Islamic Extremism and Militant Islam as Hybrid Cultures of Knowledge

16th to 17th November 2018, University of Rostock
Venue: Schwaansche Str. 3, 18055 Rostock, Beratungsraum des Kanzlers
Program

16.11.2018

1.00pm – Registration and snacks

2.00pm – Welcome

Prof. Dr. Klaus Hock DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND INTERCULTURAL THEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF ROSTOCK

2.05pm – Keynote I: „Das Ende von jihad-Bewegungen im Lichte vergleichender Studien zum Ende von Terrorismus“
(‘The end of jihadi movements in the light of comparative studies in the decline of terrorism’)

Prof. Dr. Hans G. Kippenberg UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN

2.50pm – Keynote II: “Discourses of scholarship on political Islam and religious radicalization in the context of Islamic Studies and Religious Studies”

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Schulze UNIVERSITY OF BERN

3.35pm-4.05pm – Q&A
4.05pm-4.20pm – Coffee break

4.20pm – Panel I: Terminology

“Salafism as scholarly creation? On the genealogy and usability of a contested term”

Dr. Florian Zemmin UNIVERSITY OF BERN

4.50pm – “From Online to Off: UK Islamist Perspectives on Social Media”

Dr. Elizabeth Pearson UNIVERSITY OF SWANSEA

5.20 pm-5.50pm – Q&A
5.50pm – Announcements

7.15pm – Dinner at Restaurant ‘Borwin’
17.11.2018

08.30pm – Keynote III: “Religion and violent extremism with a focus on Islamist jihadism”
Prof. Dr. Alex P. Schmid  INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR COUNTERTERRORISM (ICCT), THE HAGUE

9.15am-9.45am – Q&A
9.45am-10.00am – Coffee break

Panel II: Case Studies

10.00am – “Subcultures and violent radicalisation with regard to Islamist/Salafi actors”
Dr. Daniela Pisiou  AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (OIIP), VIENNA

10.30am – “Empowerment through violence - European women in jihadi movements”
Dr. Nina Käsehage  UNIVERSITY OF ROSTOCK

11.00am-11.30am – Q&A
11.30am-12.00am – Lunch

Panel III: New Horizons

12.00am – “Women and Islamism in the Sahel: roots and evolutions”
Olga Torres-Díaz  UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLA

12.30am – “Salafism as State Agitprop: manipulation of a paradigm”
Andrew Hammond  UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

1.00pm-1.30pm – Q&A
1.30pm-1.35pm – Concluding remarks

He previously worked for the European Council on Foreign Relations as Middle East policy analyst and in Egypt and Saudi Arabia with Reuters news agency. He studied Arabic and early Islamic history at SOAS and Turkish and Middle East Studies at Oxford.

Prof. Dr. theol. KLAUS HOCK is Professor of Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology at the Faculty of Theology (Rostock University). He was a founding member, vice spokesperson (2006-09; 2014-17) and spokesperson (2010-13) of the Guided Research Group on “Cultural Encounters and the Discourses of Scholarship” and is a founding member of the Guided Research Group on “The Power of Interpretation: Religion and Belief Systems in Conflicts of Interpretational Power” (since 2014).

Research interests: Islam and Christian-Muslim relations (esp. in sub-Saharan Africa); African religions and religions in Africa (esp. African Christianity); late modern cultures of religion and hybrid forms of religion; transculturation.

Dr. in NINA KÄSEHAGE is an Historian and Religious Studies Scholar (B.A. and M.A. at the Ruhr-University of Bochum).

Her PhD at the University of Göttingen, entitled “The current Salafi Scene in Germany – Preachers and Adherents”, about the German Salafi Scene is based on 105 interviews in Germany and published in April 2018 (LIT-Verlag). It is a basic research and the first empirical study about the German Salafi movement that has been published in Germany so far.

Since March 2017 she is working at the Department of Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology at the University of Rostock on her habilitation project about female IS returnees. Dr. Käsehages´ research foci are religious radicalization and fundamentalism with emphasis on the German and European Salafi movements, conversion research, sociology of religion and new religious movements.

Forthcoming publication: “Salafism as transnational movement illustrated by the example of women in Jihad”, a basic research about jihadi women in Europe, based on interviews that were conducted in eight European countries.
Prof. Dr. HANS G. KIPPENBERG is a professor of Comparative Religious Studies. He studied Theology, Semitic and Iranian Languages as well as History of Religions in Marburg, Tübingen, Göttingen, Leeds (GB) and Berlin. From 1977 to 1989 he had been Professor for Comparative Religious Studies at Groningen University (NL), 1989-2004 Professor for Theory and History of Religions at Bremen University, and from 2008 to 2015 he taught Comparative Religious Studies at the Jacobs-University of Bremen.

He was a Fellow at Netherland's Institute for Advanced Study in Wassenaar, at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Bielefeld as well as a visiting professor at the Universities of Heidelberg, Chicago (USA), Ramatgan (Israel) and Aarhus (Dänemark).

Dr. in **ELIZABETH PEARSON** is a Lecturer at the Cyber Threats Intelligence Centre (CyTIC) specialising in gender, extremism, and how to counter extremism. Elizabeth has an interest in offline and online and their intersections. She has worked with VOX-Pol, the EU’s online extremism research network, conducting research on gender in ISIS-supporting communities on Twitter (Elizabeth Pearson, (2017). Online as the New Frontline: Affect, Gender, and ISIS-Take-Down on Social Media. Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 1-25.)

She studied for her PhD in War Studies at King’s College London, where she explored gender in both ‘Islamist’ and ‘far-right’ movements in the UK through field research and interviews with activists. (Elizabeth Pearson, (2016). The Case of Roshonara Choudhry: Implications for Theory on Online Radicalization, ISIS Women, and the Gendered Jihad. Policy & Internet 8(1), 5-33.)

