



Invitation ZMO-Kolloquium WS 2008/09

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

Thursday, 30 October 2008, 6 pm

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

‘Rasta’ Sufis and Muslim Youth Culture in Mali

Lecture by Dr. Benjamin Soares, Afrika-Studiezentrum Leiden and Visiting Fellow (ZMO)

In this lecture, Dr. Soares is concerned with understanding changing modalities of religious expression and modes of belonging among Muslim youth in contemporary Mali. While much recent scholarship about Muslim youth privileges Islamism, trajectories of political radicalization, as well as ethical modes of self-fashioning associated with so-called piety movements, the case of young self-styled Sufis - sometimes dubbed ‘Rasta’ Sufis - in urban Mali helps to illustrate other ways in which certain youth have been refashioning how to be young and Muslim. By focusing on these young Muslims’ activities, including their religious practices, sophisticated engagement with the media, and religious marketing, Soares explores the cultural politics of Muslim youth who are involved in building new communities and dreaming of a world different from the one in which they find themselves.

Benjamin Soares, an anthropologist, is a Senior Research Fellow at the Afrika-Studiecentrum in Leiden, The Netherlands. He has conducted research on Islam, religious encounters, and Muslim public intellectuals in Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal, as well as among West African Muslims living in France. He has held fellowships at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris and at the University of Chicago and has taught at Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Sussex. His publications include *Islam and the Prayer Economy: History and Authority in a Malian Town* (2005), two edited collections with political scientist René Otayek, *Islam and Muslim Politics in Africa* (2007) and *Islam et politique en Afrique* (forthcoming), *Muslim-Christian Encounters in Africa* (editor, 2006), and *Islam and Politics: Anthropological Perspectives* (edited with Filippo Osella), a special issue of the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (forthcoming in 2009).

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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The next lecture of this series will take place on 27. 11. 2008 at 6 pm:

Prof. Charles Hirschkind (University of California, Berkeley) speaks about New Media and Political Dissent in Egypt