



Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
ARBEITSKREIS MODERNE UND ISLAM

INVITATION

Academic Freedom between Coercion and Privatization: The Case of Islamic and Middle East Studies in the United States

**Lecture by Prof. Beshara Doumani,
Department of History, University of California**

**Moderator: Prof. Gudrun Krämer
Institut für Islamwissenschaft, Freie Universität Berlin**

**At Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e.V. (GWZ),
Monday, 27 March 2006, 7 p.m.**

Are the attacks on academic freedom in the United States after 9/11 a passing storm, or do they represent a structural shift that undermines one of the pillars of democratic societies? Prof. Doumani's lecture puts the attacks on Middle East and Islamic studies in the United States in historical perspective. It analyzes the challenges to academic freedom posed by post-9/11 political interventions and the market-driven commercialization of knowledge. These issues are examined in light of the major transformations within the system of higher education since the Second World War, including conflicting interpretations of what constitutes academic freedom, and a discussion of strategies.

Beshara Doumani is Professor in the Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of "Rediscovering Palestine: Merchants and Peasants in Jabal Nablus, 1700-1900" (1995) and editor of "Family History in the Middle East: Household, Property and Gender" (2003).

His latest, edited book, "Academic Freedom after September 11", is to be published in March 2006 by Zone Books. It includes contributions by the editor and by Joel Beinin, Judith Butler, Kathleen J. Frydl, Amy Newhall, Robert Post, and Philippa Strum. For further information, please see: <http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?type=2&tid=10799>.

The Zentrum Moderner Orient and the Arbeitskreis Moderne und Islam cordially invite you to this lecture. Please register at: zmo@rz.hu-berlin.de.

Journalists who would like to interview the author are requested to contact nadja-christina.schneider@alumni.hu-berlin.de.

Venue: Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e.V. (GWZ)
Jägerstraße 10/11, 10117 Berlin

Direction: U-Bahn 2: Französische Straße (2 min. walk)