

University Research Priority Program (URPP)

Asia and Europe



University of Zurich



Farewell to Secularization?

Exploring the Role of Religion
in Asia and Europe

Public Lecture Series
Fall 2010

Public Lecture Series Fall 2010

In 1959, the political sociologist C. Wright Mills predicted that religion would lose its influence in all realms of life except the private, individual one. For a long time, it remained a truism of sociological analysis that religion was losing its erstwhile pre-eminence. But at the outset of the 1990's, after the impact of the religious revivalist movements in Latin America and Iran's Islamic Revolution had made itself felt, the secularization paradigm was increasingly put into question. Do we hence have to bid farewell to secularization? We have invited four leading scholars to critically reflect upon, and if necessary, come to a revision of, the secularization paradigm.

The Fall 2010 Lecture Series is an activity of the Research Field "Norms and Social Order(s)".

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Katajun Amirpur

URPP Asia and Europe

Prof. Dr. Katharina Michaelowa

Institute of Political Science/URPP Asia and Europe

The *URPP Asia and Europe Public Lecture Series* is designed to present cutting-edge scholarship of general interest that lies at the core of our research. Previous lecture series have focused on "Border Crossings" (Spring 2007), "Mirrored Histories" (Spring 2009), "Governance and Development" (Autumn 2009), and "Researching Philosophy in Asian Contexts" (Autumn 2010) and have featured scholars such as John C. Maraldo, Sadiq Jalal al-Azm, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Jürgen Osterhammel, Helen Siu, Gayatri Spivak and many others.

Farewell to Secularization?

Exploring the Role of Religion in Asia and Europe

Tuesday, 5 October 2010, 18:15 – 20:00

KOL F-117, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

Prof. Dr. Otto Kallscheuer

Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Università degli Studi di Sassari

Wie westlich ist die Säkularisierung?

Tuesday, 19 October 2010, 18:15 – 20:00

KOL F-117, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

Prof. Dr. Wang Hui

Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences,
Tsinghua University, Beijing

Chinese Modernity and Western Colonialism

Tuesday, 2 November 2010, 18:15 – 20:00

KOL F-117, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

Prof. Dr. Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin

Department of Jewish History, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

**Orientalizing the Jews: The Question of Secularism
in Europe and the Middle East**

Tuesday, 30 November 2010, 18:15 – 20:00

KOL F-117, Universität Zürich Zentrum, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

Prof. Dr. Mohsen Kadivar

Department of Religion, Duke University, Durham

Post-Islamism in a Theocratic State

Otto Kallscheuer is currently Visiting Professor of Philosophy at the Università degli Studi di Sassari and has been a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the Freie Universität Berlin and the Center for Religion, Economy and Politics, University of Basel. Professor Kallscheuer studies and teaches political philosophy with a focus on normative tensions in multicultural and multireligious societies. He authored several books such as *Glaubensfragen: Über Karl Marx & Christus & andere Tote* (1991), *Das Europa der Religionen* (1996), *Die Wissenschaft vom lieben Gott* (2006) and *Zur Zukunft des Abendlandes* (2009) and is a regular contributor to major German newspapers.

Wang Hui is Professor of Literature and History and director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences at Tsinghua University, Beijing. He has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard, Bologna, Stanford, UCLA and others. His research focuses on contemporary Chinese literature and intellectual history. Professor Wang's publications include the four volume work *The Rise of Modern Chinese Thought* (2004), *The End of the Revolution* (2009) and *An Asian Perspective: Narratives of Chinese History* (2010).

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin teaches early modern and modern Jewish History at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He is currently also chair of the department of interdisciplinary studies and was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and at the Center of Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania. His publications include the widely-discussed book *The Censor, the Editor, and the Text: The Catholic Church and the Shaping of the Jewish Canon in the Sixteenth Century* (2007) and *Exil et souveraineté: judaïsme, sionisme et binationalisme* (2007, with a preface by Carlo Ginzburg).

Mohsen Kadivar is currently a Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Religion at Duke University, Durham, and Associate Professor at the Iranian Institute of Philosophy in Teheran. He obtained the certificate for Ijtihad (the highest level in Shi'ite theological Studies) from Grand Ayatollah H.A. Montazeri at Qom Seminary and holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Philosophy and Theology from Tarbiat Modarres University. Among his publications are: *The Book of Reason: Philosophical and Theological Articles* (1998), *Theories of State in Shi'ite Jurisprudence* (1999) and *Tradition and Secularism* (2002).

The University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe of Zurich University explores exchanges and encounters that have taken and continue to take place between Asia and Europe in the areas of culture, law, religion and society. It brings together various disciplines and faculties of the University of Zurich to create an expert research structure, which consists of three thematically and methodologically differentiated research fields: (1) Concepts and Taxonomies, (2) Entangled Histories, and (3) Norms and Social Order(s). It promotes research by young graduate and post-graduate scholars within an interdisciplinary research environment and a structured PhD-Program.

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