



## Course description: NISIS Autumn School 2017

Theme	Islam and Superdiversity
Academic year	2017-2018
EC	5
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote speakers	Prof.dr. Jan Blommaert Prof.dr. Marjo Buitelaar Dr. Carool Kersten Prof.dr. Paul Post Prof.dr. Thijl Sunier
Hosted by	Tilburg University

### Admission requirements

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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](mailto:nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl).

[NISIS junior members](#) qualify automatically, but due to the limited number of participants, also need to apply for participation for the NISIS Autumn School via [nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl).

### Description

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During 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. During 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 of the workshops 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:

For 2 EC:

- read the prescribed literature in advance;

- give a presentation (15 minutes) in one of the workshops and act as **discussant**\* for the presentation of one of the other participants.

For an additional 3 EC:

- write a paper in which own research is related to the theme of the Autumn School (requirements can be found below).

\*As a **discussant** during the 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;
- pose the first question about the presentation;
- actively participate in and contribute to the discussion.

## Course objectives

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- 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.

## Theme

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From its very foundation, diversity of methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives in studying Islam has been one of the key characteristics of the Netherlands Interuniversity School of Islamic Studies. Moreover, following the basic principle of *The Encyclopaedia of Islam* Islam was understood in its broadest sense resulting in the participation of Islamicists of all kinds. In humanities and social sciences diversity is a key concept to study and understand society since some decades. Notably, Steven Vertovec's 'super-diversity' – the diversification of diversity – has caused a furore among many scholars in the field of humanities and social sciences. Therefore, this NISIS Autumn School will be devoted to (super-) diversity, its meaning, its impact and its consequences. After an 'introduction' to the concept by Prof. Blommaert and a 'Position Paper' by Prof. Thijl Sunier, the concept will play – implicitly or explicitly – a central role in the study of ritual (Prof. Post and Prof. Buitelaar) and in the study of inter- and intra-religious diversity in Indonesia (Dr. Kersten).

## Timetable

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Monday 16 – Thursday 19 October 2017. Please make sure to be informed about programme details and updates via our website: [www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl).

## Mode of instruction

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- Lecture
- Workshop
- Research

## Course load

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Total course load for the course is 56 + 84 hours.

### For 2 EC

Lectures during the school: 27 hours

Preparation presentation: 27 hours

Preparation discussant: 2 hours

### For an additional 3 EC

Paper: 84 hours

## Assessment method

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

- Attendance and active participation at 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 section for requirements).

## Paper requirements

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The objective of the reflexive essay to conclude the Autumn School, is to relate the theme of the Autumn School as presented in the keynote lectures to your own research. To this purpose, you choose at least one keynote lecture and follow these instructions:

**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 you 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 keynote 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 keynote 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 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 your essay should be **between 3500 to 5000 words**.

### **Reading list**

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To be announced.

### **Application**

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You can apply for participation in the NISIS Autumn School 2017 as soon as a call for application has been opened. This will be announced on the NISIS website ([www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl)). Please note that the number of available places is restricted.

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### **Website**

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[www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl)