

***Meriem El Haitami*** [meriem.elhaitami@gmail.com] is a doctoral student at the University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah in Fez, Morocco, and her research is affiliated with the Moroccan Cultural Studies Centre in the English department. Her studies which address the dynamics of female religious authority and activism in contemporary Morocco, explore how, in present day Morocco, women are establishing themselves in a variety of religious leadership roles ranging from official female preachers (*murshidat*) and religious scholars (*'alimat*), to Sufi affiliates and political leaders. Currently, Ms El Haitami is a Fulbright research scholar and student of political science and sociology at Binghamton University, SUNY. Her research interests focus on exploring the interaction(s) between gender and religion and the extent to which both discourses affect each other to create heterogeneous voices, which challenge and negotiate social conventions and patriarchal interpretations of Islam, and suggest redefinition of religious identity and the modalities of Moroccan Islam. Her research also explores female religiosities within transnational Moroccan Sufi orders. In 2009, she earned a Master's degree in cultural studies - cultures and identities in Morocco, from the University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah, Fez, Morocco. Ms El Haitami has participated in a number of academic conferences in Morocco. She presented a paper at a conference at Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey, on "Female Mosque Preachers and the Negotiation of Female Religious Authority in Contemporary Morocco."