



**MEC FRIDAY SEMINAR SERIES**

HILARY TERM 2019

*Applying shari'a in modern times:  
Some reflections from 19th century Egypt*



**Friday, 18 January – 5pm**

Investcorp Auditorium, St Antony's College

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For the past half century, implementing sharia has been a rallying cry for Islamist groups throughout the Muslim world. Judging the legal systems of various Muslim-majority countries to have been imposed by colonial powers and/or Westernized legal and political elites, many Islamists have been calling for a return to what they believe was an authentic, legal system – the shari'a. However, there is little understanding of what this shari'a consisted of or how it was applied in Muslim countries before the Western onslaught. This paper looks at a particular historical case, that of nineteenth-century Egypt, to see how precisely shari'a was applied in the field of criminal law, and asks if secularization is the best way to explain the process by which criminal law changed in a time of profound political and social transformation.



**ALL WELCOME**

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