Dr. Pearson is also an Associate Fellow at RUSI and has carried out research for the London-based think tank examining attitudes to both Violent Extremism and Countering Violent Extremism in the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada.

She also maintains a dataset of female suicide bombing in West Africa and has an interest in issues of gender in relation to ‘Boko Haram’ (Elizabeth Pearson, Wilayat Shahidat: Boko Haram, the Islamic State, and the Question of the Female Suicide Bomber. in: Boko Haram Beyond the Headlines: Analyses of Africa’s Enduring Insurgency. (pp. 33-52). West Point, NY: Combating Terrorism Center at West Point (CTC). She has worked with the European Union Technical Assistance to Nigeria’s Evolving Security Challenges (EUTANS) and with RUSI on CVE delivery in Nigeria.
Prof. Dr. **ALEX P. SCHMID** is a Research Fellow at the International Centre for Counter Terrorism (ICCT) in The Hague, and a Director of the Vienna-based Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI). He was co-editor of the Taylor & Francis journal Terrorism and Political Violence and is currently editor-in-chief of Perspectives on Terrorism, the largest online journal in the field of Terrorism Studies. Prof. Schmid held a chair in International Relations at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) where he was, until 2009, also Director of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV).

From 1999 to 2005, he was Officer-in-Charge of the Terrorism Prevention Branch at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the rank of a Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer.

From 1994 to 1999, Dr. Schmid was an elected member of the Executive Board of ISPAC.

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Dr.in **DANIELA PISOIU** is senior researcher at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs - oiip. Her fields of research are: terrorism, radicalisation, extremism, comparative regional security, American and European foreign and security policy. She completed her PhD at the University of St Andrews, Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence and has conducted fieldwork on the topic of radicalisation in Austria, Germany and France, as well as other European countries.

Her work on Subcultures and Violent Radicalisation (Ashgate) will published in February 2019.

Dr.in Pisiou is also an expert for radicalization at the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN).
(International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council) of the United Nations' Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Until 1999 he also held the position of Extraordinary Professor for the Empirical Study of Conflict and Conflict Resolution (Synthesis Chair) at the Department of Sociology, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, and the position of Research Coordinator of PLOOM (Interdisciplinary Research Projects on Root Causes of Human Rights Violations, Centre for the Study of Social Conflict) at Leiden University. Alex Schmid has lectured in thirty countries and his work has been published in ten languages. He has close to 200 publications and reports to his name.


He is co-editor and co-author of Terrorists on Trial, published by Leiden University Press in 2016.

Prof. Dr. REINHARD SCHULZE is a Professor of Islamic Studies. He studied Islamic and Semitic Studies, Linguistics as well as Romance Studies at the University of Bonn (Diploma 1976, Doctorate in Oriental Studies 1981).

From 1982 to 1984 he was a research assistant at the Department of History and Culture of the Near East in Hamburg, and from 1984 to 1985 an acting professor of non-European history in Essen and a research associate at the Oriental Seminary of the University of Bonn (1985-1987). In 1987 he qualified as a professor in Islamic Studies at the University of Bonn (published as: Islamischer Internationalismus im 20. Jahrhundert. Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der Islamischen Weltliga. Leiden: Brill 1990).
From 1987 to 1992 he was Professor of Oriental Philology at the Ruhr-University Bochum, 1992-1995 Professor of Islamic Studies and Arabic Studies at the University of Bamberg and 1995-2018 Full Professor of Islamic Studies and Modern Oriental Philology at the University of Bern.

Furthermore Prof. Schulze had been the Director of the Institute for Islamic Studies and Modern Oriental Philology at the University of Bern (1995-2018), Head of Planning (1998-2001) and Vice Dean (2003-2007) of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Bern.

Since 2018, Prof. Schulze is the Director of the Forum Islam and the Middle East at the University of Bern.


OLGA TORRES-DÍAZ, is a researcher at the University of Seville since 2014. Since 2017, she is a PhD candidate at the department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Seville.

In 2017 she graduated in International Relations (M.A.) at the International University of Andalucía.

Olga Torres-Díaz holds a Diploma in Peacekeeping Operations from the Army War College (Spanish Ministry of Defence, Madrid 2015) and a Postgraduate Degree for the Analysis of Jihadist Terrorism, Insurgency and Radical Movements (Pablo de Olavide University, Sevilla 2015).

She is a Professor of Spanish as a Foreign Language (Diploma, University of Seville – Cervantes Institute, Sevilla, 2014) and has done a BA Hons in Arabic and Islamic Studies (University of Seville, Award with special distinction. Research Project: introductory study and first Spanish translation (partial) of a mirror for princes of the XII century, al-Taḍkira alharawiyya by al-Harawi. Summa cum Laude. Sevilla, 2014).
Assistant professor Dr. FLORIAN ZEMMIN studied Cultural Studies with a focus on Religion and Intercultural German Studies at the universities of Bayreuth and Lausanne (BA) as well as Islamic and Religious Studies (MA) at the University of Bern (Swiss) where he received his PhD with a thesis on the concept of “society” in the journal al-Manār (1898-1940). Since 2015, he was research assistant at the Institute of Islamic Studies (Bern University).

In his research he focusses on theories of modernity and secularity within Islamic cultures of knowledge.

Currently he is acting professor of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Bern.

UNIVERSITÄT ROSTOCK
THEOLOGISCHE FAKULTÄT

Anmeldung und Organisation:
Dr. Nina Käsehage

Sitz  Universitätsplatz 1
   D 18055 Rostock
   Raum 202
Fon   + 49 (0)381 498-8441

nina.kaesehage@uni-rostock.de

www.uni-rostock.de