



The seminar series:

The Copenhagen University Islam Lecture Series is organised by CEIT and CNIO and aims to present important scholars working on topics of relevance to the Islam focus of Copenhagen University, <http://islam.ku.dk/english/>. The autumn 2009 lectures inaugurated the new series. We aspire to attract a wider audience and provide a lively platform for state-of-the-art research on Islamic thought, media, and public debate.

About CEIT:

The Centre for European Islamic Thought (CEIT), which is funded by the Danish National Research Foundation, investigates the processes and circumstances in which Islamic thought and 'theology' is appearing. By seeking to locate and understand these developments in the context both of the history of Islamic religious thought and of contemporary change in Islamic thinking the centre seeks to evaluate these issues as a response to the European environment specifically and to modernity more generally. The centre is headed by Professor Jørgen S. Nielsen.

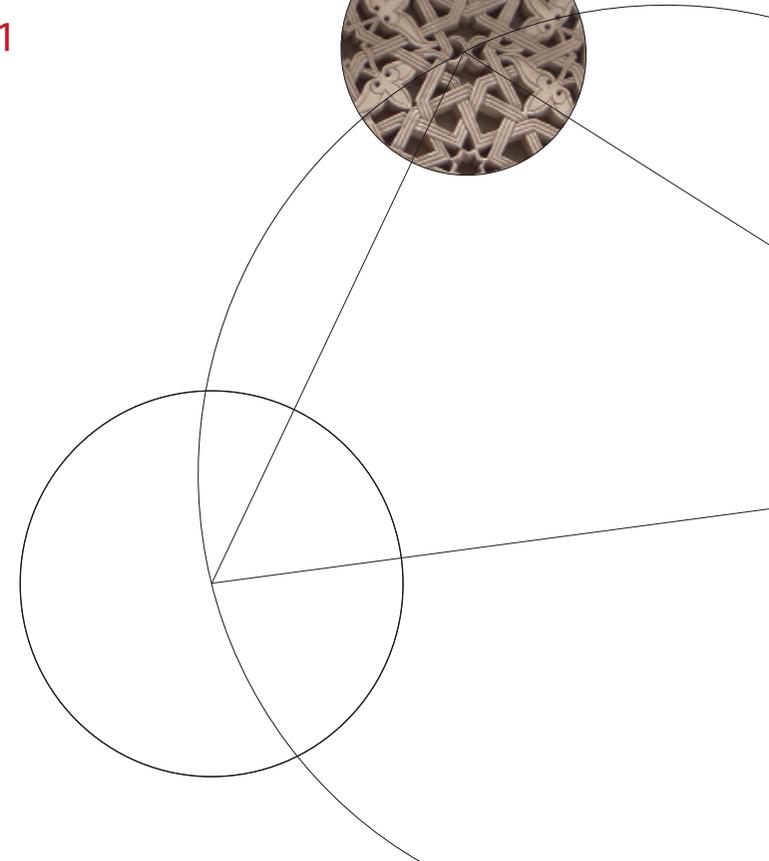
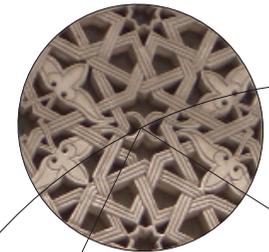
www.teol.ku.dk/english/dept/ceit_eng

About CNIO:

The New Islamic Public Sphere Programme (CNIO) maps and analyses how new media such as satellite TV and the Internet are changing Islamic norms, politics and identity in the contemporary Middle East. Since the 1990s, transnational media have created new public realms, making it possible for Muslims to communicate and interact with fellow believers across states and regions, and weakening the ability of individual states to control culture and religion in their media. The appearance of new media has coincided with a large scale Islamic revival since the 1980s. The Programme is headed by Professor Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen.

