



University
of Victoria



CSRS Thursday Lecture Series

Transnational Formations of the Islamic Other: The Ahmadiyya “Heresy”

Thursday, May 10

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Hickman Building, Room 116

Founded in 19th century India as a messianic Islamic reform movement, the Ahmadiyya community is now considered “heretical” by most other Muslims. The 12 million Ahmadis worldwide reject this label, yet experience structural and popular discrimination, even violence, in many countries. I unpack three layers of transnationalism underlying the formation of Ahmadis as the “Other” within Islam. In addition to migration—which brings “old-world fault lines” into new countries—I underline modern trends in identity formation and in public theology. These have implications for understanding seemingly unrelated events like the European cartoon controversies. I make a case for reprising our take on Islam and globalization, as well as the study of modern heresies.

Ali Qadir is Associate Professor in the New Social Research Program and in Cultural & Political Sociology at the University of Tampere in Finland. His research and teaching focuses on global and transnational sociology as well as the sociology of religion, especially Islam. He is presently preparing a book on the Ahmadiyya, and is co-authoring a book on “Epistemic Governance.”

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