

## Hadith Studies from the Perspective of Contemporary Methodologies: Investigating Dating Methods among Orientalists and Their Innovations

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### Abstract

Over time, Western Islamic scholars' approaches to Hadith studies—including their research questions, methodologies, and theoretical frameworks—have undergone significant evolution. As a result, understanding Orientalist methods of dating Hadiths, along with their key concepts and terminology, as well as assessing the effectiveness of these approaches in authenticating or dismissing narrations, has become an essential area of research. This study adopts a descriptive-analytical methodology, relying extensively on library-based sources. It begins by defining and explaining various types and methods of Hadith dating as innovative scientific tools that open new pathways for Hadith comprehension. Subsequently, it introduces the most important concepts and applied terminology in this field. Findings demonstrate that employing Hadith dating methods—particularly the integrated analysis of both chain of transmission (isnād) and text (matn)—yields substantial results. These include revealing discrepancies in transmission chains (asanīd) and various narrational paths (ṭuruq), often through visual mapping of transmission networks; reconstructing the textual evolution of Hadiths by examining multiple source

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documents; accessing biographical information (rijāl) and translations of narrators; understanding historical contexts; and recovering narrators' intellectual perspectives embedded within the texts, sometimes presented as explanatory notes. Furthermore, developing a precise understanding of foundational knowledge and emerging terminology in Hadith dating methodology represents another important outcome of this research.

**Keywords:** Contemporary Hadith Research Methods; Dating of Hadiths; Newly Emerged Concepts and Terminologies; Motzki.

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