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
become evident that new media have been instrumental in bringing the voices of the disengaged Arab public to the attention of the world. Such developments have proven very significant in changing the rules of the game of information dissemination, which has lead to such unprecedented political changes.

Europe through the Eyes of its Visitors: Learning from 19th century Middle Eastern Travelers to Europe

Dr. Bekim Agai, Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies, Bonn University

Middle Eastern Muslim visitors and inhabitants and their feelings of similarity and alienation, inclusion and expulsion are not a recent phenomenon in Europe. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, many European countries hosted tourists, students, people living in exile, journalists and scientists from the region during a first wave of globalisation, which came to an end after World War I. This lecture will focus on what we can learn today from Middle Eastern travelers to Europe of the 19th and early 20th centuries and their experiences and observations.

The Production of Knowledge about Islam and Muslims in Europe: some Theoretical and Methodological Explorations

Senior Lecturer Nahda Shehada, Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University of Rotterdam

In the last few decades, many scholars working on Islam and Muslims in Europe began investigating the production of Islamic knowledge in Europe. Topics such as Islamic text books, Islamic media, and Muslim youth attract a lot of research projects leading to hundreds of publications. However, little attention is devoted to the production of knowledge about Islam and Muslims. This paper will explore some of the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of these studies and the politics of representation which has long informed the history of European interest in Islam and Muslims.

‘Salafism is everywhere’ – Understanding an Islamic Utopian Movement

Post Doc. Martijn de Koning, Department of Religious Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen

Since the 1980s Europe has witnessed the emergence of a global movement, usually termed Salafism that aims to revitalize Islam based upon an idealized vision of the first generations of Muslims. Salafism has become associated with intolerance, terrorism and other modes of violence. As such the movement has become the main target of counter-radicalization policies in many European countries. Questions to be addressed include how to define Salafism, how is Salafism related to developments among Muslims and wider society in Europe and what kind of challenges does Salafism create in Europe?