



**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Research Conference**  
**“DEMOCRACY AND ISLAM”**  
**Vienna, November 05-06, 2015**

**Conference Venue:**  
***Austrian Foundation for Development Research***  
**Sensengasse 3 | 1090 Vienna**  
*Conference room of the institute's library*

**Conference Topic**

This conference aims at discussing the relationship between ‘Islam’ and ‘democracy’. Islam has become a political issue after the Islamic Revolution in Iran and even more so after Huntington’s theory of the Clash of Civilizations. At the latest since 9/11 and following attacks by so called homegrown terrorists in Europe and the US, Islam has also become an issue in domestic politics in many Western countries. State authorities and political representatives in the realm of security, education, youth, and culture have had to react to the various Islam-discourses by engaging in the debate itself and/or by implementing new policies and laws. Moreover, Muslim actors have appeared on the political stage, publically stating their interests and voicing their concerns and grievances. These developments have had important consequences for democratic processes.

How are democratic narratives, frames, and/or principles challenged by the rise of exclusionary politics and ethnocentric arguments? How do state authorities incorporate Muslim civic organizations in the political system? What are the implications of politics of resistance and opposition to, or support for the practices of the democratic state on the part of Muslim actors? It is these questions that form the core agenda of this conference.

**Organizing Institution**

The Working Group on the Future of Austrian Democracy of the Austrian Research Association is a national interdisciplinary and inter-institutional panel of scholars organized under the auspices of the Austrian Research Association and led by Reinhard Heinisch, Professor of Political Science at University of Salzburg. The group’s specific objective is to assess the state of democracy in Austria and to investigate important challenges that impinge on its future development. Specifically, the work intends to draw attention to significant questions and problems affecting the state of Austrian democracy in various critical dimensions. Drawing on the diverse expertise of the scholars involved, the goal is to engage in scholarly research, contribute to a public discourse on democracy, and stimulate further specialized research.

## Conference Organization:

**Overall Responsibility:** *Prof. Reinhard Heinisch*, Chair of ARA Working Group on Democracy, Professor of Political Science & Department Chair, University of Salzburg  
reinhard.c.heinisch@sbg.ac.at, <http://www.uni-salzburg.at/index.php?id=67663&L=1>  
Ph: 0043-699-124-88611

**Conference Scholar:** *Dr. Farid Hafez*, Project Researcher, Department of Political Science, University of Salzburg  
Farid.hafez@sbg.ac.at

**Organizational Assistance:** *Vanessa Marent*, MA, PhD Fellow, University of Salzburg.  
vanessa.marent@sbg.ac.at

**Logistics and Sponsorship:** Austrian Research Association  
Berggasse 25, A-1092 Vienna  
oefg@oefg.at, [www.oefg.at](http://www.oefg.at)  
Ph: 0043-13195770

## PROGRAM

***Presentations please no more than 15 minutes. Discussants please no more than 15 minutes in total.***

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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### 09.00 Welcome by conference organizers and Introduction

**Reinhard Heinisch**, Working Group on Democracy, Austrian research Association.

**Farid Hafez**, Project Researcher, University of Salzburg.

### 09.30 - 11.00 Panel I: European models of incorporation of Islam

European nation states have applied a number of different regimes in the relation between the state and churches. What are the implications of historically built state-church-relations for the incorporation of Muslim institutions or the accommodation of Muslim practices?

Chair: **Reinhard Heinisch**

Speakers:

- **Jenny Berglund**, Södertörn University. *Islamic Education in Secular societies.*
- **Luis Hernández Aguilar**, Goethe University Frankfurt. *The inclusion that cannot not be wanted. The incorporation of Islam, the German Islam Conference, and the racialization of Muslims.*
- **Stefan Schima**, University of Vienna. *The Austrian Islam Act 2015 against the Background of Austrian Law on Religion.*

Discussants: **Wolfgang Aschauer, Eva Kalny**

### 11-11.30 Coffee Break

### **11.30 - 13.00 Panel II: Islamophobia and exclusion (Part I)**

The implications of the rise of Islamophobia for the political field are undeniable. Movements such as PEGIDA in Germany, the rise of attacks on Muslims in France after the attacks on Charlie Hebdo on one hand and discussion and/or laws banning Islamic objects such as the building of minarets on the other pose challenges for democracies. How do Islamophobic discourses and/or laws constrain the democratic *populus*? What are the implications of Islamophobia for constitutional democracies?

