



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.

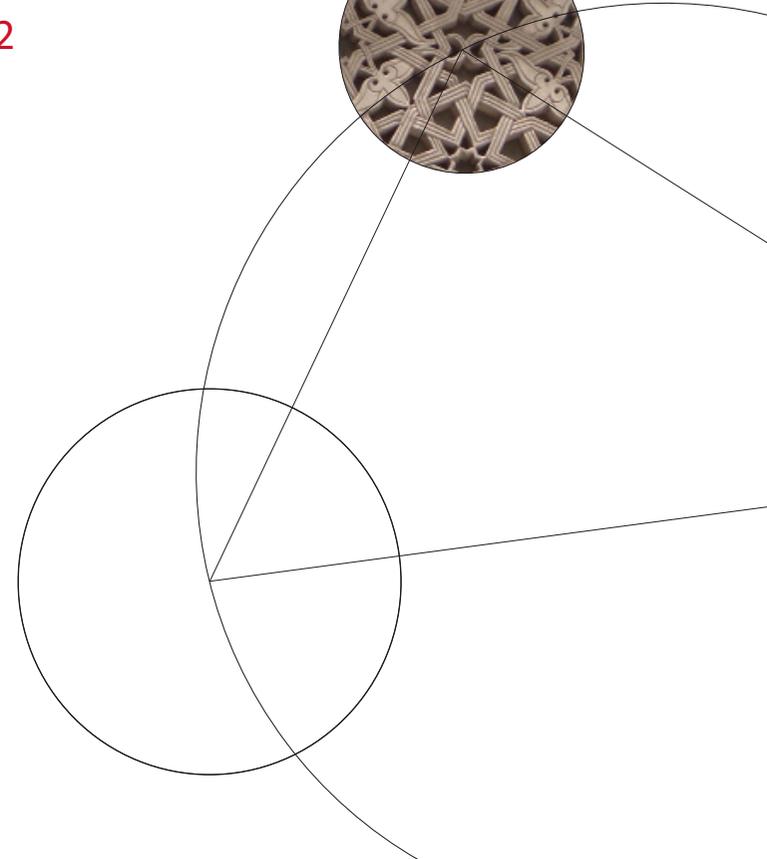
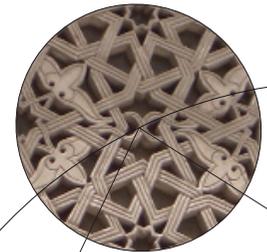
www.teol.ku.dk/english/dept/ceit_eng

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 2012



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

- 19.9 Political Islam and the Narrative of Moderation
Senior Lecturer Francesco Cavatorta, School of Law and Government,
Dublin City University **NB! This lecture is cancelled.**

The rise of Islamism following the Arab Spring has renewed interest in the democratic credibility of Islamist parties and movements. The current literature on Islamist parties contends that over the last decade such parties have come to embrace the values of democracy and human rights having moderated over this time due to their progressive inclusion into political systems. The implication is that prior to the late 1990s and early 2000s democratic mechanisms were not embraced. Focusing on a number of case studies, the validity of the moderation hypothesis is revisited to argue that democracy was often part of Islamist discourse since the 1980s at least. This finding has consequences for the ways in which many Islamist movements have been studied and, more importantly, how they have been dealt with politically particularly in the international context.

- 24.10 The Arab Spring and Diversification of Political Rule in the Middle East
Professor Martin Beck, Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies,
University of Southern Denmark

The Arab Spring is a process of deep political change in the Arab World, previously the only major world area where authoritarianism persisted unchallenged for decades. One of the most striking features of the Arab Spring is that it caused a remarkable diversification of political rules in the Arab world. The lecture aims to deal with this diversification in two ways. Firstly, a two-by-two matrix of political rule that differentiates according to the type of rule and the degree of stability is presented and discussed. Secondly, an attempt to explain the diversification as previously described is made; thereby, the contribution of rent theory (covering mainly economic rents derived from oil exports but also external political aid) is emphasized.

The lecture is held in cooperation with the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies and takes place in Room U3, Department of Cross Cultural and Regional Studies, Snorresgade 17-19, 1st floor, 2300 Copenhagen S

- 7.11 The Forging and Institutionalization of Hassan Nasrallah's Charisma
Authority
Senior Lecturer and head of Centre for Media and Film Studies Dina Mattar,
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Populist movements, formal and informal political parties as well as religious communities have always used charismatic leaders, symbols, imagery and language as central elements of strategies of mobilization aimed at summoning different publics as a collective. Hizbullah is no exception. However, the party has been remarkable for its innovative use of a holistic political communication strategy to construct and promote a symbolic and inspirational image of its Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah as a unique religious-political ideologue and as a charismatic leader. This paper shows how Hizbullah, and Nasrallah, put at work ideology and culture to summon collective subjectivities in particular historical contexts.

- 5.12 Can an Oil State be a Welfare State? The Fallacy of the Rentier Thesis in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Research Fellow Kevan Harris, Department of Near Eastern Studies,
Princeton University

For the past thirty years, discussions over political and economic development in the Middle East have been dominated by a single concept: the rentier state. The extraction and sale of valued commodities by states on the world market - oil being the foremost one - are associated with a host of negative outcomes, such as poor growth in the economy, authoritarian persistence in the regime, and clientelism and patronage in society. In the wake of Arab Spring uprisings, emerging economies in the global South, and the possibilities of a "new" Middle East, the rentier thesis needs to be radically reassessed. This scholarly and popular consensus is historically inaccurate, theoretically untenable, and politically disastrous. In this talk I will outline a broad critique of the rentier fallacy through the case of Iran and discuss the implications for how we understand the Middle Eastern region and its possible futures.

The lecture is held in cooperation with the Danish Foreign Policy Society and takes place at Auditorium 23.0.49, University of Copenhagen Southern Campus, Building 23, Njalsgade 128, 2300 Copenhagen S