Launching Conference: UF Center for Global Islamic Studies

GLOBAL ISLAM
AND THE
QUEST FOR PUBLIC SPACE

Thursday, Sept. 18th - Friday, Sept. 19th

Keynote Address:

Dr. John Esposito
Georgetown University
(Sept. 18th, 5:30 PM, The Ocora)
Global Islam in the 21st Century: Reconceiving Islam and Muslim-West Relations

Panel Presentations
(Sept. 19th, 9:00-12:30, The Matthews Suite, Reitz Union)

Prof. Mirjam Künkler, Princeton University
Female Religious Authority in Shi‘i Islam: the Woman Ayatollahs of Iran

Prof. Ouzman Murzik Kobo, Ohio State University
Local and Global Islam in West African Salafi Discourse

Prof. Badredine Arfi, University of Florida
Islam, State Neutrality, and the Ethos of Pluralism to-come

With 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, Islam is the second largest of the world’s religions, representing a vast diversity of ethnicities, cultures, ideologies, and political and socioeconomic conditions. This diversity pushes and pulls Muslims worldwide in various directions in their quest for public space, both globally and locally. This conference will focus on four key issues: Islam & Muslim-West relations, the intertwining of local and global Islam in West African Salafi discourses, female religious authority in Shi ‘i Islam as it evolves in the practices of the women Ayatollahs of Iran, and Islam, state neutrality and the ethos of pluralism. While individually these interventions provide much insight about the relationships between global and local Islam, collectively they provide a ‘bird’s eye’ view of how the issue of global Islam and the quest for public space is developing in this decade.

The conference is co-sponsored by: The Bob Graham Center for public service, the Center for African Studies, the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of Political Science, the Department of Religion, and the UF International Center.