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SEIT 1386

# The Making of History Islamic: Memory and Narrative in Early Muslim South Asian Expansion

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When al-Hajjaj b. Yusuf supposedly shouted “*Ya Labbaik!*” (lit. “I am here for You [God]!”) in reply to the helpless cries of Muslim women who had allegedly been captured at sea by pirates, and when, in 711, he sent his nephew Muhammad ibn al-Qasim to liberate and avenge those women, no one could have possibly known that this would herald in nearly 1,000 years of Muslim rule in South Asia. Although this episode was placed by Muslim historiographer al-Baladhuri (d. 892) more than a decade before the campaign, his account became “the totemic origins narrative framing Muslim arrival in India.”

The presentation will trace the historicity of such an origins narrative and its narrative tools, also in comparison with similar foundational events, and elaborate possible reasons for its durability and might to silence alternative narratives.

*Jamal Malik is Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Erfurt. A member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Vienna, and the Fellow Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, UK, he works on Islam in South Asia and Muslims in Europe. His last monograph is Islam in South Asia (Brill 2008 and Orient Blackswan 2012), a revised version of which is in press with Brill 2020. Malik is co-editor of Sufism East and West: Mystical Islam and Cross-cultural Exchange in the Modern World (Brill 2019) and of Culture of Da'wa: Islamic Preaching in the Modern World (The Utah University Press, forthcoming).*

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Raum 010.00.06  
**Time:** 4 pm / 16 Uhr c.t.

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