

Winter Semester 2022/2023

SDAC Guest Lecture Series

Fashioning the Muslim Self: Beauty, Identity and Religiosity in Globalised Contexts

Liza Franke
University of GöttingenMonday
14.11.22
18-20:00 c.t.
Online

*The lecture will be held via Zoom



Dr. phil. Liza Maria Franke is specialised in the fields of Arabic and Islamic Studies as well as in Social and Cultural Anthropology. She received her PhD in Arabic Studies from the University of Leipzig in 2011. Her research interests include everyday history, eschatology, belief and identity, emotions, discourse analysis, and gender studies; processes of individualisation, religious transformations and social dynamics; the use of language in various forms of texts. She graduated from the University of Bayreuth and the School of Oriental and African Studies (London). She taught at the Universities of Leipzig, Cologne and Göttingen. During the summer term 2022 she was interim professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Heidelberg. Currently, she works as assistant professor in the field "Anthropology of Islam" at the University of Göttingen.

The international academic debate about Islam and its relation to and with fashion has resulted in numerous scholarly works. Most authors deal with the aspect of how gendered fashion is influenced and produced by power relations. The analysis focuses in many cases on the assumption that the acceptance or rejection of Islamic fashion leads either to the weakening of established Islam or to its reinforcement. Thus the meta level of the academic debate on dynamics of Islamic fashion in Egypt deals with down-veiling and up-veiling and corresponding opposed trends, such as un-veiling. In contribution to this debate, Dr. Franke will analyse the complexity of numerous fashion varieties that are re-emerging from new forms or even waves of religiosity by referring to the concept of self in the sense of individual (religious as well as non-religious) agency. Dr. Franke's account of the numerous veil(ed) stories portrayed by her interlocutors is indicative of processes of individualisation. Their approval, opposition and indifference towards the veil opened up rather intimate perspectives that ask for individual interpretations and an analysis of individual everyday lifestyles.

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