

Studying Social and Political Change in Muslim Societies

26 – 27 May 2016

Sala Capitolo, Badia Fiesolana, EUI

Organized by Prof. Olivier Roy

Guest Lecturer: Prof. Asef Bayat (University of Illinois)

Guest Lecturer: Prof. Mojtaba Mahdavi (University of Alberta)

Conveners: Nagwan Abdelmaboud, Nedra Cherif, Metin Koca

This bottom-up workshop aims at developing our understanding of the contemporary social and political changes in Muslim societies. Without having a single regional focus and disciplinary orientation, we will be discussing a wide-range of cases, but giving a special attention to the means with which we infer about Muslim societies. These cases will include examinations of societies in face of outstanding cultural contestations, social displacements, regime changes, leadership conflicts, new religiosities and social movements. Each panel will cover one different aspect of contemporary social and political changes. Our common goal will be to examine and refine the current methodological approaches (e.g. historical, anthropological and comparative) and conceptual tools to address these various issues. Our research agenda is motivated by the turbulent processes currently underway in these communities. More broadly, the discussion themes may be classified as follows:

- Muslim populations in non-Muslim majority countries (e.g. European countries, Russia, Canada, USA): migration flows, integration issues, generational gaps and radicalization.
- Regime change in Muslim-majority countries: Arab Uprisings, challenges against regime consolidation and democratization, new forms of authoritarianism.
- Social changes and new ideological trends in Muslim societies: post-Islamism, post-secularism, culturalism, the re-making of the social contracts, new religiosities and social movements.
- Geopolitical changes and militant Islamism: changing patterns of global Jihadism, political and/or religious quarrels between militant Islamist groups (e.g. Al-Qaeda versus ISIS), Shia militancy, and the reproduction of sectarian borders in the Middle East.

In order to obtain credits, full-attendance to the workshop is required. Participants shall also submit a response paper (approximately 500 words) related to one of the panels' topics. The participants who make a presentation in one of the panels are exempt from the written requirement.

Program

May 26

9.30-10.00	Introduction
10.00-10.30	Lecture by Prof. Olivier Roy: “The Debates on Islamism: Assessment and Perspectives”
10.30-11.30	Lecture by Prof. Asef Bayat: “Current Challenges of Post-Islamism”
11.30-11.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.45-12.45	Lecture by Prof. Mojtaba Mahdavi: “Rethinking Muslims’ Multiple Modernities in the post-Arab Spring”
12.45-13.15	Q&A and concluding remarks
13.15-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30-17.00	<p>Panel 1: New Challenges for Muslim populations in non-Muslim majority countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Farida Belkacem: “Islam in The West: a Conflict between Norms and Values?” ➤ Nodira Kholmatova: “Changing the Face of Labor Migration? Feminization of Labor Migration from Tajikistan to Russia”
17.30-19.00	<p>Symposium: “From Post to Fragmented Islamism: Islamist Movements in an age of Jihadism”</p> <p>Public debate with Profs. Olivier Roy, Asef Bayat and Mojtaba Mahdavi (Max Weber Common Room)</p>

May 27

09.30-11.30

Panel 2: Changing Social and Ideological Trends in Muslim Majority Countries

- **Nedra Cherif:** “Post-Uprising Egypt in face of the Multiculturalist Challenge: Minorities in the New Constitutional Order”
- **Metin Koca:** “Seeking Change in the Reproduction of Intolerance: ‘Secularism’ and ‘Islamism’ in the Democratizing Middle East”
- **Sophie Lemière:** “Politics by Proxy: Complicit Militancy in Malaysia and Tunisia”
- **Kasper Ly Netterstrøm:** “Post-Revolutionary Unrest in Tunisia: Local Conflicts or Clash of Ideologies”

11.30-11.45

Coffee Break

11.45-13.00

Panel 3: Geopolitical Changes and Militant Islamism

- **Tore Hamming:** “The Internal Dynamics within Sunni Jihadism”
- **Shpend Kursani:** “Explaining the recent emergence of Albanian speaking foreign fighters from the Balkans in Syria and Iraq: background of the ideology, practice, and demographics”

13.00-13.30

Concluding remarks