

Roman Seidel (BGS/MCS)

Roman Seidel is a postdoctoral fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin. His primary research interest is the study of contemporary philosophy in the Middle East. He earned a PhD in Islamic Studies in 2011 from the University of Zurich, where he was a senior teaching assistant for Islamic Studies and Persian and Modern Iran at the Institute for Asian and Oriental Studies from 2011 to 2014. He is currently working on a project entitled Towards an Integrated "Intellectual History" and "Comparative Philosophy" Approach to the Study of Contemporary Philosophy in the Middle East. He is involved in the Ueberweg project on philosophy in the nineteenth- and twentieth- century Muslim world and serves on the editorial board of the *Philosophie in der nahöstlichen Moderne / Philosophy in the Modern Middle East* book series published by Klaus-Schwarz Verlag (Berlin) and on the advisory board of the World Philosophies book series published by Mimesis International. His doctoral dissertation, *Kant in Teheran: Anfänge, Ansätze und Kontexte der Kantrezeption in Iran*, was published by De Gruyter (Berlin) in 2014.

Nils Riecken (ZMO)

Nils Riecken is a postdoctoral fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin. In his PhD dissertation submitted at FU Berlin he worked on the intellectual biography of the Moroccan historian, philosopher, and intellectual Abdallah Laroui (b. 1933). In his research he is generally concerned with historical entanglements between the Maghreb, the Mashreq, Asia, and Europe. His specific research interests are intellectual history, social history, historical theory, the history of historiography, time, and critical theory in a global perspective. Currently, he is turning his dissertation into a book and working on a multi-sited biography of the Iraqi journalist and traveller Yūnis Baḥrī (d. 1979) within a global frame. His publications include "Frames of Time: Periodization and Universals in the Works of Abdallah Laroui", in *Der Islam* 91, no. 1 (May 2014), pp. 115–34, "Periodization and the Political: Abdallah Laroui's Analysis of Temporalities in a Postcolonial Context", in *ZMO Working Papers* 6 (2012), and "History, Time, and Temporality in a Global Frame: Abdallah Laroui's Historical Epistemology of History", in *History & Theory* 54, no. 4 (December 2015).

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Engaging with Contemporary Philosophy in the Middle East and Muslim South Asia

Themes, Approaches, and New Perspectives

Philosophy is a vital component of present-day intellectual and academic discourse in the Middle East (the Mashreq), North Africa (the Maghreb), and Muslim South Asia. Yet Western publics and scholars often assume that philosophy as an intellectual endeavour in the Muslim world ended in the twelfth century with the philosopher and polymath Averroes. As a counterpoint to this, this lecture series highlights the liveliness and complexity of contemporary philosophical debates in the Middle East and Muslim South Asia. In doing so, the lectures will reveal, first, how these contemporary debates form part of a continuous tradition of philosophy in the Muslim world. Second, the lecture series draws attention to how modern Muslim philosophers re-read their Islamic intellectual heritage while appropriating elements of modern Western philosophy.

As such, this lecture series – by considering both systematic and historical perspectives – is designed to speak to anyone engaged with contemporary philosophical discourses in a trans-regional frame.

The lecture series is open to the public.

For more information, see:
www.bgsmscs.fu-berlin.de

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Zeitgenössische Philosophie
in der islamischen Welt
Fragen, Herausforderungen, Perspektiven

Engaging with Contemporary Philosophy in the Middle East and Muslim South Asia

Themes, Approaches, and New Perspectives

Thursdays, 6-8 pm,
FU Berlin, "Holzlaube"
(Fabeckstraße 23-25, 14195 Berlin,
Seminarraum 2.2058, 2. OG)

LECTURE SERIES
WINTER TERM
2015 / 2016

organised by
Roman Seidel (BGS/MCS)
and Nils Riecken (ZMO)

5.11.2015

Lecture in German

Philosophie in der nahöstlichen Moderne – ein Rundblick

Anke von Kügelgen (University of Bern)

Anke von Kügelgen is professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Bern in Switzerland. Besides a research interest in Islam in Russia and Central Asia, she specifically focuses on the history of philosophy in the modern Middle East. Her dissertation on modern Averroism in the Arab world ("Averroes und die Arabische Moderne: Ansätze zu einer Neubegründung des Rationalismus im Islam", Leiden: Brill, 1994) was among the first comprehensive studies to draw attention to modern philosophical debates in the Middle East. She has written extensively on Arab philosophers and serves on the editorial board of the journals *Asiatische Studien* and *Worlds of Islam* (Berlin: de Gruyter). She is editor of a major book project on philosophy in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Muslim world (as part of *Ueberweg: Grundriss der Geschichte der Philosophie*, to be published in 2017), editor-in-chief of the book series *Philosophie in der nahöstlichen Moderne / Philosophy in the Modern Middle East* (Klaus-Schwarz Verlag, Berlin) and director of the research focus Contemporary Philosophy in the Near and Middle East at the University of Bern.

