



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Transnational Relations and Muslim Diasporas

Koning, M. de

Citation

Koning, M. de. (2008). Transnational Relations and Muslim Diasporas. *Isim Review*, 22(1), 54-54. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/17268>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Leiden University Non-exclusive license](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/17268>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Transnational Relations and Muslim Diasporas

MARTIJN DE KONING

The workshop "Transnational Relations and Muslim Diasporas" jointly organized by York University, Toronto, and the VU University, Amsterdam in cooperation with ISIM and the follow up to the one held at York University, June 2007, took place in June 2008. Both are part of the project "Muslim Diasporas: Religious and National Identity, Gender, Cultural Resistance." The convenors of the workshop were Haideh Moghissi, Saeed Rahnema, and Halleh Ghorashi.

In the first session Tariq Modood focused on reconciling Muslim identity politics and multicultural citizenship while Jörn Thielmann explored different sites of conflict in Germany. In the second session Annelies Moors examined Muslim fashions and transnational relations and Jeanette Jouili discussed the transnational dimensions of cultural and artistic scenes among Muslims in France and the UK. Cassandra Balchin explored the emergence of a transnational feminist consciousness among Muslim women in Western Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand. In the third session attention shifted towards Islamic publics and counterpublics in Alexandre Caeiro's paper on the emergence of an Islamic counterpublic in Europe and Thijl Sunier's exposé on styles of leadership among Muslims in Europe.

On the next day Jasmin Zine examined the consequences of the "war on terror" for Muslim youth in Canada. Jonas Otterbeck and Nadia Fadil focused on the intra-Muslim politics. Otterbeck presented some of the findings of his research

project which examines how young Muslims in Denmark negotiate Islamic traditions in search of answers to the question of "true" Islam. During the session on Muslim youth the impor-

tance of the generation gap between youth and parents emerged. Nadia Fadil nuanced this gap showing how youth both identify and distance themselves from their parents. In the third session Anne Sofie Roald discussed Muslim women's right to divorce in Sweden and addressed the question whether collective or individual rights should prevail. Schirin Amir-Moazami questioned the liberal politics in Germany concerning the position of Muslim women showing that the basic assumptions of liberal governance have far-reaching and sometimes negative consequences for women. Fauzia Ahmed raised the issue of feminist leadership in the Muslim diaspora. In the fourth session Elena Arigita showed how the Moroccan Al-Adl wa-Ihsan movement was established in Spain through the use of local structures while Welmoet Boender discussed the institutionalization of Muslim development organizations in the Netherlands.

During the last session, Haideh Moghissi, Saeed Rahnema, and Mark Goodman presented their findings of a large study among Muslims in Canada while Kamran Rastegar discussed Ebrahim Hatami-Kia's movie *From the Karkhe to the Rhine* and the different ways of representing the traumas of Iran-Iraq war in the diaspora. Halleh Ghorashi, the convenor of this workshop, closed the event.

Altogether, the participants tried to explore different modalities of opposition against hegemonic structures of inclusion and exclusion and expressed the necessity to continue this line of research in the future, in particular the assertiveness of Muslims in the public sphere against the background of integration policies, radicalization and counter-radicalization, and human rights debates. Several of the papers presented in the workshop will be published.

Martijn de Koning is Postdoctoral Fellow within the ISIM/RU project "Salafism as a Transnational Movement".

Email: m.dekoning@isim.nl