<http://islamicpublicsphere.hum.ku.dk>

Copenhagen University Islam Lecture Series Autumn 2011



Unless otherwise stated the lectures take place at the Metro Annex 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm, Room 5, Fiolstræde 4-6, 1171 Cph K

- 22.9 Global Roots and Local Repercussions of the Arab Revolts
Visiting Assistant Professor Mark Farha, School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University in Doha, Qatar

The unfolding uprisings across the Arab world have largely been viewed through a regional prism as a long overdue culmination of pent-up popular frustrations with corrupt and autocratic regimes. Yet given the longstanding democratic deficit in the Arab world, we are also compelled to ask why the revolutions erupted at this particular historical juncture. I shall argue that the US financial crisis kindled a global commodity price inflation which in turn pushed an already politically and demographically charged situation in certain Arab states over the edge. I shall examine how the recent convulsions and socio-economic crises may aggravate or attenuate religious sectarianisms in individual case studies

The lecture is held in cooperation with the Danish Foreign Policy Society and takes place at 5:00 pm at Design Museum Danmark, Bredgade 68, 1260 Cph K

- 12.10 The Arab Move for Democracy and the Muslims in Europe
Petra Stienen, Publicist and Freelance Advisor in democratisation, diversity and diplomacy. Former diplomat for Holland in the Middle East

For a long time, the voices in the Arab streets were discarded as mere tools in the hands of the dictators. In the same vein, many observers in Europe had their minds set on the idea that calls for freedom and democracy wouldn't come from those streets anyway. The young people in the streets of Tunis, Cairo, Manama and Hama proved them wrong. The longing for change, the demand for more dignity and accountability sounded loud and clearly during the Arab spring and summer of 2011. The question is: what's next and how does this newly empowered Arab street influence the self images of young Muslims and Arabs in Europe.

- 26.10 State Responsibility and Civic Participation: Honor Killing and Forced Marriage Debates in Germany, Britain and the Netherlands
Georg Simmel Professor Gökce Yurdakul, Berlin Graduate School for Social Sciences, Humboldt University and assistant Professor Anna C. Korteweg, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

Liberal democratic welfare states' responses to violence against women in Muslim immigrant communities have increasingly been linked to Muslims' social integration into

Western societies. The meeting will hear the recent research results of the authors of the report "Religion, Culture and the Politicization of Honour-Related Violence" published by the UN Research Institute for Social Development .

The lecture is held in cooperation with KVINFO and takes place at 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm, Blixen Hall, The Black Diamond, The Royal Library, Søren Kierkegaards Plads 1, 1221 Cph K

- 9.11 Lebanese Press and the Political Elite: the case of Al-Akhbar newspaper
Lecturer Zahera Harb, Department of Culture, Film and Media, University of Nottingham

The Lebanese media scene can be identified as polarised and diverse and is characterized by the interwoven relationship between the media and the politicians in Lebanon. This paper will look into the case of the post civil-war newspaper Al-Akhbar and assess its position within the current media scene in Lebanon, its political affiliations and relationships with different political actors in the country including Hezbollah.

- 23.11 Feminism, Islam and Muslim Women
Professor Maleiha Malik, School of Law, King's College, London

This lecture explores the relationship between Feminism and Islam as distinct intellectual traditions rather than subsuming an analysis of Islam and Muslim women within an overarching category of Islamic feminism. The main argument of the lecture is that this approach allows Muslim women to challenge those contemporary feminist practices that may cause them harm. Moreover, treating Feminism and Islam as distinct traditions also has the advantage of empowering Muslim women by allowing them to 'speak back' and 'speak out' in a distinct voice.

- 7.12 Fatwas and the Construction of Authority: The Case of The European Council for fatwa and Research (ECFR)
Lena Larsen, Project director of The Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Karen Lise Karman Johansen, researcher/ political advisor at the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs, Denmark

During the last decades, a growing Muslim interest in religion has led to ever more inquiries for fatwas explaining specific points of Islamic law or dogma. For Muslims settling in Europe, many questions would arise as to how they could practice their religion in this non-Muslim environment. This lecture examines the work and the fatwas of the European Council for Fatwa and Research and discusses how authority is constructed and how Islamic legal norms may be shaped to meet Western European circumstances.