



**Course description: NISIS Course: 'Traveling through Islam research in the Netherlands'**

Theme	This course aims at providing an overview of research on Islam conducted at Dutch Universities; content, methods and disciplines
Academic year	2018-2019
Semester	2
EC	1
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote speakers	Prof. Christian Lange (Utrecht University), Prof. Thijl Sunier ( VU Amsterdam), Dr Gabrielle van den Berg (Leiden University)
Hosted by	Leiden University

**Admission requirements**

PhD candidates and research master students who study Muslims, Muslim societies and Islam in the broadest sense of the word may apply for admission and should contact NISIS at [nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto: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 Course via [nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl).

**Description**

The NISIS course 'Traveling through Islam research in the Netherlands' consist of presentations about three research projects. Utrecht University, VU Amsterdam and Leiden University, three universities participating in NISIS, will provide insight in their research in the field Islam Studies during the NISIS course Traveling through Islam Research in the Netherlands 2018. Christian Lange (Utrecht University) and his team will present their ERC research project SENSIS, Thijl Sunier (VU Amsterdam) will report on the progress of his NWO project MIWIN on Islamic authority in the Netherlands, and Gabrielle van den Berg (Leiden University) will introduce several ongoing research initiatives on the Central Asia Initiative Islam and LUSI, the initiative on Shi'ite Studies.

Several NISIS board members or his/her representatives will relate a central theme to the situation at their home university. In this course similarities and divergences in approaches, regional focuses and

disciplines will be examined. In addition, the prescribed literature will be discussed and related to the theme.

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

- read the set literature in advance and hand in questions which they will ask the lecturers.
- write a report in which they relate their own research to the theme and the Dutch academic context and present their view on research on Islam in the Netherlands.

### **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 the national 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 writing and reflection skills.

### **Timetable**

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7 June 2018: deadline questions

8 June 2018: Course Traveling at Leiden University

2 July 2018: deadline reading report

Please make sure to check the NISIS website about program details and updates: [www.nisis.nl](http://www.nisis.nl)

### **Mode of instruction**

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- Lecture
- Reading notes
- Writing report

### **Course load**

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Total course load is 28 hours

Preparation meeting (reading literature + reading notes): 10 hours

Attendance meeting: 6 hours

Preparation report: 12 hours

### **Assessment method**

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The examination of PhD candidates and research master students is based on:

- attendance of the meeting;
- reading notes (40% of final grade);
- written report (60% of final grade)

### **Requirements reading notes**

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In preparation for this course, you are required to prepare questions about each article that you can ask one of the lecturers. Please, send them to [nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl) before 7 June 2018 11.00 hours.

## Requirements report

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The objective of the report of the course 'Islam Research in the Netherlands' is:

- to enlarge and deepen the already existing knowledge of Islam and Muslim societies;
- to create innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary developments, theoretical and methodological initiatives and explorations in the field;
- training research and writing skills.

The objective of the reflexive essay to conclude the NISIS course 'Islam Research in the Netherlands' is to relate the provided literature and the lectures at the meeting to your own research and to present your view on Islam research in the Netherlands. To this purpose, you choose at least one keynote lecture and one article 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 meeting to apply to your own research.

**B.** The next section of 500 to 750 words consists of a few paragraphs in which you answer for each of the articles and keynote 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 500 to 750 words is dedicated to your reflection on the study of Muslims, Muslim societies and Islam in the broadest sense of the word in the Netherlands:

- How does your own research relate to Dutch academia? What and how does it contribute to the development of the field?

**D.** In the concluding section of 200-400 words you take stock of how the theme of 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 1700 to 2900 words**.

## Reading list

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Beben, Daniel. 'Islamisation on the Iranian Periphery: Nasir-i Khusraw and Ismailism in Badakhshan.' In: *Islamisation. Comparative Perspectives from History*, edited by A.C.S. Peacock. 317-335. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017.

Golden, Peter B. 'Turks and Iranians: An Historical Sketch.' In: *Turco-Iranian Contact Areas. Historical and Linguistic Aspects*, edited by Lars Johanson and Christiane Bulut. 17-38. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006.

Fahmy, Khaled. 'An Olfactory Tale of two Cities. Cairo in the Nineteenth Century.' In: *Historians in Cairo. Essays in Honor of George Scanlon*, edited by Jill Edwards. 155-187. Cairo, New York: The American University in Cairo Press, 2002.

Patel, Youshaa. "'Their Fires shall not be Visible': The Senses of Muslim Difference.' *Material Religion*, 14:1, 2018: 1-29.

Mandaville, Peter. 'Globalization and the Politics of Religious Knowledge Pluralizing Authority in the Muslim World.' *Theory, Culture & Society* 24:2, 2007: 101–115.

Sunier, Thijl. 'The making of Islamic authority in Europe.' In: *Imams in Western Europe. Developments, Transformations, and Institutional Challenges*, edited by Mohammed Hashas, Jan Jaap de Ruiter, and Niels Valdemar Vinding, With the collaboration of Khalid Hajji. 51-68. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2018.

## **Application**

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You can apply for participation in the NISIS course 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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