



Invitation ZMO-Kolloquium WS 2008/09

“Speaking, Listening, Reading, Seeing – Shaping the World Through Media”

Thursday, 26 February 2009, 6 pm

Popularisation of ifta? Media-Fatwas by Yusuf al-Qaradawi

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Lecture by Bettina Gräf

In her presentation Bettina Gräf focuses on the impact of the media on the process of issuing fatwas and on the layout of the genre. The fatwas of the Egyptian Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a popular Azhari scholar and so-called media mufti who was born in 1926 and has lived in Qatar since 1961, serve as useful examples to investigate changes in the fatwa genre since the 1950s, when Qaradawi began to publish fatwas. Qaradawi, who was an active member of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood in his younger days, has never relinquished his commitment to contemporary Islamic movements and is regarded as one of the leading theorists of the Islamic awakening (*al-ṣaḥwa al-islāmiyya*) of the 1970s and 1980s. Since the beginning of his career, Qaradawi has made fatwas a central tool of proselytization. This lecture, however, renders transparent that media-fatwas have become a key means of legitimizing Muslim politics and a symbol of what it means to be Islamic in a multi-religious and multi-ethical media-mediated world. Hence those (in journalism, politics and religion) who are involved in the fatwa giving/publishing process leave their mark on the fatwa genre.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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Bettina Gräf studied Islamic Studies, Arabic History, and Political Science. She has worked as academic assistant to the director at the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin from 2003 to 2007. She is currently a Research Fellow at ZMO and has handed in her PhD thesis on the production and adaptation of fatwas in the era of electronic media with reference to the works of Yusuf al-Qaradawi in October 2008, (with Prof. Dr. Gudrun Krämer and Prof. Dr. Kai Hafez as supervisors). An edited book (together with Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen) will be published by Hurst/London in March 2009; it is titled *The Global Mufti: The Phenomenon of Yusuf al-Qaradawi*.