



Work Talk

Monday, May 7th, 2012, 2 pm

Psychoanalysis, Islam, and the Other of Liberalism

by Prof. Joseph Massad (Columbia University, N.Y.)

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

The presentation interrogates the terms and methods used by psychoanalytic authors to explain and understand something they other as "Islam". It reads critically and psycho-analytically these authors' attempts to read "Islam" psycho-analytically and finds that more often than not, they subject psychoanalysis to liberal principles that are not defined in psychoanalytic terms. The lecture focuses on Tunisian author Fethi Benslama (but also discusses Moustafa Safouan's work as well as the work of Adnan Houballah among others), analyzing and deconstructing certain key semantic and conceptual confusions of "Islam" and "Islamism" that are manifest in the general psycho-analytic literature on "Islam".

Joseph Massad is Associate Professor of Modern Arab Politics and Intellectual History. He is author of *Colonial Effects: The Making of National Identity in Jordan* (Columbia U. Press, 2001) which was based on his dissertation which won the Middle East Studies Association's Malcolm Kerr Award, *The Persistence of the Palestinian Question: Essays on Zionism and the Palestinians* (Routledge 2006) which was translated to Arabic and French in 2009, and *Desiring Arabs* (U. Chicago Press, 2007) which won the Lionel Trilling Award in 2008. *Desiring Arabs* will be coming out in Arabic this summer from Dar al-Shuruq, Cairo. In addition to numerous academic articles, Professor Massad is also a regular contributor of op-ed articles to the Al-Ahram Weekly (Cairo), Al-Akhbar (Beirut), and Al-Jazeera English website (Doha). His articles are translated to numerous languages including Spanish, French, Turkish, Swedish, Farsi, Russian, Japanese, German, Italian, Dutch, and Portuguese. He is currently finishing a book titled *Islam in Liberalism*.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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