EUROPUBLICISLAM is a research project which studies the emergence and visibility of Islam in Europe by focusing on the public controversies and how they bring forth new issues and cleavages in shaping the European public sphere.

Islam gains visibility in European public spheres by means of new religious symbols as well as by the emergence of new public figures and voices. Men and women, pious and secular Muslims are debating the place of Islam in European societies for the last two decades. The visibility of Islam provokes a series of public controversies ranging from gender equalities, freedom of expression and secularism. Islam becomes a European public issue, a site where European cultural values of modernity are disputed, revisited and reshaped. The controversies in question take place in diverse local and national public spheres, but they also acquire a transnational and European feature.

In this colloquium we aim at exploring the religious, gendered, artistic, juridical and spatial dimensions of Islamic visibility in Europe.

The colloquium is organized within the framework of the EUROPUBLICISLAM Project which is directed by Nilüfer Göle, professor of sociology at École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris and the laureate of the European Research Council Advanced Grant (Seven Framework Programme, FP7/2007-2013/Grant Agreement n° 230244).

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Thursday, October 13

Religion, Controversies, and Publics

09.30  Nilüfer Göle  CESPRA, EHESS
Islamic Controversies in the Public-Making

10.15  Eric Fassin  IRIS, ENS
Visibility/Invisibility: Sexual Nationalisms and the Racialization of Islam in Europe

11.00  Coffee Break

Sexuality, Body, and Religion

11.15  Nacira Guénif-Souilamas  Université Paris-Nord
Erogenous Zones of Sexual Nationalisms: Excitable Encounters

12.00  Sandrine Bretonnière  CADIS, EHESS
Muslim Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Articulating Gender and Religion in Public Space

12.45  Lunch Break

Friday, October 14

Art, Sacred, and Blasphemy

10.30  Silvia Naef  University of Geneva
Representing Prophets and Saints in Islam: From Classical Positions to Present-Day Reactions

11.15  Sune Laegaard  Roskilde University
The Paradox of Civility: The Case of the Danish Cartoons Controversy

12.00  Lunch Break

Rights, Jurisprudence, and Islamic Law

14.00  Christian Joppke  University of Bern
The Role of Islam in the Retreat of Multiculturalism

14.45  Florence Bergeaud-Blackler  Aix-Marseille Université
Sexe, femmes… et animaux : analyse de quelques controverses autour de l’abattage rituel halal

15.30  Jean Philippe Bras  IISMM, EHESS
La controverse de Lille perspective comparative avec les ‘shariah councils’ en GB

16.30-17.30  General Discussion