



European Union Centre of Excellence Lecture Series

“New Centers of Islamic Theology at Universities in the EU: the German Case”

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David Turpin Building, Room 104



Growing numbers of Muslim citizens in Europe have caused many institutions of higher education in the EU to re-examine how religious instruction is organized in their countries. The models vary widely from one country to the next depending on the ways secularism is understood. Germany’s “partial secularism” represents a particularly interesting case in this regard. Since its public schools include religious instruction for Catholic and Protestant Christians, the decision was made to extend this privilege to Muslim children as well, which in turn required the establishment of teacher training centers. Four Centers for Islamic Theology at German universities were opened in 2011/2012.

Monique Scheer will discuss this new development and compare it to other cases in the EU. In particular, she will examine the hopes and fears these new centers of learning evoke, and what their establishment says about the challenges presented by shifting religious demographics in the EU.



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