

**Czech Academy of Sciences and Department of Political Philosophy and Globalization Research invite to a seminar**

## **Modern Islamic thought: Arguments for a liberal future for Muslim societies?**

**When: Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 15:30 – 18:30**

**Where: Filosofický ústav AV ČR (FLÚ)  
Jilská 1, 110 00 Praha  
Zasedací místnost / Seminar room of FLU, 1. patro vlevo / 1<sup>st</sup> floor on the left**

Despite repeated openings in the 1990s and after 2011, most of contemporary Muslim states and societies seem to follow an illiberal, authoritarian and path. Besides socio-economical and geopolitical reasons, religious and intellectual factors are often evoked to explain the assumed difference.

Mainstream religious discourses and state sanctioned ideologies do indeed maintain a gap between Islamic tradition and liberal modernity. Yet events such as Iran's women movement defy cultural or historical determinism. People continue to claim individual liberty and dignity while preserving religious and cultural traditions.

Muslim world in fact has rich and complex intellectual resources with a strong, if still rather unknown or unmapped, modernist trend. This trend is not necessarily Westernised and secularised but often draws resources from a rationalist, pluralist or spiritual reading of Islamic tradition. Especially the Iranian and Turkish intellectual history counts several figures and schools that have developed rationalist approaches to religious and philosophical questioning.

The aim of the seminar is to debate whether a post-Islamist, pluralist or liberal future is to be expected from internal challenges to conservative hegemonic religious discourse with scholars working on Iranian and Turkish modern and contemporary intellectual debates.

Three lectures intended to general public will be followed by a debate about rationalism and liberalism in contemporary Muslim thought.

## Programme:

- 15: 30 Welcome
- 15: 45 **Zora Hesová** (AV ČR)  
Introduction: Rationalism, modernity and Islamic tradition
- 16: 00 **Heydar Shadi** (Frankfurt)  
Abdolkarim Soroush and epistemic shifts in the Philosophy of Religion in post-revolutionary Iran
- 16: 30 **Gökhan Bacik** (Olomouc)  
Contemporary rationalist Islam in Turkey
- 17: 00 **Meysam Badamchi** (Leiden, Izmir)  
Guardianship and Government: A Liberal-Philosophical Critique of Iran's Post-Revolutionary Constitution
- 18: 00 **Debate:** Religion and politics in Muslim world

Followed by a launch of "*Abdolkarim Soroush: Religion, Modernity and Secularism in Contemporary Iranian Philosophy*," Czech translation of Abdolkarim Soroush's essential texts

## Participants:

**Dr. Heydar Shadi**, Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen

Author of:

*The Philosophy of Religion in Post-revolutionary Iran*, Routledge 2018

*Islamic Peace Ethics: Legitimate and Illegitimate Violence in Contemporary Islamic Thought*, Nomos 2017

**Dr. Gökhan Bacik**, Faculty of Arts, Univerzita Olomouc

Author of:

*Contemporary Rationalist Islam in Turkey: The Religious Opposition to Sunni Revival*, Bloomsbury 2021

*Islam and Muslim Resistance to Modernity in Turkey*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

**Dr. Meysam Badamchi**, Institute for Philosophy, Leiden University

Author of:

*Post-Islamist Political Theory: Iranian Intellectuals and Political Liberalism in Dialogue*, Springer 2017

**Dr. Zora Hesová**, Czech Academy of Sciences

Author of:

*Abdolkarim Sorúš. Náboženství, modernita a sekularismus v současné iránské filosofii*, Praha 2021

*Ghazáliho Výklenek světla. Osvícení v islámské filosofii*, Praha 2012