



Invitation ZMO-Kolloquium Summer 2009

Thursday, 28 May 2009, 6 pm

Is there a New Politics of Memory in the Middle East?

Lecture by Dr Sune Haugbolle

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

In the last five to ten years, pressure for political liberalisation, and the growth of civil society and independent media, inside Arab countries have prompted debates about violent events in the postcolonial period. This talk discusses how legacies of political violence have been challenged through various initiatives to promote "truth-telling" and transitional justice. Based on his recent book "The Politics of Violence, Truth and Reconciliation in the Arab Middle East" (Routledge, 2009) Sune Haugbolle will discuss the power relations between state-orchestrated initiatives (such as Truth and Reconciliation committees and ministerial committees), civil society actors (including former political prisoners, investigative journalists and NGOs), and external actors (such as transnational NGOs, state sponsored dialogue initiatives, the UN and the EU). To what extent does this new politics challenge the Arab nation-state's monopoly on history and violence? Do public narratives of violence, memory and justice consolidate or challenge political legitimacy of current regimes?

Dr Sune Haugbolle is Assistant Professor in Arabic at the University of Copenhagen. He has written on the politics and culture of war memory in Lebanon and on mass media and public culture in the wider Arab world. He is editor of "The Politics of Violence, Truth and Reconciliation in the Arab Middle East" (Routledge, 2009) and the forthcoming book "War and Memory in Lebanon."

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Next event:

Thursday, 25 June 2009, 6 pm

Islam and the Atlantic Challenges in Senegambia, XVIIth-XXth Centuries

Lecture by Prof Ibrahima Thioub, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar (curr. Fellow at Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)