

**Urban Studies Seminar
2014 - 2015**

Twice a month,
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

Venue:

Conference Hall
Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Please register
at the following address:
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**Annual Theme: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on
Urban Marginality in Africa, the Middle East and Asia****Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Monday, June 1st, 2015, 5 pm****Religious diversity & urban space:
intersecting mechanisms of exclusion in
Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur**

Lecture by **Saskia Schäfer**
(Columbia University New York)

In many cities around the world, new forms of urbanization, neoliberal capitalism and religion are developing and interacting in unexpected ways. In many Muslim urban centers, new mosques and shopping malls are mushrooming and the wealthy are improving their methods of avoiding exposure to the poor. In this talk, I discuss the examples of Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur, and also draw comparisons to current developments in Istanbul in order to raise questions about the entanglements between global capital and national identity, as well as the increasing visibility of Islamic piety.

What are the social, economic, and religious boundaries and separations in the urban landscape? What are the possibilities and limits of our traditional political imaginaries in an urbanizing world that has been characterized at once as globalized, post-political and post-secular? What modes of resistance are there against whom or what, and what defines resistance in the face of large-scale urban and political change? How do commerce and other realms of social interaction relate to each other? How are Islam, neoliberalism, and urban development linked? In this talk, rather than presenting primary data, I draw on the existing literature to explore interdisciplinary questions and approaches and to discuss ways of tackling these questions.

EUME is a program at:

**Forum
Transregionale
Studien**

Saskia Schäfer is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Religion, Culture, and Public Life at Columbia University. Her research interests include public discourses on religious liberty, deviance, and factions within Islam with a regional focus on Indonesia and Malaysia.