

Crisis of Secularism

Workshop held at Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Altensteinstraße 48

Date:

Thursday, 13 December 2012, 11.30 am – 1 pm

Speakers/Mentors:

Prof. Tariq Modood, University of Bristol

Participants:

doctoral students of BGSMCS,
(doctoral) students from other faculties

Format:

Discussion of the article (see below)

Readings:

Tariq Modood: Is there a Crisis of Secularism in Western Europe? Bristol 2012.
<http://socrel.oxfordjournals.org/> at University of Bristol Library on October 24, 2012

Requirements:

Preparation of two questions addressed to the article

Application:

The deadline for application is 7 December 2012 (via e-mail to office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de).

Contact:

For any queries or questions, please contact: Dr. Gabriele Freitag, md@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de

Workshop Outline:

Political secularism in Western Europe has been destabilised by the triple contingency of the arrival and settlement of a significant number of Muslims; a multiculturalist sensibility which respects 'difference'; and a moderate secularism, namely that the historical compromises between the state and a church or churches in relation to public recognition and accommodation are still in place to some extent. Radical secularism or laïcité seems to be struggling to cope but the dominant version of secularism offers a resource – suitably multiculturalised – for accommodating the new religious plurality of the region. The 'crisis of secularism', then, is really the challenge of multiculturalism.