

## *Islam in the West or Western Islam?*

*Seminar Second Term 2010*

Prof. Olivier Roy

**Thursdays, 3-5, Badia Seminar room 2  
(PLEASE NOTE EXCEPTIONS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS)**

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The rooting of Islam in Western Europe is first of all the consequence of a massive and voluntary labour migration. Hence the study of Islam in Europe has been almost exclusively done through the angle of the sociology of immigration. Each European country has developed its own model (or lack of model) to deal with immigration. Roughly speaking three models have dominated:

- assimilation (granting citizenship but refusing to acknowledge a religious or cultural specificity).
- multiculturalism (acknowledging the cohabitation of different ethno-cultural communities).
- exclusion (the guest country's identity is based on a religious and cultural homogeneity, which prevents collective integration of Muslim foreigners).

Despite their divergences, all these paradigms presuppose that there is a direct and stable link between religion and culture, both among immigrants and "natives".

But the emergence of a second and third generation entailed a disconnect between Islam and pristine cultures, while the pervasive conflict between secularization and Christianity makes difficult to oppose a "European Christian culture" to a "foreign Islam".

The seminar will study how European Muslims recast their faith under new paradigms and practices, how conversions blurred the cultural divide, and how Islam in the West is formatted as a "mere religion" both by the granting of religious freedom by Constitutions and courts, and by the pressure originating from a social and cultural hostility from the host country's public opinion.



Programm:

- 1) Islam as a minority, Islam and secularism.
- 2) Muslim immigration into Europe: the sociological approach.
- 3) The issue of the second generation.
- 4) Assimilation and multi-culturalism: the failure of the two models.  
The crisis: the controversy on the veil and burka, the murder of Van Gogh, the youth delinquency and riots.
- 5) State policies and institutionalization of Islam.
- 6) The debate on the compatibility of Islam with... (your choice: democracy, secularism, feminism, gay rights, western values...)
- 7) Practices and recasting: religious practises, identity, citizenship.
- 8) Social evolution: a new Muslim middle class.
- 9) The current debates on Islam in the West, from the veil to the minarets.

Bibliography:

Jonathan Laurence, Justin Vaisse : *Integrating Islam - Political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France* Brookings Institution; version française: *Intégrer l'islam. La France et ses musulmans: enjeux et réussites*, Odile Jacob  
Olivier Roy, *Globalized Islam* (Columbia University Press 2004)  
*Secularism confronts Islam* (in French *La Laïcité face à l'islam*)  
Ed Hussein *The Islamist*, Penguin books, 2007  
Christian Joppke *Veil: Mirror of Identity*  
Buruma, Ian *Murder in Amsterdam*  
Patrick Haenni *L'islam de marché*, Le Seuil