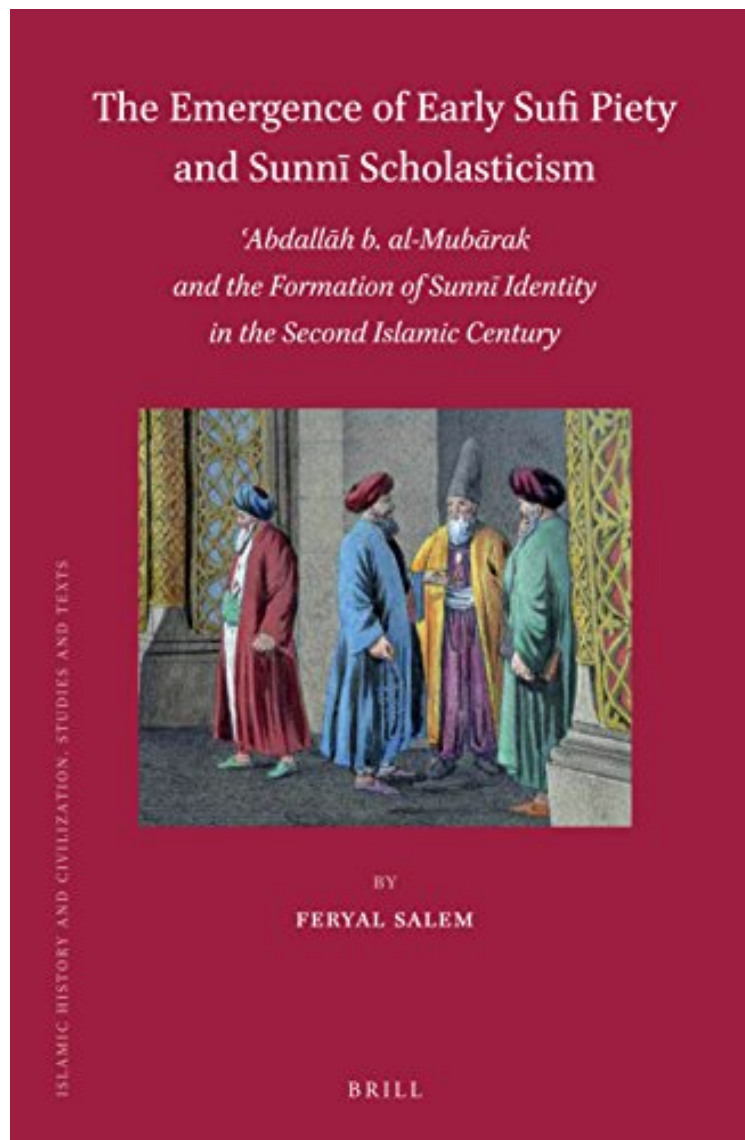


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The Emergence of Early Sufi Piety and Sunn Scholasticism: abdallh B. Al-Mubrak and the Formation of Sunni Identity in the ... Century (Islamic History and Civilization)

Feryal Salem

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Scholasticism: Abdallah B. Al-Mubrak and the Formation of Sunni Identity in the ... Century (Islamic History and Civilization):

In the figure of Abdallah b. al-Mubrak (118-181/736-797), we find a paragon of the fields of adth, zuhd, and jihd, as attested to by the large number of references to him in the classical Islamic texts. His superior rank as a adth transmitter earned him the title "commander of the faithful" in adth. He contributed to Islamic law at its early phases of development, practiced jihd, composed poetry, and participated in various theological discussions. In addition, Ibn al-Mubrak was a pioneer in writing on piety and was later regarded by many mystics as one of the earliest figures of Sufism. Ibn al-Mubrak's position during the formative period of Islamic thought illustrates the unique evolution of zuhd, adth, and jihd; these form a junction in the biography of Ibn al-Mubrak in a way that distinctively illuminates the second/eighth-century dynamics of nascent Sunn identity. Furthermore, Ibn al-Mubrak's status as a fighter and pious figure of the Late Antique period reveals a great deal about the complex relationship between the early Muslim community and the religiously diverse setting which it inhabited. This critical and comprehensive monograph of Abdallah b. al-Mubrak situates him within the larger context of the social and religious milieu of Late Antiquity. It explores the formation of Sunn identity in the second Islamic century and demonstrates the way in which it manifested itself through networks of pious scholars who defined, preserved, and passed on what they understood to be normative Islamic practice and beliefs from one generation of Muslim intellectuals to another.

About the Author Feryal Salem, PhD (University of Chicago, 2013) is Assistant Professor of Islamic Scriptures and Law at the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary.