The Fragmentation of Religious Authority in Muslim Africa

An International Workshop

Thursday–Saturday, October 10–12, 2019
Indiana University Europe Gateway, Berlin

Keynote address by Prof. Dr. Stefan Reichmuth, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Co-sponsors:

Indiana University –
  Islamic Studies Program
  African Studies Program
  Office of the President

University of Bayreuth –
  “Africa Multiple” Cluster of Excellence

University of Florida –
  Department of Religion
  Center for Global Islamic Studies

Serigne Abdou Khadre Mbake (sepia photo); Serigne Saliou Mbacké, 1915-2007, 5e khalife des mourides, Senegal (t-shirt). (Courtesy of Ibrahima Thiam, “Portraits ‘Vintage’” series, 2016.)
Thursday, October 10
16:30 – 17:00 Arrival
17:00 – 18:30 Keynote address by Prof. Dr. Stefan Reichmuth (Ruhr-Universität Bochum):
The West African Islamic Revolutions (ca. 1775-1850): Part of a Muslim Revolutionary Age?
Introduced by John Hanson (Indiana University)
18:30 – 20:30 Reception

Friday, October 11
09:00 – 09:30 Registration, refreshments
09:30 – 09:45 Ron Sela (Indiana University): Opening remarks
09:45 – 12:00 SESSION I. Chair & discussant: John Hanson (Indiana University)
09:45-10:30: Sean Hanretta (Northwestern University)
Authoritative Bundles: Material, Practice, and Ritual Transformation among Muslims in Ghana
10:30-11:15: Wendell Marsh (Rutgers University–Newark)
Contesting Genealogies of Authority
11:15-12:00: Hanna Nieber (University of Bayreuth)
Authority with Textual Materials: Power of the Written Qur’an
12:00 – 13:15 Lunch for all conference attendees
13:15 – 15:30 SESSION II. Chair & discussant: Terje Østebø (University of Florida)
13:15-14:00: Halkano Abdi Wario (Egerton University)
‘Woe Unto You Evil Scholars’: Politics of Religious Authority Delegitimization in a Jihadi Magazine in East Africa
14:00-14:45: Kimberly Wortmann (Wake Forest University)
Parallel and Intersecting Networks of Ibadhi Islam: The Renewed Algerian Presence in Tanzania
14:45-15:30: Benedikt Pontzen (University of Bayreuth)
“Speaking for Islam”: Malams and ‘Ilm in a Zongo
15:30-16:00 Coffee break
16:00-17:30 SESSION III. Chair & discussant: Rüdiger Seesemann (University of Bayreuth)
16:00-16:45: Beth Buggenhagen (Indiana University)
From Photographic Portrait to Devotional Image: Photography and Muslim Authority in Bingo Magazine
16:45-17:30: Joseph Hill (University of Alberta)
WhatsApp, Shaykh? Varieties of Networked Religious Authorities in the Fayḍa Tijāniyya
19:00 Dinner for presenters
Saturday, October 12
09:30 – 10:00  Registration, refreshments
10:00 – 12:15  SESSION IV. Chair & discussant: Benjamin Soares (University of Florida)
   10:00-10:45:  Kai Kresse (ZMO Berlin) and Kadara Swaleh (Pwani University)
                  Contested Religious Authority on the Swahili Coast, Seen Through the
                  Work of Three Muslim Scholars
   10:45-11:30:  Dorrit van Dalen (Leiden University)
                  Authority and al-Tarjumī
   11:30-12:15:  Alexander Thurston (University of Cincinnati)
                  Buddah Ould al-Busayri and the Fragmentation of Sacred Authority in
                  Postcolonial Mauritania

12:15-13:30  Lunch for all conference attendees
13:30-15:00  Session V. Chair & Discussant: Marloes Janson (SOAS)
   13:30-14:15:  Fulera Issaka-Toure (University of Ghana)
                  Hierarchies of Muslim Religious Authorities and Female Agency in Accra,
                  Ghana
   14:15-15:00:  Britta Frede (University of Bayreuth)
                  Islamic Authority, Education and Tradition in Contemporary African
                  Cities: Female Perspectives

15:00: Concluding remarks

19:00  Dinner for Presenters

Anonymous. (Courtesy of Ibrahima Thiam, “Portraits ‘Vintage’” series, 2016.)
Visit the Islamic Studies Program

islamic.indiana.edu