



Saba Mahmood

Sexuality, Secularism and Family Law: Reflections on the Current Sectarian Conflict in Egypt

Ort: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
Institut für Europäische Ethnologie,
Mohrenstraße 40/41, Raum 311

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The relegation of religion and sexual reproduction to the private sphere is widely regarded as a key feature of modern secular societies. While postcolonial states of South Asia and the Middle East are heir to this arrangement, they are also distinct in that they retain religious laws for the regulation of family affairs. As a result, both minority and majority religious communities of these postcolonial polities continue to exert a fair degree of judicial autonomy over family affairs based on their religious traditions. Prof. Mahmood's talk tries to rethink the classical debate around "family law" and "minority rights" by parsing out the contradictions that attend the public-private distinction institutionalized by the modern state, particularly the complex intertwining of gender, sexuality and religion.

Prof. Dr. Saba Mahmood is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of California Berkeley. Her work focuses on the interchange between religious and secular politics in postcolonial societies with special attention to issues of embodiment, cultural hermeneutics, law, and gender/sexuality.

Saba Mahmood is currently working on a book about the right to religious liberty and non-Muslims minorities in the Middle East.

She is the recipient of a number of awards and fellowships, most recently: the American Academy in Berlin (Spring 2013)

VERANSTALTET VON

Zentrum für transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien
Institut für Europäische Ethnologie
der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin und dem

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<http://www.gender.hu-berlin.de/>

VERKEHRSVERBINDUNGEN

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U6 (Friedrichstraße)
Bus 100, 147, 200, TXL (Staatsoper)
Tram M1, 12 (Am Kupfergraben)