Focusing on religiously active Mappila Muslim men from Malabar region of Malayalam speaking south Indian state of Kerala, this lecture seeks to contextualise Islamic masculinity in the contemporary discourse of Kerala modernity through historically tracing the emergence of diverse narratives on Mappila Muslim identity and, in particular, masculinity. Hence, the lecture explores what historical and contemporary body politics shape how Muslim male bodies are perceived, valued, and regulated. This inquiry is carried out through surveying diverse corpuses of vernacular literatures, colonial and post-colonial historiography, academic writings, print and visual media articles, and mass media.

Mr. Muhammadali P. Kasim is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, with a specialization in the field of men and masculinities. Having been selected for Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research (FNDR) fellowship supported by Institute of International Education (IIE), he is currently affiliated with the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities (CSMM), State University of New York (SUNY) – Stony Brook as a visiting researcher. Prior to his doctoral program, he obtained his M.Phil. degree from the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad where he submitted a dissertation titled “Imagining the Malayalee Muslim Woman: A Post-Secular Reading of Khadija Mumtas’ Athuram and Barsa”. He earned his Masters in English and comparative Literature, and a PG Diploma in Journalism from Pondicherry University, and both BA and B.Ed. from the University of Calicut. Previously he taught English to high school students and undergrads. His research interest includes men and masculinities, gender and women, sociology of religion, and postcolonial and decolonial studies.