The sensory turn in many areas of the humanities has so far failed to make a decisive impression on the study of Muslim cultures in historical perspective. However, in the last couple of years there has been a rise in interest in historical manifestations of the Muslim sensorium, as is demonstrated by a series of symposia devoted to the topic on both sides of the Atlantic, several large-scale research projects, as well as multiple ongoing publication projects, including a 2022 Special Issue of The Senses & Society and a multi-author Reader in Islamic Sensory History (forthcoming in Brill’s Handbook of Oriental Studies series, ed. Adam Bursi and Christian Lange). In this talk, I aim to summarize these recent developments, provide insights from a number of case studies, describe the challenges involved, and formulate some ambitions for the future study of Islamic sensory history.

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