



## Invitation

Tuesday, 2 May 2017, 6 pm c.t.

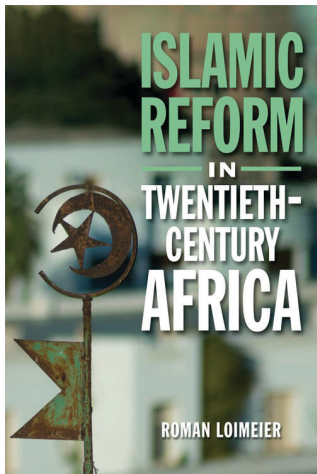
### Venue

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  
 Institut für Asien- und Afrika-  
 wissenschaften (IAAW)  
 Invalidenstraße 118  
 10115 Berlin  
 Room 415

### Book Launch:

## New Perspectives on Islam in Africa

Presentation of *Islamic Reform in 20th Century Africa* (Edinburgh University Press, September 2016) by **Roman Loimeier** and *Islam et Modernité: contribution à l'analyse de la ré-islamisation au Niger* (Edition L'Harmattan, November 2016) by **Abdoulaye Sounaye**

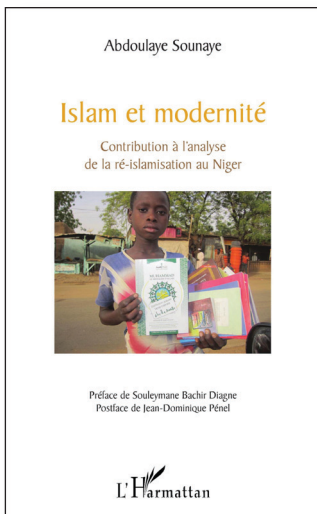


The monography *Islamic Reform in 20th Century Africa* by Roman Loimeier explores the question of how the development of Islamic reform movements in Africa can or should be assessed. He traces big historical lines, shows the exemplary and the particular and focuses on structures and exceptions. His book discusses the difficulties of comparison and asks for the meaning of reform for different contexts.

**Roman Loimeier** (University of Göttingen) is Associate Professor at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology and especially focuses on the "Anthropology of Islam". He has been doing research in Senegal (1981, 1990-1993, 2006), Northern Nigeria (1986-1988) and Tanzania (since 2001) and has published several volumes on the history and development of Muslim societies in Africa including *Muslim Societies in Africa: A Historical Anthropology* (Bloomington 2013), *Between Social Skills and Marketable Skills: The Politics of Islamic Education in Zanzibar in the 20th Century* (Leiden 2009) and *Islamic Reform and Political Change in Northern Nigeria* (Evanston 1997). Since 2008, he is "section editor" (Sub-Saharan Africa, Islamic studies) for the third edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (Brill, Leiden).

In his book *Islam et Modernité: contribution à l'analyse de la ré-islamisation au Niger* Abdoulaye Sounaye discusses religion and religiosity in the recent history of Niger. Focusing on the rise and expansion of Islamic reform in Niger, it contends that the re-islamization process is nothing but the manifestation of a modernity that found inspiration in a religious tradition. Challenging the secular normative framework, this modernity manifests itself through various processes such as the restructuring of the public sphere or the rise of an Islamic civil society, all informed by modes of putting Islam to work. Theoretically, the essay argues also for the wedding of anthropology, history and philosophy to better research the re-islamization problematic, and for that matter religion.

**Abdoulaye Sounaye** (ZMO) works on Salafism in Niger and West Africa. He is particularly interested in the ways in which religious dynamics affect community formation and sociopolitical interactions. In addition to the dynamics of contemporary Islam, he is also conducting research on the interactions between Muslims and Christians in Niger. He holds a PhD in Religious Studies/Anthropology from Northwestern University, USA.



### In cooperation with:

