

Workshop 9 - 10 June 2011, Berlin

Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies &

Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies

*Transforming Social Orders in African Muslim Contexts*  
*(Re)constructions of Identities, Institutions, Movements, Markets*

Political liberalization and economic reform, the weakening of African states and governments, the diversification of media landscapes and increased global interconnections have all profound effects on Muslim societies and the practice of Islam on the continent (*cf* Soares & Otayek 2007). New Muslim institutions, movements, political parties and entrepreneurs emerge in an increasingly pluralizing and competitive religious setting. In many instances, they become part of transforming social, economic and political orders in which ‘religion’ is emerging as a growing public force.

As such, older notions of an ‘African Islam’ as well as more recent stereotypes about Islamic reform movements in Africa need to be replaced by more nuanced insights into local differences and comparisons. Current debates such as those on Islamic NGOs, Islamic law, Islamic education, secularism and minority rights need to be grounded firmly. In this workshop, we aim to discuss (re)constructions of Islamic identities, institutions, movements and markets as a dynamic force for social and political change across Africa today. We wish to explore these issues in the light of wider colonial and postcolonial histories, as well as with regard to the larger social, economic and political contexts of Islam in specific localities.

In the framework of cooperation between the Bayreuth Graduate School of African Studies and the Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies, we intend to provide a workshop-like setting of 20 minutes of presentation time and 20 minutes of discussion time for each presenter. Presentations will be given mainly by PhD students of both graduate schools; PIs and postdoc researchers of the affiliated institutions will serve as chairs and discussants. We invite you to send in a **paper of +/- 3000 words in English** before the **27th of May** - after which date we will circulate the papers among the participants.

## Thursday 9 June

- 12:00 – 14:00      PI lunch meeting
- 14:30 – 14:50      Welcome by Erdmute Alber (BIGSAS), Hansjörg Dilger (FU/BGSMCS) and Katharina Nötzold (BGSMCS)
- 14:50 – 17:30      **Session 1: *Transforming Religious Boundaries***  
chair/discussant: Marloes Janson - Zentrum Moderner Orient
- 14:50 – 15:30      **Halkano Abdi Wario - BIGSAS**  
*Converting Co-ethnics, Owning a Movement: Some Notes on Tablighi Phenomena among the Borana of Kenya and Ethiopia.*
- 15:30 – 16:10      **Michael Saurer - BGSMCS**  
*Initiation, Segregation and Negotiation as Key Factors in Conversion Processes between Christians and Muslims in Southwest-Uganda.*
- 16:10 – 16:50      **Britta Frede – ZMO**  
*Shaykhani b. Muhammad al-Tulba (1907-1986) and the Development of the Tijaniyya in Mauritania under French Colonial Rule.*
- 16:50 – 18:30      Roundtable with Chanfi Ahmed (ZMO), Erdmute Alber (BIGSAS), Kurt Beck (BIGSAS), Ulrich Berner (BIGSAS), Hansjörg Dilger (BGSMCS), Amber Gemmeke (BIGSAS), Marloes Janson (ZMO), Kai Kresse (ZMO/BGSMCS), Franz Kogelmann (BIGSAS), and Samuli Schielke (ZMO).
- 18:30              dinner

## Friday 10 June

- 9:00 – 10:20            **Session 2: *(Re)constructing Religious Identities***  
chair/discussant: Franz Kogelmann - BIGSAS
- 9:00 – 9:40            **Tobias Kuhn - BIGSAS**  
*Orders of the In-between. Intention and Conflict, exploring the Border Spaces of Senegalese Marabouts.*
- 9:40 – 10:20            **Jasmin Mahazi - BGSCMS**  
*Sacred and Secular Texts and their Contexts – Case Studies from the Northern Swahili Region.*
- 10:20 – 11:00            **Benedikt Pontzen - BGSMCS**  
*Zongo – Muslim Communities among the Asante (Ghana).*
- 11:00 – 11:20            coffee break
- 11:20 – 14:00            **Session 3: *(Re)constructing Religious Institutions***  
Chair/discussant: Chanfi Ahmed – Zentrum Moderner Orient
- 11:20 – 12:00            **Ahmed Elhassab - BIGSAS**  
*Corporate Social Responsibility, Practice and Disclosure in Sudanese Islamic Banks 2008.*
- 12:00 – 12:40            **Sarah Hartmann - BGSMCS**  
*“The people who go to school are those who waste their time“ - The Informal Education Sector in Cairo between Marketization, Religious Charity, and State Control.*
- 12:40 – 13:00            **Sarah Eltantawi - Harvard University/BGSMCS**  
*Political Shar’āh and Idealized Shar’āh in Northern Nigeria.*
- 13:00 – 13:40            **Dauda Abubakar - BGSMCS**  
*Shifting Practices of Zakat in Nigeria: From Personalized Giving to Informal Institutions.*
- 13:40 – 13:10            Concluding remarks by the organizing team:  
Erdmute Alber, Hansjörg Dilger, Amber Gemmeke and Kai Kresse
- 13:10 – 14:00            lunch