



Course description: NISIS Autumn School 2015

Theme	Changes and Debates in the Study of Islam and Muslim Societies
Academic year	2015-2016
EC	5
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote speakers	Prof. Maribel Fierro Prof. Saba Mahmood Prof. Gabriel Martinez-Gros Prof. Hassan Rachik Dr. Jörn Thielmann Prof. Hakan Yavuz
Hosted by	University of Amsterdam

Admission requirements

PhD candidates and research master students active in the field of Islamic Studies may apply for admission and should contact NISIS at nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

[NISIS junior members](#) qualify automatically and do not need to apply for participation. However, they are required to **register** for the NISIS Autumn School via nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

Description

The NISIS Autumn School 2015 will be held at the University of Amsterdam. On each afternoon session, two keynote speakers will reflect on central issues concerning the theme of the school in a public lecture for a wider audience. On the following morning sessions, there will be a workshop in which the two keynote speakers of the previous day, PhD candidates and research master students are invited to participate. Participants to the workshop are required to read a selection of important readings (about 75 pages) that will be prescribed by the keynote speakers. In the afternoon workshops, PhD candidates and research master students will present their research in relation to the general theme of the Autumn School, the topics brought up and the prescribed readings by the keynote speakers, followed by a general discussion.

Participants (PhD candidates and research master students) are required to:

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- read the prescribed literature in advance;
- give a presentation in one of the workshops and/or act as **discussant*** for one of the presentations of others;
- write a report.

*As a **discussant** during the NISIS Autumn School, you are required to:

- carefully study the readings as prescribed by the keynote speakers in advance;
- prepare questions for discussion in advance in which you relate the topic of the presentation to the prescribed readings;
- actively participate in and contribute to the discussion.

You will receive an abstract of the presentation in which you will act as discussant beforehand. NISIS aims at assigning the participants to the different (thematic/geographical) sessions in accordance with their respective field of study within Islamic Studies.

Course objectives

- Enlarging and deepening the already existing knowledge of Islam and Muslim societies
- Providing insight and participation in the current academic debate
- Introducing the candidates to an international network of scholars in the field
- Creating an academic community in which research in the field of Islam and Muslim societies can be optimally pursued
- Mediating between a new generation of researchers and innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary developments, theoretical and methodological initiatives and explorations in the field
- Training presentation, writing and reflection skills.

Timetable

Tuesday 20 – Friday 23 October 2015. Please make sure to be informed about programme details and updates via our website: www.nisis.nl.

Mode of instruction

- Lecture
- Workshop
- Research

Course load

Total course load for the course is 140 hours.

Lectures during the school: 24 hours

Preparation presentation: 40 hours

Preparation discussant: 4 hours

Paper: 72 hours

Assessment method

PhD candidates and research master students will be judged on the basis of:

- attendance of the keynote lectures and workshops
- presentation in a workshop **and/or** role as discussant in one of the presentations of the other PhD candidates or research master students
- a paper afterwards (see next page for requirements).

Paper requirements

A. As a first step, you write a short introductory section. In the first subsection of the introduction you present the objectives, research question and subject matter of your own research in max. 200-400 words. In the next subsection (max. 300-600 words) you explain to what purpose you have selected the articles and key note lecture(s) from the Autumn School to apply to your own research.

B. The next section of 1500 to 2000 words consists of a few paragraphs in which you answer for each of the articles and key note lecture(s) the following questions:

- Which key theories, concepts and ideas are addressed?
- What are the main questions and problems that are addressed?
- What is the nature and content of the empirical data/sources that are analysed and how is (the analysis) of the data organised?

C. The next section of 1500 to 2000 words is dedicated to a two-step ‘what if’ exercise in creativity:

1. for each of the selected articles and key note lecture(s) you ask yourself: If you were to apply the approach/ line of argument etc. to your own research, what new questions would you ask of your data, and what kind of data would you have to collect alternatively or additionally? If you were to adopt the approach/focus etc. of the article to develop an argument along similar lines on the basis of your own material, what might that argument look like?
2. For each of the possibilities that you can come up with, you reflect on the pro’s and con’s and take stock of and explain which options are interesting and feasible to follow up on.

D. In the concluding section you take stock of how the theme of the Autumn School, most concretely how the articles and key note lecture(s) selected, shed new light on and/or have been helpful for your own research.

In total, the length of your essay should be **between 3500 to 5000 words**.

Reading list

Prof. Maribel Fierro

Irwin, R. *For Lust of Knowing. The Orientalists and their Enemies*, Penguin Books Ltd , 2007, chapters 6-8.

Marin, M. “Orientalism and Colonialism: Julian Ribera (1858-1934) and the Spanish Embassy to Morocco in 1894.” 727-737.

Prof. Saba Mahmood

Saba Mahmood, *Religious Difference in a Secular Age: A Minority Report*, Introduction & chapter 3 (Forthcoming).

Prof. Gabriel Martinez-Gros

Hodgson, M. *Venture of Islam, Vol. 1. The Classical Age of Islam*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974, 280-305.

Marsham, A. *Rituals of Islamic Monarchy. Accession and Succession in the First Muslim Empire*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009, 183-191; 216-229.

Prof. Hassan Rachik

Rachik, H. "How Religion Turns into Ideology." *The Journal of North African Studies*, Vol. 00, No. 0, 2009, 1-12.

Rachik, H. "Where Islamists Distinguish Politics from Preaching." *OASIS*, vol. 18, 2013, 39-44.

Prof. Hakan Yavuz

Yavuz, H. "The Renaissance of Religious Consciousness in Turkey: Nur Study Circles." In: Göle, N. & Ammann, L. (eds.) *Islam in Public. Turkey, Iran, and Europe*. İstanbul Bilgi University Press, 2006, 129-178.

Yavuz, H. *Toward an Islamic Enlightenment. The Gülen Movement*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013, 133-151.

Dr. Jörn Thielmann

Dupret, B. "What is Islamic Law? A Paradoxical Answer and an Egyptian Case Study." *Theory, Culture and Society* 24: 79-100, 2007.

Al-Azmeh, A. "Reconstituting Islam," Washington D.C. Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, 1996.

Application

You can apply for participation in the NISIS Autumn School 2015 as soon as a call for application has been opened. This will be announced on the NISIS website (www.nisis.nl). Please note that the number of available places is restricted.

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