19.11.2015

Saving Religion? – The Uneasy Engagement of Contemporary Indo-Muslim Philosophers with Western Philosophical Alternatives

Jan-Peter Hartung (SOAS, London)

Jan-Peter Hartung is reader in the study of Islam in the Department for the Study of Religions at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. His fields of interests include Muslim intellectual history, with a regional focus on South Asia and the wider Persianate world. He is involved in the Ueberweg project on philosophy in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Muslim world and serves on the editorial board of *Philosophie in der nahöstlichen Moderne / Philosophy in the Modern Middle East* book series published by Klaus-Schwarz Verlag (Berlin). His publications include a biography of the Northern Indian scholar Sayyid Abû I-Hasan 'Ali Nadwî (d. 1999), titled *Viele Wege und ein Ziel: Leben und Wirken von Sayyid Abû I-Hasan ,Ali al-Hasani Nadwi (1914–1999), A System of Life: Mawdûdî and the Ideologisation of Islam* (London: Hurst / New York: OUP, 2013), and, as co-editor (with Albrecht Fuess), *Court Culture in the Muslim World: Seventh to Nineteenth Centuries* (London and New York: Routledge, 2011).

10.12.2015

The Reception of Modern European Philosophy in Iran

Ali Gheissari (University of San Diego)

Ali Gheissari teaches history at the University of San Diego and has a research interest in the intellectual history of modern Iran. He has written extensively in Persian and English on modern Iranian history and on modern philosophy and social theory. Gheissari serves on the advisory board of the *Philosophie in der nahöstlichen Moderne / Philosophy in the Modern Middle East* book series published by Klaus-Schwarz Verlag (Berlin), and on the editorial board of the Iran Studies book series published by Brill (Leiden); he is also the editor-in-chief designate of the journal *Iranian Studies*. His publications include *Democracy in Iran: History and the Quest for Liberty* (co-author, Oxford University Press, 2006, 2009) *Iranian Intellectuals in the Twentieth Century* (University of Texas Press, 1998, 2008); and *Kant on Time and Other Essays* (in Persian, Tehran, 2016). Persian translation of Immanuel Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Ethics* (with Hamid Enayat, Tehran, 1991, 2015) and Manfred Frings et al., *Max Scheler and Phenomenology* (Tehran, 2015).

14.01.2016

Contemporary Arab Thought and Philosophy: their Significance to Contemporary Arabs

Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab (Universität Marburg)

Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab is currently a research fellow at the Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies in Marburg. Her research interests lie both in Western and postcolonial cultural philosophy, with particular focus on contemporary Arab thought, and in studies in cultural crisis, authenticity, and critique. She received the 2013 Sheikh Zayed Book Award in the category "Contribution to the Development of Nations" for the Arabic version of her latest book *Contemporary Arab Thought: Cultural Critique in Comparative Perspective* (New York and Chichester: Columbia University Press, 2010). She was visiting fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Freie Universität Berlin. She is currently working on a new book project *Critique, Enlightenment and Revolution. Arab Intellectuals and the Uprisings*. Other publications include "Is Europe an Essence?" in *International Studies in Philosophy* 34, no. 4 (2002), and "An Arab Neo-Kantian Philosophy of Culture", in *Philosophy East and West* 49, no. 4 (1999).

28.01.2016

Lecture in German

Intoleranz und Toleranz in der arabischen Moderne

Sarhan Dhouib (Universität Kassel)

Sarhan Dhouib teaches in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Kassel. In his dissertation thesis he worked on Schelling's identity philosophy. In 2011 he was awarded the prize for young researchers in philosophy by the Goethe-Institut. His research interests include classical and modern Arab-Islamic philosophy, Kant and German idealism, especially Schelling, political philosophy, the philosophy of human rights, and intercultural philosophy. He is involved in the Ueberweg project on philosophy in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century Muslim world and serves on the editorial board of the *Philosophie in der nahöstlichen Moderne / Philosophy in the Modern Middle East* book series published by Klaus-Schwarz Verlag (Berlin). His publications include several edited and co-edited volumes such as *Gerechtigkeit in transkultureller Perspektive* (December 2015), *Demokratie, Pluralismus und Menschenrechte: Transkulturelle Perspektiven* (Weilerswist: Velbrück Wissenschaft, 2014), *Kultur, Identität und Menschenrechte: Transkulturelle Perspektiven* (Weilerswist: Velbrück Wissenschaft, 2012), and, with P. Brunozzi and W. Pfannkuche, *Transkulturalität der Menschenrechte: Arabische, chinesische und europäische Perspektiven* (Munich: Albert-Verlag, 2013).

11.02.2016

The Problem of Depropriation in the Islamic Approach to Philosophy in Turkey

Zeynep Direk (Koç University, Istanbul)

Zeynep Direk teaches in the Department of Philosophy at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. She got her PhD from the University of Memphis in 1998. She publishes on contemporary French philosophy, ethics, political philosophy, feminism, and the history of Turkish philosophy. Her essays address debates within feminism as well as contemporary political issues in Turkey. Zeynep Direk serves on the advisory board of the *Philosophie in der nahöstlichen Moderne / Philosophy in the Modern Middle East* book series published by Klaus-Schwarz Verlag (Berlin). She has translated many articles on philosophy into Turkish and has recently edited *A Companion to Derrida* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014) and is about to complete two new books in Turkish (*Derrida's Political Philosophy and Feminism and Philosophy*). Other publications include "Secular Turkish Philosophy, Muslim Theology and Post-Modernism", in *Transcultural Studies* 1, no. 1 (2014), and "The Ordeal of the European Ideal in the Face of the Muslim Other", in *Europe after Derrida*, ed. Bora Isyar (Edinburgh University Press, 2013).