

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910453659603321
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Titolo	The canonization of Islamic law : a social and intellectual history // Ahmed El Shamsy, the University of Chicago [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-139-89335-1 1-107-42544-1 1-107-42325-2 1-107-42014-8 1-107-54607-9 1-107-42151-9 1-139-64971-X 1-107-41752-X 1-107-41882-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (ix, 253 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	340.5/9
Soggetti	Islamic law - History Canonization
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Part I. Cultural Remembrance Transformed: chapter 1. Tradition under Siege; chapter 2. Debates on Hadith and Consensus; chapter 3. From Local Community to Universal Canon -- part. II. Community In Crisis: chapter 4. Status, Power, and Social Upheaval; chapter 5. Scholarship between Persecution and Patronage -- part. III. Foundations of a New Community: chapter 6. Authorship, Transmission, and Intertextuality; chapter 7. A Community of Interpretation; chapter 8. Canonization beyond the Shafii School.
Sommario/riassunto	The Canonization of Islamic Law tells the story of the birth of classical Islamic law in the eighth and ninth centuries CE. It shows how an oral normative tradition embedded in communal practice was transformed into a systematic legal science defined by hermeneutic analysis of a clearly demarcated scriptural canon. This transformation was

inaugurated by the innovative legal theory of Muhammad b. Idris al-Shafi'i (d. 820 CE), and it took place against the background of a crisis of identity and religious authority in ninth-century Egypt. By tracing the formulation, reception, interpretation and spread of al-Shafi'i's ideas, the author demonstrates how the canonization of scripture that lay at the heart of al-Shafi'i's theory formed the basis for the emergence of legal hermeneutics, the formation of the Sunni schools of law, and the creation of a shared methodological basis in Muslim thought.
