

Political debates on Islam revisited transcontinentally

07 February 2022 | 17:00–19:00 (South African Time) / 16:00–18:00 (German Time) | online via Zoom

We are happy to invite you to the first Transversal Disputation of the International Research Training Group [Transformative Religion. Religion as Situated Knowledge in Processes of Social Transformation](#). The Transversal Disputations are a format, in which guest speakers will discuss issues that 'transverse' the IRTG research focus on religion and relate to critical concepts, discourses and practices that circulate in politics, the economy, civil society, local communities. The Transversal Disputations seek to connect academic and public debates around crucial issues of our time concerning religion.

In this first Transversal Disputation two renowned researchers known for their work on the intersection of religion and knowledge production will discuss political debates on Islam from decolonial positions based in different (inter)sections of the global Muslim world. Focusing on social movements in the Middle East and North Africa, Prof Asef Bayat is the author of 'Post-Islamism: The Changing Faces of Political Islam' in which he examines the shifting dynamics of Islamist movements at the (inter)section of Islam (as a personalized faith) and individual freedom and choice in diverse Muslim-majority countries. Dr. Abdoulaye Sounaye brings in his scholarly and personal experience of Islam as a social and political force in the West African Sahel, an area where politicised perceptions of Islam and Muslim epistemes compete in all domains of life with the colonial and post-colonial notions of secularity. The transversal disputation will be moderated by IRTG Professors Naika Foroutan and Baz Lecocq, whose experiences with and insights in political Islam in these (inter)sections of the global Muslim world will serve to initiate the debate.

Panelists

Asef Bayat is Professor of Sociology, and the Catherine and Bruce Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies at the Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is also an Associate Member of the Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM), Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany.

Abdoulaye Sounaye is Associate Professor, Université Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger, and the Head of the research unit "Contested Religion: Between Religiosity, Morality, and Intellectual Culture" at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin. His current research project "Religion, Morality and Boko in West Africa: Students Training for a Good Life", is a study of religiosity and how it affects secular education in West Africa.

Naika Foroutan is Professor for integration research and social policy at Humboldt-University where she leads the Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research.

Baz Lecocq is Professor of African History, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin. His research focusses on the contemporary history of the Sahel.

Please register with bettina.schoen@hu-berlin.de to receive the link to the video conference.

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