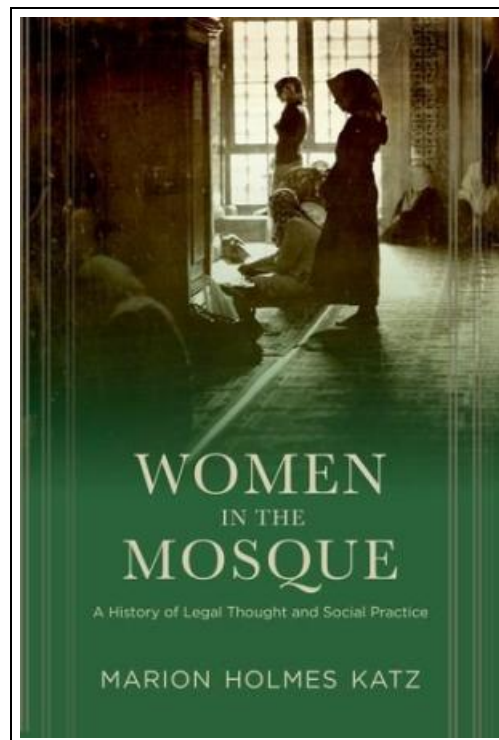


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Reviews

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Columbia University Press, United States, 2014. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Juxtaposing Muslim scholars debates over women s attendance in mosques with historical descriptions of women s activities within Middle Eastern and North African mosques, Marion Holmes Katz shows how over the centuries legal scholars arguments have often reacted to rather than dictated Muslim women s behavior. Tracing Sunni legal positions on women in mosques from the second century of the Islamic calendar to the modern period, Katz connects shifts in scholarly terminology and argumentation to changing constructions of gender. Over time, assumptions about women s changing behavior through the lifecycle gave way to a global preoccupation with sexual temptation, which then became the central rationale for limits on women s mosque access. At the same time, travel narratives, biographical dictionaries, and religious polemics suggest that women s usage of mosque space often diverged in both timing and content from the ritual models constructed by scholars. Katz demonstrates both the concrete social and political implications of Islamic legal discourse and the autonomy of women s mosque-based activities. She also examines women s mosque access as a trope in Western travelers narratives and the evolving significance of women s mosque attendance among different Islamic currents in the twentieth century.



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