Chair: **Farid Hafez**

Speakers:

- **Osman Gülyesil**, Humboldt University Berlin. *When going to court becomes suspicious. The debate in the aftermath of court cases concerning headscarves in Germany.*
- **Eva Kalny**, University of Hanover. *Defining and controlling the Muslim subject: debates and legal decisions in Germany.*
- **Liriam Sponholz**, Austrian Academy of Sciences. *Muslim voices in media controversies about Islamophobia: how and how far do mainstream media afford diversity?*

Discussants: **Uzma Jamil, Shaireen Rasheed**

**13.00 – 14.00 Lunch** (provided at the location)

### **14.00 - 15.30 Panel II: Islamophobia and exclusion (Part II)**

Chair: **Reinhard Heinisch**

Speakers:

- **Uzma Jamil**, Sherpa Recherche Team Montreal. *Muslims as Usual: Islamophobia and Politics in Québec.*
- **Shaireen Rasheed**, Long Island University. *Securitizing Religion in the Public Space: The Impact of Counter Radicalization Initiatives on Muslim Identity.*
- **Wolfgang Aschauer**, University of Salzburg. *Societal causes of Islamophobia in Austria - Explaining exclusionary attitudes with fears of societal descent.*

Discussants: **Jenny Berglund, Liriam Sponholz**

### **18.30 KEYNOTE LECTURE: Prof. John L. Esposito** (public event)

*Prof. John L. Esposito* (Georgetown University) is University Professor of Religion and International Affairs at Georgetown University and Founding Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin-Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding. He has served as consultant to the U.S. Department of State and other agencies, European and Asian governments and corporations, universities, and the media worldwide and is one of the US' foremost public intellectuals. Esposito is the editor of 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Modern Islam' and 'The Oxford History of Islam', and author of *Unholy War, What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*, and many other acclaimed works. His most recent publication is: 'Islam and Democracy after the Arab Spring' (together with John Voll and Tamara Sonn, Oxford University Press, 2015).

Location: Festsaal Billrothhaus ,Frankgasse 8, 1090 Vienna (see map at the end of the program)

*A **guided walk** from the conference venue to the keynote lecture will be offered.*

***Followed by a reception hosted by the Austrian Research Association***

**09.00 – 10.30 Panel III: Relationship Islam – Democracy (Part I)**

Böckenförde's paradox argues that the liberal-democratic state relies on preconditions, which the state itself cannot guarantee. The discussion of a normative dimension of the relationship between religion and democracy (the body politics more broadly) has been, at least in Europe, mostly restricted to Christianity as can be seen in the debate on the dialectics of secularization (Habermas & Ratzinger). But what can be the role of Islamic institutions in the maintenance and development of democratic institutions and processes? Can Muslim religious institutions and organizations play a part in supporting democratic norms?

Chair: **Farid Hafez**

Speakers:

- **Yüksel Sezgin**, Syracuse University. *Accommodation of "Shari'a" by Non-Muslim Democracies: Lessons (if any) for Democratizing Muslim Nations.*
- **Oliver Hidalgo**, University of Münster/ University of Regensburg. *Democratic Antinomies as a Conceptual and Empirical Measure for Values, Qualities, and Defects of Democracy concerning the Challenge of Contemporary Islam.*
- **Youssef Chouhoud**, University of Southern California. *Are Minorities Intolerant like Everyone Else? Evidence from a Survey of American Muslims.*

Discussants: **Christoph Konrath, Brian Klug**

**10.30 - 11.00 Coffee Break**

**11.00 – 12.30 Panel III Relationship Islam – Democracy (Part II)**

Chair: **Vanessa Marent**

Speakers:

- **Amanda tho Seeth**, Philipps University Marburg. *Islamic Universities as Incubators of Democracy? Reflections on the Indonesian Experience.*
- **Yunus Hentschel**, University of Vienna. *Islam and European Democracy - Opportunities and Misapprehensions.*
- **Brian Klug**, University of Oxford. *Reading between the Lines: 'Muscular Liberalism' and the Place of Islam in a Democratic British State.*

Discussants: **Aitana Guia, Danièle Joly**

**12.30 – 13.30 Lunch** (provided at the location)

### **13.30 - 16.00 Panel IV: Muslim Youth Culture /Participation of Women**

(Includes a 20 min. coffee break)

Debates on Muslim youth culture have not only recently gained more and more attention in the media after the emergence of the Islamic State and the European 'Jihadi Cool'. Muslim youth cultures have long been investigated in social sciences in terms of identity construction and radicalization. This topic wants to shift the attention of the role of Muslim youth as self-identified Muslim actors in democratic processes. What is the role of organized Muslim youth movements in the participation in democratic processes? What is the role of Muslim youth movements in challenging, questioning, opposing, and strengthening democratic processes?

