



Book Presentation

Thursday, 9 June 2016, 5 pm

The Ahmadiyya Quest for Religious Progress: Missionizing Europe 1900-1965

Book presentation by **Dr Gerdien Jonker** (Erlangen University) introduced and moderated by **Dr Heike Liebau** (ZMO)

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Hosted by:



**Gesellschaft
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GEFÖRDERT VOM



**Bundesministerium
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What happens when the idea of religious progress propels the shaping of modernity? In 'The Ahmadiyya Quest for Religious Progress: Missionizing Europe 1900 - 1965' Gerdien Jonker offers an account of the mission the Ahmadiyya reform movement undertook in interwar Europe. Nowadays persecuted in the Muslim world, Ahmadis appear here as the vanguard of a modern, rational Islam that met with a considerable interest.

Ahmadiyya mission on the European continent attracted European 'moderns', among them Jews and Christians, theosophists and agnostics, artists and academics, liberals and Nazis. Each in their own manner, all these people strove towards modernity, and were convinced that Islam helped realizing it. Based on a wide array of sources, this book unravels the multiple layers of entanglement that arose once the missionaries and their quarry met.

Gerdien Jonker is a scholar in the History and Ethnography of Religion. She studied in Amsterdam and Paris History of Religion, Cuneiform and Hebrew, and obtained her Ph.D. at Groningen University with a dissertation on collective memory in Ancient Mesopotamia (1993). Ever since, she conducted a large range of research projects on the history and collective memory of Muslims in Europe. She is affiliated to the Erlangen Centre of Islam and Law in Europe (EZIRE) at Erlangen University.