



Course description: NISIS Spring School 2020

Theme	T.b.a.
Academic year	2019-2020
Location	Catania, Italy
EC	5
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote speakers	T.b.a.
Hosted by	University of Catania

Admission requirements

PhD candidates and research master students active in the field of Islamic Studies may apply for admission via www.nisis.nl.

NISIS junior members qualify automatically, but due to the limited number of participants, also need to apply for participation for the NISIS Spring School via www.nisis.nl.

Description

The NISIS Spring School is usually organised in cooperation with several foreign research institutions and preferably takes place where these sister institutions are based. The programme consists of lectures by keynote speakers in the morning and parallel workshops in the afternoon. In the workshops, a selection of international PhD candidates and research master students present their research in relation to the general theme of the Spring School and act as discussants.

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 afternoon workshops and act as **discussant*** for the presentations of one of the other participants.

For an additional 3 EC:

No rights can be derived from this course description. Information may be subject to change.

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

*As a **discussant** during the Spring 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.

Theme

To be announced.

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

To be announced. 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 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

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 discussant for one of the presentations of others
- a paper afterwards in the form of a reflexive essay (see next section for requirements)

Paper requirements

The objective of the reflexive essay to conclude the Spring School, is to relate the theme of the Spring 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 words. In the next subsection (max. 300-600 words) you explain to what purpose you have selected this/these key note lecture(s) from the Spring 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 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 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, what kind of data would you have to collect alternatively or additionally? If you were to adopt the approach, focus etc. of the lecture 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 Spring School, most concretely how the 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

To be announced.

Application

You can apply for participation in the NISIS Spring School 2018 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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Website

www.nisis.nl