

About the Workshop

Philosophy in the modern Islamic World as well as on a global scale is not situated in a neutral thought space, rather, it takes place on a fundamentally and constantly contested and contingent ground: the political. The political constitutes the conflict zone in which actors from the Islamic world and the Global North take part in complex processes of (re-)negotiating the foundations of politics, identity, and the legitimization of socio-political inclusion.

Via a series of case studies, this workshop looks at different ways in which intellectuals and philosophers from the modern Islamic world intervene in this zone of the political. It asks about their conceptions and strategies of critique, how they interact with their peers and with activists from the Islamic World and from the Global North and how they approach major concepts such as freedom, the secular, the Enlightenment, the good life, equality, or citizenship. Furthermore, the workshop addresses more theoretical reflections such as how modes of subjectivation influence the implicit presuppositions at work in the mentioned concepts as well as in what ways thinkers re-evaluate different archives of knowledge (Islamic, Western, or otherwise) and how these discourses are shaped by the political.

Overall, the workshop explores ways in which reflections on the political in relation to concrete philosophical debates may open up pathways to develop the research field of *Philosophy in the modern Islamic World* and envision transregional and decolonial academic interaction in the field.

Organised by
Roman Seidel (Arabic and Islamic Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum; roman.seidel@rub.de)
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Organized by:

Philosophy
in the Modern Islamic World
Scholarly Network



About the Network

The scholarly network *Philosophie in der islamischen Welt der Moderne / Philosophy in the modern Islamic World* aims at further developing an emerging research field. In constant exchange with colleagues from the MENA-region, the Network explores transdisciplinary and transregional perspectives of engaging with philosophical discourse from the region and pursues the medium- and long-term goal of institutionally anchoring the barely developed research field of Philosophy in the Modern Islamic World in research and teaching in the German-speaking as well as international academic landscape.

The network (funded by DFG 2021-2024) organises a series of lectures, workshops, and annual conferences at which core issues and key concepts in central thematic areas (history of philosophy, metaphysics, and political philosophy) as well as key texts in each of the central thematic areas are discussed. Furthermore, structure-building measures and research projects will be initiated, and concrete publications will be prepared to make the presence of philosophical thought in the Modern Islamic world and its ongoing entanglements with European intellectual history visible to the academic as well as the general public.

The website of the network philosophy-in-the-modern-islamic-world.net constantly informs about activities of the network and publishes news relevant to the field, it also hosts the blog *Reflections/Denkanstöße* which sheds light on current philosophical debates in the region and discusses theoretical issues as to how an adequate academic engagement with these discourses would look like.

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عالم
أبحاث إسلامية

in Philosophical Discourses
of the Modern Islamic World

Workshop:
26.09. - 28.09.2023
Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Keynote by Zeynep Direk:
**Heidegger and Atatürk: Existential
Phenomenology and the Political**

Panel discussion:
**Exploring Philosophy and the Political in and with
the Islamic world**

Zeynep Direk, Elizabeth Kassab, Salah Mosbah, Eliane
Saadé, Ali Reza Shomali

26 September 2023: Opening event

18:00 **Heidegger and Atatürk: Existential Phenomenology and the Political**
Public keynote lecture by Zeynep Direk
HGB 20 (Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universitätsstraße 150, Building HGB)

27 September 2023: Case studies / individual projects

CERES (Universitätsstraße 90a, 4rd Floor, "Ruhrpott")

9:00 Opening and Welcome Address by Kata Moser and Roman Seidel

9.30 Presentations of case studies / individual projects I,
Chair: Anke von Kügelgen

- Sevinc Yasargil, *Freedom, Independence, Progress – Renegotiations of Society in Marxist Discourses*
- Lorella Ventura, *Roots of Hegemonic Claims: Philosophy of History, Views of Religion, and Nationalism of the American Protestant and French Catholic Missionaries in Syria in the Second Half of the 19th Century*

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Presentations of case studies / individual projects II,
Chair: Christoph Herzog

- Nils Riecken (online presentation), *Time for Other Relations: the Task of Decolonisation, Epistemology, and the Political*
- Harald Viersen, *Critique as reception: Can there be an objective study of Contemporary Arab Thought?*

12:30 Lunch at Fellow Lounge CERES

13:30 Presentations of case studies / individual projects III,
Chair: Mostafa Najafi

- Urs Gösken, *The philosophical Backgrounds of 'Abd al-Fattāh Ibrāhīm's (1904-1997) sociological analysis of Iraqi society*
- Zakieh Azadani, *An early attempt to a theological justification of modern concepts of freedom and justice in "Tanbīh al-umma wa Tanzīh al-milla"*
- Sarhan Dhouib, *Critique of intolerance as critique of the political*

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 Presentations of case studies / individual projects IV,
Chair: Harald Viersen

- Christoph Herzog, Hilmi Ziya Ülken and *historical materialism*
- Kata Moser, *Sadiq al-Azm on Civil Society and Secularism*
- Roman Seidel, *Philosophy of/as Resistance and Repression in the Modern Islamic World / Renegotiating Intellectual Archives as Grounds of the Political*

18:00 **Exploring Philosophy and the Political in and with the Islamic world**
Public panel discussion: with Zeynep Direk, Elizabeth Kassab, Salah Mosbah, Eliane Saadé, Ali Reza Shomali
Moderation: Urs Gösken and Mansooreh Khalilizand
HGB 20 (Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universitätsstraße 150, Building HGB)

Livestream:

- Public keynote lecture (Tue. 26.09.2023, 18:00)
- Public panel discussion (Wed. 27.09.2023, 18:00)

<https://www.youtube.com/@philolotsenrub3302>

28. September 2023: Theories and Methods

CERES (Universitätsstraße 90a, 4rd Floor, "Ruhrpott")

9:00 Retrospective I, Chair: Anke von Kügelgen
Input by Johann Büssow and Stefan Reichmuth on the presented case studies

9.30 Inputs on theoretical perspectives I, Chair: Pascale Roure

- Stefania Maffei, *On transnational philosophy: Arendt's notion of the political and its reception*
- Eliane Saadé, *Farah Antun: An Advocate for Secularism in the Modern Islamic World*

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Inputs on theoretical perspectives II, Chair: Sevinc Yasargil

- Salah Mosbah, *Dawla and Siyāsa after Politics and State*
- Ali Reza Shomali, *Spectacles of Politics in Tabatabais Thought*
- Elizabeth Kassab, *On the Cultural and the Political in Contemporary Arab Thought*

12:30 Lunch at Fellow Lounge CERES

13:30 Group discussions for ca. 30 mins with a focus on open questions and promising outlooks, each group summarizes the group discussions in the plenary session, followed by a plenary discussion, Chair: Kata Moser, Roman Seidel

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 Retrospective II, Chair: Kata Moser, Roman Seidel
Input by Nadia Germann Looking back at the discussion during the day

Open brainstorming session at the round table on what research gaps are worth investigating; discussion on how to proceed with the network

Joint dinner for the conference participants