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Geographies of Masculinity. Gender, Militarism and National Identity in Egypt

Projektpräsentation von Dr. des. Sarah Farag, Zürich

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How is the discourse about "the Egyptian Identity" being refined and reconstructed along the lines of an increasing militarisation in post-Mubarak Egypt? How can we trace discursive entanglements and structures of power between militarism and (re-)configurations of political masculinities and political femininities?

This project examines the lines of gender, militarism and the making of national identity on a theoretical and empirical level for the Egyptian context since the 1950s until today. Against culturalist definitions and fixations of "Arab masculinities", especially so in the context of the violent encounters during the uprisings in Egypt in 2011, this project argues for a careful examination of the doings and undoings of a hegemonic gender order in specific political contexts. In not only focusing on current developments in post-Mubarak Egypt and the new 'masculinist restoration' since 2013, it highlights the highly relevant interdependences between the making of a modern, postcolonial nation, the military and constructions of (hegemonic) masculinities since the Nasser era - interdependences, which gain new significance and visibility in today's Egypt.

Dr. des. Sarah Farag obtained her PhD in 2017 at the University of Zurich in Islamic Sciences and Gender Studies with a study on the various discursive strategies of feminist and women's rights organisations in Egypt since the 1990s. She has been a guest researcher on a SNF-mobility grant at the University of East London, UK, and the American University in Cairo, Egypt. Since October 2018, she works as a coordinator for the newly established Consortium for Education and Research "PRO GED" (Promoting Gender Equality and Diversity through Shared Knowledge Production) at the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, UZH.