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Notions of Law and Order

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Summer Academy – Working Group
Modernity and Islam
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The 4th International Summer Academy of the Berlin-based Working Group Modernity and Islam (see *ISIM Newsletter 2*) took place from 13-25 September 1999 at the Fondation du Roi Abdul-Aziz Al Saoud pour les Etudes Islamiques et les Sciences Humaines in Casablanca, Morocco. About 30 junior and senior scholars from various disciplines and geographical backgrounds discussed questions relating to 'Notions of Law and Order in Muslim Societies' at one of the major research institutions in the Muslim world. The Summer Academy was directed by Professor Gudrun Krämer from the Institute of Islamic Studies of the Free University of Berlin.

ISIM, the Institute of Islamic Studies of the Free University of Berlin, and the Wissenschaftskolleg will cooperate in academic meetings in 2000 and in the Summer Academy 2001.

Since 1996 the Working Group Modernity and Islam has been organizing annual two-week summer academies as an attempt to internationalize its scholarly programme. So far more than 100 junior and senior scholars from about 20 different countries, with their disciplinary backgrounds ranging from anthropology to psychology,

covering regions from the Maghreb to China, have participated in Summer Academies that were held under the themes of 'Modernity and Islam', 'Processes and Counter-Processes of Modernisation', 'Crisis and Memory' and 'Notions of Law and Order in Muslim Societies'. They have taken place in Berlin, Beirut and Casablanca and have been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

The scholarly programme of the Working Group Modernity and Islam tries to link research undertaken in the Muslim world to research on the Muslim world carried out in Germany and other parts of the non-Muslim world. The programme is not confined to contemporary Middle Eastern studies but rather emphasizes systematic questions related to the complex phenomenon of modernity, including its historical dimension.

The Summer Academy is primarily addressed to doctoral and post-doctoral re-

searchers, offering them a forum to present and discuss their research. The programme differs from the normal lecture-hall or conference set-up, since the main contributors are the young researchers themselves. Leading international scholars participate in the Academy as tutors, adding their own methodological concerns and questions. The idea is to draw up a sort of interim status report that can be integrated into the work of the young as well as the more established scholars.

Under the quite provocative title of 'Notions of Law and Order in Muslim Societies' discussions focused on issues such as the rule of law, legal interpretations of the law, the role of the practitioners of the law, law and gender, law as a political symbol, good governance, legal reform, change and pluralism, techniques and methods of legal development, the use of legal sources for social history as well as moral discourse, social

discipline and order. Working days were long and rather intensive with discussions being based on the projects of the participants and a collection of basic readings, which had been made available to the participants in a reader. Working days started with a lecture by one of the tutors and closed with a plenary session in which a recent paper or article by the tutor was discussed, to be continued in the evening in more informal settings. A number of guest lectures by renowned Moroccan scholars and intellectuals linked the academy work to the ongoing debate on law and order in the host country. Most of the time, however, was devoted to discussions within working groups of five to seven participants and two tutors, where the projects of the participants and the general themes were debated. As the academy had a workshop character, the major challenge for everyone was to present and rethink his or her work, which in most cases was highly specialized, relating it not only to the overall topic of the academy but also making it relevant to the other participants.

As shown by their written evaluation, the participants found the Summer Academy exhausting but also stimulating in terms of helping them to broaden, clarify and refine their approaches as well as to meet and communicate with colleagues.

The Summer Academy 2000 will be held at the Institute of Islamic Studies of the Free University of Berlin on the theme: History and Historiography. New Perspectives of Research. *The deadline for applications is 15 January 2000.* ◆

For a full list of participants, see ISIM Newsletter on the ISIM website.

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MISCELLANEOUS

ISIM MPhil Programme in Islamic Studies

The one-year ISIM MPhil Programme in Islamic Studies was inaugurated in November 1999. The programme is interdisciplinary in approach and focuses on Islam and Muslim societies in the context of modernity and globalization. It consists of five courses and a thesis. Seven students, from Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Pakistan as well as the Netherlands, were admitted to the programme in this first year. In addition to the academic staff of ISIM and participating universities, a number of internationally renowned scholars are involved in teaching. In December, Brinkley Messick (Columbia University) lectured the MPhil students. Others, including Richard Bulliet (Columbia University), Reinhard Schulze (University of Bern), and Stephen Humphreys (University of California, Santa Barbara) will follow suit in 2000.

The MPhil prospectus for 1999-2000 and an application form may be requested from the ISIM. Review of applications will begin on 1 January 2000.

VACANCIES

New ISIM Fellowships

The ISIM invites applications and research proposals for various fellowships throughout 2000. Applications from candidates in all fields of the social sciences, humanities and religious studies will be considered. All candidates should be competent in academic English.

The ISIM fellowships include:

- *PhD Fellowships*: ISIM PhD fellowships are granted for a period of up to 4 years. The applicants should hold an MA degree or similar qualification in their field. Most of the PhD fellowships are placed within one of the ISIM Research Programmes. However, innovative individual PhD research proposals are also invited.
- *Postdoctoral Fellowships*: ISIM postdoctoral fellowships are granted for a period of up to 2 years and are available to young scholars who have received their PhD degree less than 5 years prior to application.
- *Visiting Fellowships*: ISIM visiting fellowships are granted for a period of up to 3 months. Some of these senior research fellowships will be offered upon invitation, others will be awarded in open competition.
- *Sabbatical Fellowships*: the ISIM offers facilities to academic staff of participating and other universities to conduct research. In specific cases, the ISIM makes funds available to finance the temporary replacement for teaching at the home university.

*For more information on the various fellowships and to download an application form, see the ISIM Website: <http://www.isim.nl>
or write to: ISIM Fellowship Programmes, P.O. Box 11089, 2301 EB Leiden, The Netherlands*