spiritual care, Ramadan TV, and wine poetry – they demonstrate the broad research interests and scope of scholars working within Islamic Studies in Scandinavia. In the first article, “Islamic spiritual care and negative religious coping”, Baig examines the cross-field between the psychological and the theological in different forms of coping strategies, especially focusing on what is termed “Islamic spiritual care”. Having experience as a Muslim chaplain himself, Baig offers insights into the understudied field of Islamic practical theology and such practices in Denmark (pp. 163-183). In the second article, “Ibrahim på ramadan-tv”, Dohn examines the central figure of Abraham/Ibrāhīm in contemporary Arabic cultural expressions. Through an analysis of two TV-series, *Ard al-Anbiyā'* (on al-Arabiya in 2007) and *Misr Ard al-Anbiyā'* (on

al-Ūlā, DMC, and CBC in 2020), he shows how these series work as a lens to consider different temporal, political, and religious differences and developments in the Arab world of today (pp. 184-214). The third and final article of the open section, “Islamisk vinpoesi från Ibn al-Farid till Ian Dallas” is written by Tobias Andersson. In this study, Andersson treats wine poetry through the long history of Sufism, in the works of the Egyptian poet Ibn al-Farid (d. 1285), the Moroccan Sufi-shaykh Ahmad b. ‘Ajiba (d. 1809), and the Scottish Sufi Ian Dallas (d. 2021) in particular. While these three Sufi works are separated historically, they are intertextually linked through the genre of commentary: Ibn Aijba comments on Ibn Farid, Ian Dallas on Ibn Aijba. The study places a particular focus on the didactic nature of wine poetry, its overall purpose being to teach and guide other Sufis to different spiritual states.

The issue is concluded with a book review by Vebjørn L. Horsfjord. The book read and reviewed is Mette W. Torps *Den forkerte muhammedtegner – og andre nuancer af karikaturkrisen*, which was published in 2023 by Forlaget Vandkunsten. Horsfjord provides a well-considered assessment of a non-scientific book that taps into the still controversial and ongoing debate concerning the Danish cartoon crisis.

Finally, the editorial board is happy to announce that Gustav Larsson, currently PhD fellow at Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnaeus University, is the new managing editor of SJIS. During next year, 2024, the present managing editor, Jesper Petersen, will work with Gustav Larsson to make the transition as smooth as possible.