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INSTITUT FÜR DEN NAHEN UND MITTLEREN OSTEN  
LEHRSTUHL FÜR ARABISTIK UND ISLAMWISSENSCHAFT



## 12<sup>TH</sup> MEDIA WORKSHOP

# Female Qur'an Recitation and Social Media Practices in Nigeria and Beyond

## Lecture by Rahina Muazu

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The rise of media technologies has transformed how Qur'an recitation is encountered and lived. Social media spaces like Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram have become new "sacred spaces" where the sound of the recited Qur'an is heard and experienced, not only through the male voices but the females'. Female Qur'an reciters from Nigeria, Senegal, Malaysia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Germany etc. have appropriated these digital platforms

into holy spaces where their recitations are disseminated. Female voices of beautifully chanted Qur'an are uploaded, downloaded, shared and "sold". This is unprecedented. Female reciters like the Malaysian Sharifa Khasif is giving Qur'an lessons through her social media pages and accounts from a private jet. While this is viewed as a way of gaining reward from Allah (thawab), it has also led to a contestation over the nudity of the female voice (awra), body and space.