Shari`a or “divine law” is central to the faith and practice of the religion of Islam. It also - through the medium of scholarly jurisprudence or *fiqh* - framed the legal system and much of the everyday law of innumerable Islamic states for a millennium. But, starting in the 19th century, the legal functions of Shari`a and *fiqh* were suddenly and vastly diminished as most Muslim countries westernized their laws and legal systems. This lecture asks how today, one to two centuries after this transformation, Muslims’ perceptions of - and expectations for - Shari`a and *fiqh* may have shifted as a result, and what are some of the possible consequences of such a shift.

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