A rare dialogue with world-renowned Professor Wael B. Hallaq on Shariah, morality, modernity, and political philosophy. Invitees must RSVP, as spots are limited. This is a unique opportunity to engage in an intimate conversation with Professor Hallaq, named in 2009 one of the 500 most influential scholars of Islam in the world. In this dialogue, we hope to redefine Shariah in a different light, beyond what is depicted in both media and the classroom. We will ask, "Is Shariah truly best defined as 'Islamic law'?" and "How do we concretely define 'modernity'?", and then move into a more nuanced, contextualized, and thoughtful discussion -- driven and directed by participants in conjunction with Professor Hallaq -- as to whether or not an understanding of Shariah necessitates an understanding also of the modern context. If so, how? In contrast, does an understanding of the modern context necessitate an understanding of Shariah, or at least of its rational/moral foundations? The conversation may also lead into discussing whether The Holy Qur'an can be understood as a post-modern, rational basis for morality. Professor Hallaq's latest book is The Impossible State: Islam, Politics, and Modernity's Moral Predicament.

Sponsored by the Columbia Muslim Students Association and the Columbia Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies.

More info on the Columbia MSA website and Facebook.