Contributions and Editorial Correspondence

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Manuscript Preparation and Style

General. An article must be in English and may not exceed 10,000 words or thirty-five double-spaced pages in 12-point font (including main text, endnotes, tables, and figure captions) with 1-inch margins on all sides. Authors should submit the manuscript as an email attachment using a standard word-processing program. The entire manuscript—including notes, tables, and references—must be typed double-spaced and numbered consecutively. IJMES follows a double-blind peer review process, so authors must avoid putting their names in headers or footers and avoid any references to themselves in the body or the endnotes such as might betray their identity to referees. Selected citations of the author’s well known published work may be included only if the absence of such citations would be conspicuous. Submissions should not include acknowledgments, but these can be added later if the manuscript is accepted. All submissions must include a 150-word abstract and a cover email or letter that includes the author’s name, academic discipline and institutional affiliation (if any), land-mail address, telephone number, and e-mail address. The Journal conforms to the Chicago Manual of Style, 15th Edition. Transliteration follows a modified Encyclopedia of Islam system, which is detailed on this page. The editor may return manuscripts that do not conform to the guidelines.

Text. The start of the article and each section should be flush left; other paragraphs should be indented. Do not use desktop publishing features (justified text, bold and underlined fonts, etc.). Block indent long quotations (more than 50 words). Never cross-reference.

Spelling and Punctuation. Use American spelling: color, not colour; analyze, not analyse; traveling, not travelling. Use serial commas: blue, green, and yellow. For quotations, use American style formatting, which puts the final period or comma inside the quotation marks, for example, “Gandhi said, ‘Poverty is the worst form of violence.’” For capitalizations, check the dictionary; when in doubt, do not capitalize. Examples: President Obama; president of the United States; the president.
Numbers and Dates. Spell out whole numbers, cardinal and ordinal, from one to one hundred; for exceptions see the Chicago Manual of Style. For percentiles, use numbers but spell out “percent,” for example, 20 percent, except in tables and parentheses where it should be 20%. In both text and endnotes, use European, not American, date format, for example, 8 February 2010. Use 20th century, not twentieth century; 1990s, not 1990’s or the nineties. Do not use double dating; use common era (A.D.) dates only, unless quoting from an original source, in which case use the date as quoted (e.g., hijra) with the common-era equivalent in brackets.

Notes and References. Notes must be numbered consecutively throughout the text using Arabic numerals, double-spaced, and grouped together as endnotes following the text. Footnotes and in-text citations are not permitted, nor are bibliographies. All titles in non-Roman alphabets (Arabic, Cyrillic, etc.) must be transliterated and should follow English-language capitalization rules. Foreign titles in Roman alphabets (French, German, etc.) should follow the capitalization rules of that particular language. English translations of foreign language titles may be provided at the author’s discretion. Internet references must include a full URL and an accessed date. Cities of publication should include the country or U.S. state (e.g., Calif., Mass., N.Y.), except for major cities (Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York). The style of note citations should conform to the following examples:


When references to the same work follow without interruption, use ibid. When notes to the same work follow after interruption, use the author’s last name and a shortened title of the book or article. Do not use op. cit.:

6 Shaw, History of the Ottoman Empire, 2:6.

7 Ibid., 1:10–52.


9 Otis Glazebrook to the U.S. State Department, “Increase in Cost of Living Caused by War,” 3 November 1915, consular correspondence, American consulate in Jerusalem, record group 84, Vol. 72, National Archives at College Park, College Park, Md. (NACP).
Foreign Words and Transliteration. If an English term exists for a word, use it. All technical terms from languages written in non-Roman alphabets must be italicized and fully transliterated with diacritical marks (macrons and dots), for example, qasida. A technical term is defined as a word not found in Merriam–Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary or a multiword phrase, excluding titles and proper nouns. Diacritical marks, as well as the letters ayn and hamza, should be inserted using a Unicode font, preferably Jaghubb Uni. For more information and to download the font, see the Author Resources page of the IJMES editorial office website: http://ijmes.chass.ncsu.edu. Words that are found in Merriam–Webster’s should be spelled as they appear there and not treated as technical terms. They should have no diacritics, nor should they be italicized—for example, mufti, jihad, shaykh. See the IJMES Word List on our editorial office website for exceptions that preserve ayn and hamza, for example, Qur an, shari a, ulama. Diacritics should not be added to personal names, place names, names of political parties and organizations, or titles of books and articles. These words should be spelled in accordance with the IJMES transliteration system but without diacritics. However, ayn and hamza should be preserved in all these cases, and should be clearly distinguished from one another, preferably by inserting the symbols  and using the Jaghbub Uni font. Personal and place names with accepted English spellings should be spelled in accordance with English norms, for example, Yasir Arafat, Baalbek, Damascus. This rule applies to cities of publication in citations. Names of living individuals may be spelled according to their preferred English spelling. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their transliterations.

Transliteration System. For Arabic and Persian, IJMES uses a modified Encyclopedia of Islam system, which is detailed in the Transliteration Chart in the Author Resources section of this website: http://ijmes.chass.ncsu.edu. Note that tā’ marbūta is rendered a not ah, except in Persian, where it should be ih; in Arabic idāfa constructions, it is rendered at. The feminine nisba ending is rendered -iyya (iyyih in Persian). Inseparable prefixes in Arabic are connected with what follows by a hyphen: bi-, wa-, li-, and la-. When one of these prefixes is followed by al, the a will elide, forming a contraction rendered as wa-l-, bi-l-, li-l-, and la-l-. The definite article al- is lowercase everywhere, except when it appears as the first word of a sentence or endnote. When an Arabic name is shortened to just the surname, the al- is retained; for example, Hasan al-Banna becomes al-Banna. Connectors in names—such as bin, ben, abu, and so forth—are lowercase only when preceded by a name, e.g. Osama bin Laden, but Bin Laden, Ibn Khaldun. Follow English capitalization rules for transliterated titles; capitalize all major terms, but not articles, prefixes, coordinating conjunctions, or prepositions. Use italics to indicate a book, newspaper, or periodical. Do not add diacritical marks, but do preserve ayn and hamza (except for initial hamza, which is dropped), for example, Faysal al-Tafriqa bayn al-Islam wa-l-Zandaqa and al-Di’ aya ila Sabil al-Mu minin. For Ottoman Turkish, either transliterate according to our chart or use modern Turkish orthography consistently. Persian must be transliterated using the IJMES system, not that of the Encyclopedia Iranica, so i and u must be used, not e and o. The Persian izafat is rendered —i.
Tables, Figures, and Images. Tables, figures, and images must be cited in the text, for example (see Table 1). They should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals, captioned, and appear as a unit at the end of the article. They should not be interspersed in the text. Diagrams must be professionally rendered or computer generated; details should be large enough to remain legible at 50% reduction. When appropriate, photos may be submitted with a manuscript. Their use will be at the editor’s discretion. All images should be submitted in electronic format. For halftones or other illustrations, consult the editor.

Publishing Information

Production. The publisher reserves the right to copyedit manuscripts to conform to the journal’s style, which generally follows the rules found in the Chicago Manual of Style. Spelling will be edited to conform to American usage and Merriam–Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary.

The lead author will receive a link to page proofs for the correction of typographical or factual errors only. No rewriting will be allowed in the proof stage. Authors must return the material to the editorial office within 48 hours of receipt or approval will be assumed.

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