Chair: **Reinhard Heinisch**

Speakers:

- **Dina Hosni-Abdelahram**, Goethe University Frankfurt. *Between Islamism and Democracy: The Dilemma of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Youth.*
- **Aitana Guia**, European University Institute. *"It's Time to Rebel, Girl": The Agency of Muslim Women in confronting Gendered Islamophobia in Democratic Spain.*
- **Danièle Joly**, University of Warwick. *Muslim women political participation and capacity of action in France and Britain.*
- **Alexandra Preitschopf**, University of Salzburg. *Rapping for liberté, égalité, fraternité? The role of the French Republic, political criticism and religion in the lyrics of French Muslim rappers.*
- **Didem Ünal-Abady**, Bilkent University Ankara. *Pious Women Intellectuals' Conceptions of Islamic Feminism in Contemporary Turkey: Unsettling the Divide between Secular and Pious Selves in Postsecular Contexts.*

Discussants: **Oliver Hidalgo, Yüksel Sezgin**

### **16.00-16.15 Brief Break**

### **16.00 – 17.00 Final Discussion – What have we learned – where do we go from here?**

**Reinhard Heinisch and Farid Hafez**

### **17.00 End of Conference**

Followed by a **walking tour through downtown Vienna** (weather permitting) hosted by the conference organizers and a **joined dinner** (dinner expenses cannot be covered by the organizers).

## Conference Participants

This interdisciplinary conference aims at discussing the relationship between 'democracy' and 'Islam'. The choice of participants reflects this multidisciplinary and thus welcomes participants from all the Social Sciences and the field of Legal Studies. Whereas theoretical work is considered important, the Working Group is especially interested in sound analytical and empirical scholarship and the application of qualitative or quantitative methodology commensurate with, and appropriate for the discipline in which the work originates. It should be understood that the goal of the conference is to draw comparative conclusions and develop a general understanding of the matters at hand.

- Ass.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Aschauer, Department for Sociology, University of Salzburg.
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jenny Berglund, School of Historical and Contemporary Studies, Södertörn University.
- Youssef Chouhoud, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Southern California.
- Prof. Dr. John L. Esposito, Georgetown University.
- Aitana Guia, Ph.D., Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute.
- Osman Gülyesil, Ph.D. Candidate, Faculty of Law, Humboldt University Berlin.
- Farid Hafez, Post Doc Researcher, Department for Political Science, University of Salzburg.
- Prof. Dr. Reinhard Heinisch, Chair of ARS Working Group on Democracy, Department for Political Science and Sociology, University of Salzburg.
- Yunus Hentschel, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Orientalism, University of Vienna.
- Luis Hernández Aguilar, Ph.D. Candidate, Faculty of Social Science, Goethe University Frankfurt.
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Oliver Hidalgo, Department of Political Science, University of Regensburg.
- Dina Hosni-Abdelahram, Ph.D. Candidate, Department for Sociology, Goethe University Frankfurt.
- Dr. Uzma Jamil, Sherpa Recherche Team, Montréal.
- Prof. Dr. Danièle Joly, Department of Sociology, University of Warwick.
- PD Dr. Eva Kalny, Sociology Faculty, University of Hanover.
- Dr. Brian Klug, Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford.
- Dr. Christoph Konrath, Legal, Legislative and Research Service, Austrian Parliamentary Administration, Vienna.
- Vanessa Marent, MA, Ph.D. Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Salzburg.
- Alexandra Preitschopf, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History, University of Salzburg.
- Prof. Shaireen Rasheed, Ph.D., College of Education, Long Island University.
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Schima, Faculty of Law, University of Vienna.
- Ass. Prof. Yüksel Sezgin, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University.
- Dr. Liriam Sponholz, Institute for Comparative Media and Communication Studies, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

- Amanda tho Seeth, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, Philipps University Marburg.
- Didem Ünal-Abady, Ph.D., Department of Political Science, Bilkent University Ankara.

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OFFICE  
(TAGUNGSBÜRO)**

Österreichische Forschungsgemeinschaft

A-1092 Wien, Berggasse 25

Tel: 0043-1-319-57-70

Fax: 0043-1-319-57-70-20

E-mail: [oefg@oefg.at](mailto:oefg@oefg.at)

[www.oefg.at](http://www.oefg.at)