Islamism versus Post-Islamism? Mapping topographies of Islamic political and cultural practices and discourses

International Conference

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Speakers:
(in alphabetical order)

Katajun Amirpur is Professor of Islamic Studies at Hamburg University. Her areas of research are: Islam & gender and reformist approaches to the Qur'an. Her most recent monograph is Den Islam neu denken. Der Dschihad für Demokratie, Freiheit und Frauenrechte.

Monika Arnez is Assistant Professor in Austronesian Studies at the Department of Southeast Asian Languages and Cultures, Hamburg University. Her research focuses on such topics as Islam as related to social practices and the environment, youth movements, gender and literature in maritime Southeast Asia. Besides two edited volumes on Indonesian theatre (2013) and representations of morality and sexuality in narratives of the Malay world (2011), she has published articles about the transformation of gender dynamics in Indonesia, the propagation of Islam through narratives, women's empowerment in Muslim mass organizations and religion and everyday life in Indonesia.

Robert R. Bianchi is a political scientist and an international lawyer with special interests in China and the Islamic world. He received his PhD and law degrees at the University of Chicago. He has taught at the University of Chicago, Nanjing University, Qatar University, the American University in Cairo, and the University of Pennsylvania. He frequently advises American foreign policy agencies, international organizations and corporations, and foreign governments on defense and security, transnational finance, and political and legal reform. His most recent book, Islamic Globalization: Pilgrimage, Capitalism, Democracy, and Diplomacy (World Scientific Publishing, 2013), examines Muslim countries’ growing importance in creating a more inclusive and multicultural international system. His previous books include Guests of God: Pilgrimage and Politics in the Islamic World (Oxford University Press, 2004), Unruly Corporatism: Associational Life in Twentieth-Century Egypt (Oxford University Press, 1989), and Interest Groups and Political Development in Turkey (Princeton University Press, 1984).

Dana Fennert read political science and philosophy at the University of Rostock. She worked as project assistant and research fellow with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in their Rabat office (Morocco). She was awarded a scholarship in the DFG graduate school "Kulturkontakt und Wissenschaftsdiskurs" at the University of Rostock. From 2010 until 2013 she was a Gerda Henkel scholar working on her dissertation under the guidance of Professor Claudia Derichs, which was based on a project entitled "Transnational Advocacy Networks of Muslim Women: Organisations, Goals and Counter-movements on the National and Transnational Level" at the Philipps University of Marburg.

Kristina Großmann currently holds a position as Assistant Professor in Comparative Development and Cultural Studies of Southeast Asia at the University Passau, Germany. Main research interests are: gender, Islam, Sharia, activism, civil society organizations (CSO), transformation processes, peace and conflict studies, processes of modernity and globalization in Indonesia. Recent publications include the book Gender, Islam, Aktivismus. Handlungsräume muslimischer Aktivistinnen nach dem Tsunami in Aceh [Gender, Islam, Activism. Scopes of Acting of Muslim Activists in Aceh after the Tsunami] (2013, published by regiospectra in Berlin) and the forthcoming book chapter "Women’s rights activists and the drafting process of the Islamic Criminal Law (Qanun Jinayat)", which will be published in: David, Kloos/ Feener, Michael/ Samuels, Annemarie (eds.), Islam and the Limits of the State: Reconfigurations of Ritual, Doctrine, Community and Authority in Contemporary Aceh (Leiden: Brill).

Pierre Hecker is a lecturer at the Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) at the Philipps University of Marburg. He is the author of the book Turkish Metal: Music, Meaning, and Morality in a Muslim Society, (Ashgate, 2012) and is currently working on a joint research project entitled "Popular Culture and post-Islamist Lifestyle Politics".
Gudrun Kraemer is Professor of Islamic Studies and Director of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies at the Free University of Berlin. She specializes in the history of the Arab Middle East and modern Islamic discourse, and she has published extensively on Islam, pluralism, tolerance and secularity.

Dominik Müller is a research fellow at the Cluster of Excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders" at Goethe University Frankfurt, and was recently a DAAD post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford University, USA. His dissertation Islam, Politics and Youth in Malaysia: The Pop-Islamist Reinvention of PAS received the Frobenius Society’s Research Award 2012 and will be published by Routledge (Contemporary Southeast Asia Series) in 2014.

Norshahril Saat is PhD Candidate at the Department of Political and Social Change, School of International Political, and Strategic Studies, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. He is a recipient of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) Post-graduate Scholarship 2011. A graduate of National University of Singapore (NUS), he was also a recipient of the prestigious Tun Dato Sir Cheng Lock Tan MA scholarship from Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) and also the National University of Singapore MA scholarship in 2008.

