



## Invitation ZMO-Kolloquium Summer 2009

Thursday, 25 June 2009, 6 pm

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### Territorializing Piety: Genealogy, Transnationalism, and Shi'ite Politics in Modern Lebanon

Lecture by Dr Roschanack Shaery-Eisenlohr

#### Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

In this talk, I am concerned with certain inflections in the links between genealogy and piety that make these terms central to contests over notions of territoriality in contemporary Shi'ite politics. Particularly, I will discuss how, mediated through genealogy, religious leaders and pious movements with transnational ties produce religious authority, and create links to territory, to assert themselves as exemplary cultural citizens. To this end, I will explore the biography and activism of two Lebanese Shi'ite leaders who maintained intense transnational ties to Iran during the 1970s and 1980s. I will also examine current Iranian cultural politics in Lebanon, and Hizbullah's vision of South Lebanese history.

**Dr Roschanack Shaery-Eisenlohr** was born in Germany to Iranian parents and lived in Tehran from 1973 to 1986 when she moved back to Germany. She received her MA in Anthropology and Education at Heidelberg University in 1998 and moved to the US for post-graduate studies. Ms Shaery-Eisenlohr conducted field research among Lebanese Shi'ites in Beirut in the summer of 2000 and for 13 months in 2002-2003 and received her PhD at the University of Chicago in August 2005. She was a postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University where she taught courses on Iranian history and society and on transnational Shi'ite politics in the modern Middle East. Currently, she works at the University of Amsterdam and is a visiting scholar at ZMO. Her book *Shi'ite Lebanon: Transnational Religion and the Making of National Identities* was published with Columbia University Press in 2008.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

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#### Next event:

Thursday, 9 July 2009, 6 pm

Islamwissenschaft - ein Fach im Zustand der Auflösung?

Lecture by Prof Stephan Conermann, Universität Bonn