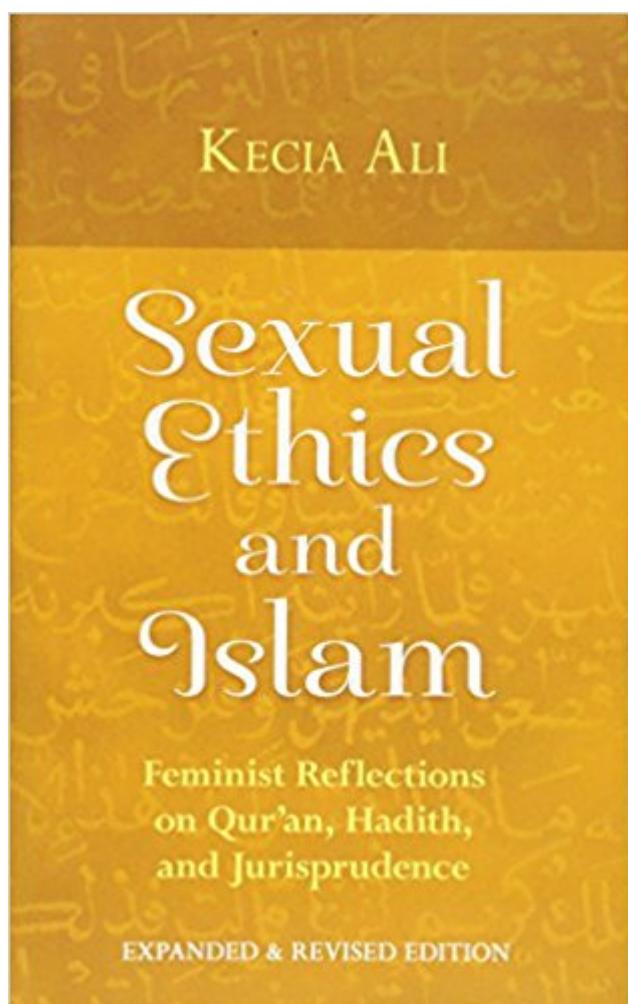


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# Sexual Ethics And Islam: Feminist Reflections On Qur'an, Hadith And Jurisprudence



## **Synopsis**

Whether exploring the thorny issues of wives' sexual duties, divorce, homosexuality, or sex outside marriage, discussions of sexual ethics and Islam often spark heated conflict rather than reasoned argument. In this updated and expanded edition of her ground-breaking work, feminist Muslim scholar Dr Kecia Ali asks how one can determine what makes sex lawful and ethical in the sight of God. Drawing on both revealed and interpretative Muslim texts, Ali critiques medieval and contemporary commentators alike to produce a balanced and comprehensive study of a subject both sensitive and urgent, making this an invaluable resource for students, scholars, and interested readers.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

'It's great to have a new edition of this foundational work in Muslim feminism that, ten years down the road, widens and deepens the important questions raised by the first edition.' Dr. Judith Plaskow, Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at Manhattan College; 'It's great to have a new edition of this foundational work in Muslim feminism that, ten years down the road, widens and deepens the important questions raised by the first edition.' (Dr. Judith Plaskow, Professor Emerita of Religious Studies at Manhattan College); 'An important and daring book. It not only deals with deeply controversial issues, but also suggests principled and ethical answers within an Islamic framework.' (Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini, legal anthropologist, activist and a founding member of Musawah, the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family); 'Compulsory reading for anyone interested in grappling with the enormously challenging questions of sexual

ethics in contemporary Islam.â™(Ebrahim Moosa, Professor of Islamic Studies, University of Notre Dame)&#145;For too long debates over sexuality and religion have lapsed into a &#145;donâ™t ask-donâ™t tellâ™ state of mind. Professor Ali is willing to ask the tough questions.â™(Contemporary Islam Journal)"Ali is willing to ask the tough questions. A refreshing analysis of sexual ethics in Islam."(The Globe and Mail)"This book is a vigorous and engaging contribution to a very important dialog."(American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences)"With unwavering focus, clarity and scholarly confidence, Dr. Ali advances our understanding of profound ethical questions far beyond the apologetics and polemics of current Islamic discourse."(Abdullahi An-Naim - Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University)

Dr. Kecia Ali is Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University. Her other books include *The Lives of Muhammad*, *Marriage and Slavery in Early Islam*, and *Imam Shafi'i: Scholar and Saint*.

The information was interesting and very understandable, especially for someone like myself who doesn't know very much about Islam. It did a great job at teaching information as well as showing a different point of view. Though it was a little dry at parts, the book put a lot of information into a small amount of space.

Somewhat biased but, overall, a well done book on the topic.

This is very likely to be regarded as a seminal work in the field of Islamic feminism and should (to my mind) be compulsory reading for all who wish to understand the hugely complex issues surrounding sex, ownership, consent, and marriage in Islam (both Muslims and non-Muslims commentating on Islam). Dr. Ali elucidates in a way that is accessible to non-experts and keeps the reader engaged throughout--providing a good balance of analysis and commentary along the way. The book covers a wide scope (marriage, slavery, same-sex relations, modern feminist exegesis, and the context of the rise of groups like IS) which makes it all the more important to read. Highly recommend!

Ali updates her illuminating exploration of sexual ethics in Islam, as related to marriage, divorce, concubinage and slavery, homosexuality, circumcision, equality, and more. She explores the evolution of morality and custom as a process of collective deliberation that has led to important changes through the centuries. Her dedication to fair-minded consideration for all views makes the

writing more complex than any argument for a particular set of principles. Instead of pushing answers, she raises good questions: "Who determines what is basic and cannot be changed? On what basis? Are their arguments logical and consistent? What assumptions undergird them? What hierarchies and power structures do they in turn support? What does 'respect' or 'equality' or 'justice' look like? Who decides?" (p. 202)

This is absolutely essential reading for anyone interested in Islam and gender. Raises important questions that have been picked up by other writers afterward. My students found this exciting, challenging, and thought-provoking. Should be listed in 's Women in Islam list.

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