

The Zentrum Moderner Orient
cordially invites you to the presentation:

MADRASAH:

An Intimate Portrait of Life in the Religious Schools of India Today and their Global Connections

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The institution of the *Madrasah* – religious seminaries – has come under intense media scrutiny after the declaration of the ‘global war on terror’. Following the bombings in London this year, the international media shifted its focus on the *madrasahs* of India and Pakistan, and many articles and reports have been written about the alleged ‘dangers’ of these institution and their assumed links to terrorist networks.

This presentation hopes to give an intimate view of the world of *madrasahs*, institutions that have existed for hundreds of years and which have produced countless scholars, jurists and statesmen all over the Muslim world. Focusing on two of the most important *madrasahs* of India, the *Dar’ul Uloom madrasah* of Deoband and the *Nadwatul Ul’oom madrasah* of Lucknow, it offers an intimate view of daily life inside the *madrasahs* themselves and a glimpse into a world that has hitherto only been written about, but rarely visited. Based on fieldwork conducted at these institutions, interviews with students and teachers, it aims to demonstrate that the world of the *madrasahs* is far more complex and constantly evolving.

The presentation will also include an exhibition of unique photographs taken in both *madrasahs*, and a virtual 3-dimensional presentation of the interior world of the Deoband *madrasah*, arguably the most prestigious *madrasah* in Asia today.