

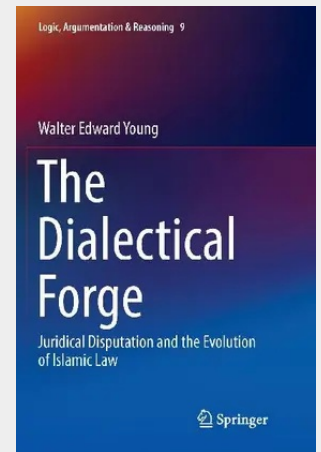
The Dialectical Forge

Juridical Disputation and the Evolution of Islamic Law

The Dialectical Forge identifies dialectical disputation (*jadāl*) as a primary formative dynamic in the evolution of pre-modern Islamic legal systems, promoting dialectic from relative obscurity to a more appropriate position at the forefront of Islamic legal studies. The author introduces and develops a dialectics-based analytical method for the study of pre-modern Islamic legal argumentation, examines parallels and divergences between Aristotelian dialectic and early juridical *jadāl*-theory, and proposes a multi-component paradigm—the Dialectical Forge Model—to account for the power of *jadāl* in shaping Islamic law and legal theory. In addition to overviews of current evolutionary narratives for Islamic legal theory and dialectic, and expositions on key texts, this work shines an analytical light upon the considerably sophisticated “proto-system” of juridical dialectical teaching and practice evident in Islam’s second century, several generations before the first “full-system” treatises of legal and dialectical theory were composed. This proto-system is revealed from analyses of dialectical sequences in the 2/8 century *Kitāb Ikhtilāf al-ʿIraqiyyin / ʿIraqiyyayn* (the “subject-text”) through a lens molded from 5/11 century *jadāl*-theory treatises (the “lens-texts”). Specific features thus uncovered inform the elaboration of a Dialectical Forge Model, whose more general components and functions are explored in closing chapters.

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