



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.

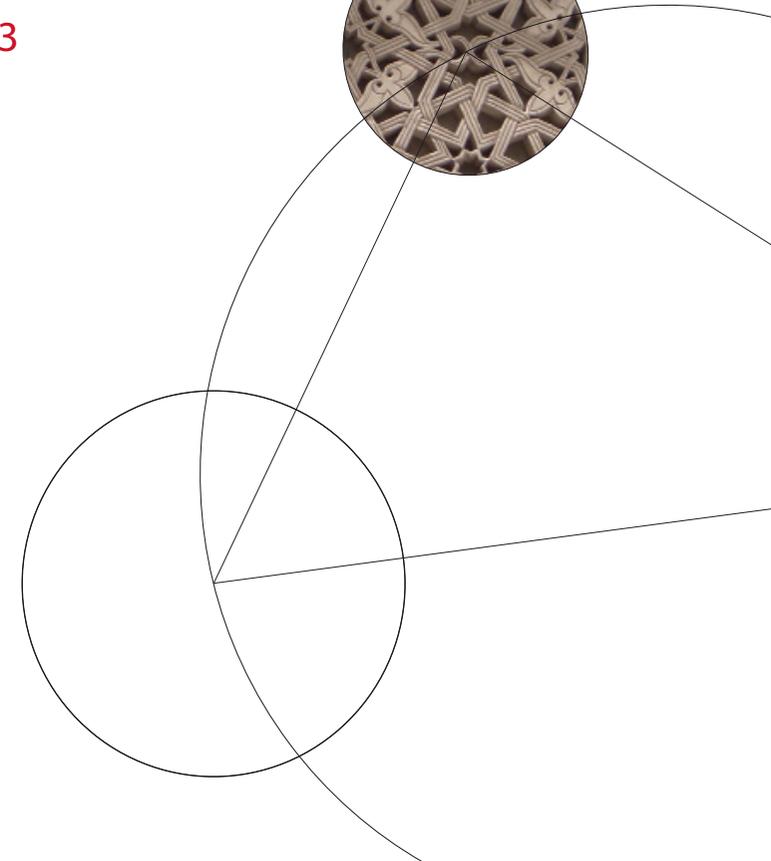
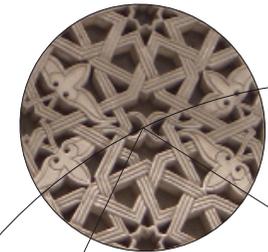
www.teol.ku.dk/english/dept/ceit_eng

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 2013



- 2.10 Trans-spatial Public Action: The Geography of Iranian Post-election Protests in the age of Web 2.0
Research Associate Reza Masoudi Nejad, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Reza Masoudi Nejad will discuss the role of social media in the post-election protests. While he studies the close relationship between "Web 2.0" and the geography of post-election protests, he argues that "the trans-local network of the Iranian diaspora" played a far more important role than social media in the practice and perception of demonstrations in global scale. Defining the Green Movement as "trans-spatial," Masoudi Nejad looks closely at the Iranian diasporic communities around the globe and underlines how social media provided a communication infrastructure for the diaspora communities to connect with Iran and influence the "geography of protests." At the heart of the 2009 Green Movement was the kind of collective action that primarily operated through trans-spatial domains of interaction, with social media playing merely a part in the process. Politics on social media only became meaningful through transnational activism.

The lecture takes place at 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm at the Metro Annex Room 6, Fiolstræde 4-6, 1171 Copenhagen K

- 6.11 Egypt - Radically Polarized Publics and the Process of Transformation
Professor Dr. Kai Hafez, Chair for International and Comparative Communication Studies at the Department of Media and Communication, University of Erfurt

In the 21st century, Egyptian media and public opinion have experienced multiple changes. While the late period of the Mubarak era was characterized by partial liberalization of the authoritarian media system, the "Arab Spring" brought about a tremendous boost for freedom of opinion. Traditional mass media and, of course, the rapidly growing field of social media have developed rapidly. Political actors, however, maintain a dominant influence on media output. State media have not developed into public broadcasters but remain firmly controlled by the changing military of Islamist rulers in the country. The press, but also private television and social media, are strongly influenced by ideological positions. Pluralist and integrative journalism is underdeveloped. The talk will reflect on the question how such radically polarized publics affect the transformation to democracy in Egypt.

The lecture takes place at 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm at the Metro Annex Room 6, Fiolstræde 4-6, 1171 Copenhagen K

- 27.11 Debating Gender Relations in Egypt before and after 2011
Professor Dr. Thomas Eich, Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg

Since 2011 cases of public sexual violence in Egypt have received increasing media attention. Examples are cases of rape of female demonstrators on Tahrir square and so called virginity tests by the police. It is less widely known that wide ranging public debates about gender relations in Egypt pre-date Mubarak's downfall. These debates were linked exactly to the same issues of sexual violence and conceptions of virginity. The talk will analyze these debates before and after 2011. It will be argued that attempts of "othering" are a central characteristic of these discussions. However, the ways this "othering" is achieved have changed.

NB! Please register for the lecture by sending an email to charlott@hum.ku.dk not later than Monday 25 November

The lecture is held in cooperation with KVINFO and takes place at the KVINFO library, The Black Diamond, The Royal Library, Christians Brygge 3, 1219 Copenhagen K