



UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG  
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

Dear Sir, Madam,

In June, researchers and practitioners from Europe, North America and Asia working in the field of Muslim chaplaincy will meet for the first time at an international conference in Fribourg, Switzerland. The Swiss Centre for Islam and Society and the Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK are pleased to be co-hosting this conference and contributing to the strengthening of networks in this field of research. We invite you to share the information about this unique event with others and would also like to draw your attention to three publications related to the conference topic.

Hansjörg Schmid and Amir Dziri



### International Conference on Muslim Chaplaincy

From 24 to 26 June 2025, SZIG/CSIS in cooperation with Cardiff University (UK) is organizing an international conference on «Muslim Chaplaincy. Practice, Research and Recognition». The conference, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), will be held in English and will bring together renowned researchers and practitioners from around the world. We invite you to participate in the various lectures, workshops, and poster presentations. Details can be found in the now available Booklet of Abstracts. Registration is open until 15 May 2025. There are also a few remaining spots for poster presentations.

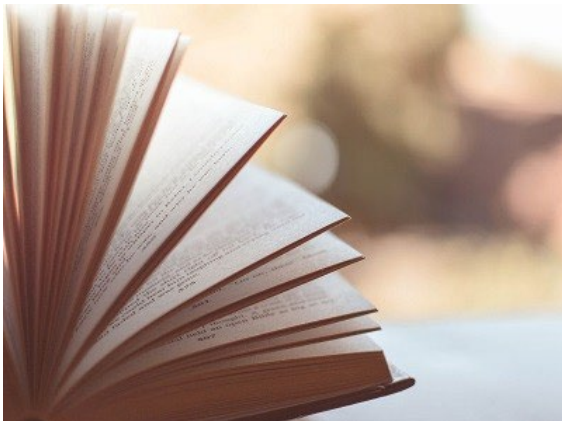
- [Link to the programme](#)
- [Link to the Booklet of Abstracts](#)
- [Link to registration](#)



### **Open-Access Article on Muslim Chaplaincy**

Muslim chaplaincy is an emergent field of research that is gaining increasing importance. The authors, Sophie Gilliat-Ray, Hansjörg Schmid, and Mansur Ali, review English-language publications in this growing area of professional religious work, particularly in Europe and the United States. They focus on three key topics in Muslim Chaplaincy Studies that have emerged from their research: the training and professionalisation of Muslim chaplains, the vocabulary and sources that underpin Muslim chaplaincy and the growing involvement of Muslim women in this field. The article has been published in the *Journal of Muslims in Europe*. It is the result of a collaboration between SZIG/CSIS and the Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK at Cardiff University, which began in 2023.

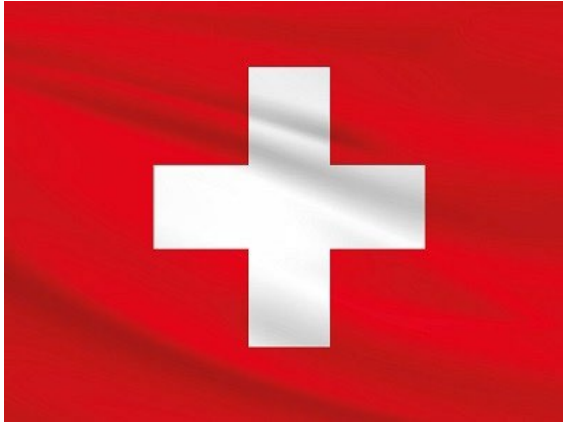
- [Link to the article](#)



### **Open-Access Article on Imams in Switzerland**

In their article «Always an Imam»: Understanding the Occupation of Imam from Theoretical Perspectives on Professions», Noemi Trucco and Asmaa Dehbi examine the activities of imams in Switzerland and highlight the various structural challenges they face in their work. Using theories of professions, the authors explain why imams in Switzerland feel stressed and overburdened. Their findings suggest that the role of the imam can be conceived as a (limited) profession, raising the question: Can the integration of women into this field help strengthen the professional status of imams?

- [Link to the article](#)



### **Country Report on Islam in Switzerland**

Brill publishes the Yearbook of Muslims in Europe annually. The report for Switzerland in 2023 was written by Mallory Schneuwly Purdie and Andreas Tunger-Zanetti. It highlights the central public debates, particularly the impact of the situation in the Middle East on Muslim communities in Switzerland, issues of secularism, legal developments and the activities of the most important Muslim organizations.

- [Link to the country report on Switzerland](#)

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