

**Interrogating “Global Islam”:
Muslim Communities, Networks, and Ideas of Connectedness in the
Modern and Contemporary World**

July 6, 2017

10 a.m.-2. p.m.

Location BGSMCS, seminar room

by

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Special Guest: Cameil Aydin (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina)

What does it mean to speak of Islam today as a “global” religion? In what sense are the world’s 1.8 billion Muslims part of a single community? What are the networks and ideas that link Muslims in the modern and contemporary world across national, regional, and cultural boundaries? To what extent did the global mobility revolution that began in the mid-nineteenth century create a more connected, unified Muslim community?

In this workshop, we - an anthropologist and a historian who work on Muslim mobilities between Russian and Central Asian lands and the Middle East - will lead an interdisciplinary discussion about the historical and contemporary meanings and manifestations of “global Islam.” Bringing together doctoral students, postdocs, visiting scholars, and senior researchers of the *Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies*, we will explore in particular the hajj as global Muslim network and an imagined manifestation of "Muslim connectedness" across world regions. We are interested in how these ideas travel and have been mobilized for reasons of local, transnational, and other forms of identity politics (Muslim and non-Muslim) in the past and present. We will explore various manifestations of "Muslim connectedness and difference" through time and space. We will also discuss Western academic epistemologies that have constructed ideas about the Muslim world and about its global dimension.

Readings

Shahab Ahmad, *What is Islam? The Importance of Being Islamic*. Princeton University Press: Princeton and Oxford, 2016. Chapter one.

Cemil Aydin, *The Idea of the Muslim World: A Global Intellectual Community*. Harvard University Press, 2017, Chapter one, two, six.

Nile Green, „Saints, Rebels, and Booksellers: Sufis in the Cosmopolitan Western Indian Ocean“. In: Edward Simpson and Kai Kresse (eds.), *Struggling With History. Islam and Cosmopolitanism in the Western Indian Ocean*. Columbia University Press: New York, 2008, pp. 125-166.

Tayba Hassan al Khalifa Sharif, “Sacred Narratives linking Iraqi Shiite Women across Time and Space”, Miriam Cooke and Bruce B. Lawrence (eds.), *Muslim Networks from Hajj to Hip Hop*, The University of North Carolina Press, 2005, pp. 132-154.

Susan M. O'Brien, „Pilgrimage, Power, and Identity: The Role of the Hajj in the Lives of Nigerian Hausa Bori Adepts“. *Africa Today*, vol. 46/3-4, 1999, pp.- 11-40.



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