

## CSLS SPEAKER SERIES

Monday, October 4, 2021

**MARK MASSOUD**

Professor of Legal Studies, UC Santa Cruz

*Shari'a, Inshallah:  
Finding God in Somali Legal Politics*  
([Cambridge University Press, 2021](#))

Western analysts have long denigrated Islamic states as antagonistic, even antithetical, to the rule of law. Mark Fathi Massoud tells a different story: for nearly 150 years, the Somali people have embraced shari'a, commonly translated as Islamic law, in the struggle for national identity and human rights. Lawyers, community leaders, and activists throughout the Horn of Africa have invoked God to oppose colonialism, resist dictators, expel warlords, and to fight for gender equality - all critical steps on the path to the rule of law. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, archival research, and 142 interviews, Massoud upends the conventional account of secular legal progress and demonstrates instead how faith in a higher power guides people toward the rule of law.

PLACE Zoom - [Register here for the zoom link.](#)  
TIME 12:45 - 2:00pm.  
INFO <https://www.csls.berkeley.edu>

If you require an accommodation for effective communication (ASL interpreting/CART captioning, alternative media formats, etc.) to fully participate in this event, please contact [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu) with as much advance notice as possible and at least 7-10 days in advance of the event.