Karima El Ouazghari has since 2009 been Research Associate at the Peace Research Institute (PRIF) and a lecturer at Technische Universität Darmstadt. She recently completed her PhD dissertation "Islamist’s Evolution: The Jordanian Islamic Action Front and the Tunisian An-Nahdha within Changing Opportunity Structures." Her expertise and research interests include Near and Middle Eastern politics, political Islam, Islamist movements and democratization (especially in Jordan and Tunisia) and social movement theory.

Emin Poljarevic is a Visiting Scholar at the University of Edinburgh (2013-2014). His research there aims at analyzing Islamist social mobilization in Egypt and Tunisia in the aftermath of the 2010/2011 popular uprisings. Previously, he worked as a research assistant and project coordinator at the Uppsala University (2004-2007). He was also a visiting assistant professor at the SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen (2010/11). His publications include articles on Salafism, Islamism and social agency including numerous entries on political Islam and history of social movement mobilization in Muslim majority societies. His current research interests intersect between social movement studies, the study of state repression, dynamics of social motivations and social agency. At the same time, he is developing a research project intended to explore patterns of identity changes among Muslim youth and dynamics of social in/exclusion of ethnic minorities in Scandinavia.

Susanne Schröter is Professor for the Anthropology of Colonial and Postcolonial Orders at the Goethe University Frankfurt. Until 2008, she was Professor of Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Passau. Her research interests include: cultural and political transformations in the Islamic world, Islamic feminism, and challenges of multiple modernities. Recent publications include: Gender and Islam in Southeast Asia. Women’s Rights Movements, Religious Resurgence and Local Tradition (Leiden: Brill, 2013); Geschlechtergerechtigkeit durch Demokratisierung? Transformationen und Restaurationen von Genderverhältnissen in der islamischen Welt (Bielefeld: Transcript, 2013); „Tunesien. Vom Staatsfeminismus zum revolutionären Islamismus“. In: Schröter, Susanne (ed.): Geschlechtergerechtigkeit durch Demokratisierung? Transformationen und Restaurationen von Genderverhältnissen in der islamischen Welt (Bielefeld: Transcript, S. 17-44, 2013, (with Sonia Zayed))

Rüdiger Seesemann is Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Bayreuth (Germany). Specializing in the study of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, he has done extensive research in various West and East African countries (most notably Senegal, Sudan and Kenya) on a variety of topics including Sufism, Islam and modernity, Islam and politics, Islamism, and Islamic education. He is the author of Ahmadu Bamba und die Entstehung der Muridiyya (Berlin: Schwarz, 1993), and The Divine Flood: Ibrahim Niasse (1900-1975) and the Roots of a Twentieth-Century Sufi Revival (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen, Dr. Phil, is Professor at the New Islamic Public Sphere Programme, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen. His field of research is modern Islam. His focus is on the establishment of a modern Muslim public sphere, and the role of the Muslim ulama in modern Arab states. Lately, his research has primarily focused on Islam’s position in the new pan-Arab television networks, and on renewal of the classical Islamic literary genres, such as the fatwa and the khutba. Key publications include: Defining Islam for the Egyptian
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Friederike Trotier is a PhD candidate at Goethe University Frankfurt and has been a lecturer there at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies since October 2012. Her field of research is sports, identity-building and Islam in Indonesia. She obtained her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in International Cultural and Business Studies at the University of Passau, Germany, with a focus on Southeast Asian Studies. She wrote her Master’s thesis on the legacy of sectarian clashes in the Indonesian province of Maluku.

Fabio Vicini is currently Postdoctoral Research Fellow at 29 Mayıs University in Istanbul. Previously he was a PhD fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies and Zentrum Moderner Orient. In 2013 he received his PhD in Anthropology and history from SUM Italian Institute for Humanities – University of Siena with a dissertation titled Islamic Education, Reasoning Practices and Civic Engagement. The Gülen and Suffa communities in Turkey. The dissertation has won the Middle East Studies Association’s (MESA) 2013 Malcolm H. Kerr Award in the Social Sciences.

Kirsten Wesselhoeft is a PhD candidate in Religious Studies at Harvard University, with a concentration in Islamic Studies and Ethics. She is currently conducting ethnographic fieldwork for a dissertation on Muslim moral and spiritual education in France in a variety of pedagogical contexts.