



## Muslims in Europe

The Centre for Modern Oriental Studies (ZMO) received a three-year grant of over €1.3m from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research in November 2005 for a research programme on “Muslims in Europe and their societies of origin in Asia and Africa”. Research will be conducted at the Universities of Frankfurt/Oder (Comparative Social and Cultural Anthropology, Prof. Werner Schiffauer), Hamburg (Religious Pedagogics, Prof. Wolfram Weiße) and Halle/Saale (South Asian Studies, Prof. Rahul Peter Das) in a collaborative project to be coordinated by senior lecturer Dr. Dietrich Reetz at the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies (ZMO) Berlin.

Seven case studies will investigate the role of practicing Muslims in various European contexts in an attempt to understand how Muslims are going to shape emerging European identity. For comparative reasons links with their countries and cultures of origin will also be considered. The transfer of cultural and religious knowledge and its influence on local and translocal social milieus will be studied here. As an interdisciplinary project, “Muslims in Europe and their societies of origin in Asia and Africa” will combine concepts derived from the sociology of religion with those of the political sciences and Islamic studies. It will also draw on the notion of translocality evolving from research at the ZMO.

At the ZMO, Dietrich Reetz will examine the activities of the South Asian missionary movements of the Tablighi Jamaat and the Dawat-i Islami in several European countries. He will be joined by a PhD candidate in a position to be advertised soon. Melanie Kamp will look at Islamic educational institutions in Germany. At the Viadrina University of Frankfurt/Oder, Schirin Amir-Moazami will explore concepts of gender within the Turkish group Milli Görüs. Frank Peter will focus on Islamist activities in France, taking the example of the Union des Organisations Islamiques de France (UOIF). In Hamburg, Inga Niehaus will compare Muslim minorities and their schools in South Africa and in European countries such as Great Britain and the Netherlands. Andrea Lathan will be writing her PhD thesis on the Ahmadiyya community in Germany and Great Britain.

The research project will actively communicate research to the wider public, including specialists, activists and intellectuals. For this purpose it will organise public events and develop representations for the media and the Internet. Apart from academic publications on project results, the submitting of proposals to politicians and other decision-makers in society is also planned. Subject to the release of funds by the Ministry, the project is scheduled to begin in July 2006.

**Links:**

PD Dr. Dietrich Reetz, Centre for Modern Oriental Studies (ZMO) in Berlin,  
<http://www.zmo.de/Dietrich/Reetz.html>

Prof. Werner Schiffauer, University of Frankfurt/Oder, Comparative Social and Cultural Anthropology: <http://www.kuwi.euv-frankfurt-o.de/~anthro/>

Prof. Wolfram Weiße, University of Hamburg, Religious Pedagogics:  
<http://www2.erzwiss.uni-hamburg.de/personal/weise/weise.htm>

Prof. Rahul Peter Das, University of Halle/Saale, South Asian Studies:  
<http://www.suedasien.uni-halle.de/das.html>

