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Convivencia: A model for Living Together?
A J-Term Course given at NYU Abu Dhabi in Madrid (2018)

Course description: How is it possible that different cultures, religions and civilizations come together without clashing? “Convivencia” has become a new term of formulating this need for a peaceful way to live together, hereby referring to historical experiences. A long period in Spanish history, namely al-Andalus, has been characterized by this concept convivencia. Is it a pure myth? Or merely an ideology? What are the realistic elements in this naming of convivencia as an analytical category? Understanding this historical situation and its normative context, in particular whether there has been a “constitution of convivencia”, through the legal figure of dhimmi may help transfer those experiences as connubium, commercium and commensality. A careful reading of these examples may lead to cautious propositions for finding some interesting solutions to ethnic, religious and civilizational tensions in a world that lives through communication and societal interchange in the “global age”.