

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## ISLAMISM AND POST-ISLAMISM

### RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES

**Keynote Speakers: Prof. Asef Bayat & Abdolkarim Soroush**

**Interdisciplinary International Conference**

**13-14 March 2015**

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

**Kingston, Ontario, Canada**

The end of the 1980s and beginning of the 1990s witnessed major transformation globally. The Cold War, which had so definitively shaped world politics since World War II (1939–45), came to an end. At the end of the Cold War period, Olivier Roy in his *The Failure of Political Islam* (1994, original French 1992) argued that Islamists' strategy to advance their agenda through capturing state power had failed. Since then, Asef Bayat has tried to explain and conceptualize a new emerging political, religious and social trend in Muslim societies after Islamists' failure to establish an Islamic state based on Shari'a law. In his *Post-Islamism: The Changing Faces of Political Islam*, Bayat discusses the emergence of this new trend, which he calls "post-Islamism" and shows how the "post-Islamist turn" can be observed within a considerable number of Muslim societies in which Islamism no longer seems appealing, even to its original supporters.

Post-Islamism, as defined by Bayat, "represents an endeavour to fuse religiosity and rights, faith and freedom, Islam and liberty." It emphasizes "rights instead of duties, plurality in place of a singular authoritative voice, historicity rather than fixed scriptures, and the future instead of the past." However, post-Islamism is not an end of Islamism but rather a transformation of the Islamist experience in politics and of its political discourse. According to Roy, Islamism can be characterized as seeking to "capture the State" and invoke Islam onto the people via a top-down approach by emphasizing conformity, monopoly of religious truth and obligations. On the other hand, Bayat claims that post-Islamism does not use this strategy. Bayat's work in post-Islamism has left a great imprint in the field alongside with Roy.

Within this framework, the "Islamism and Post-Islamism" conference examines the evolution and the changing faces of what is commonly called *political Islam*. It will particularly examine the Islamist understanding of politics, Islamist political parties and movements, the debate on Islam and liberal democracy, Islamists and human rights, social movements and protests in Muslim societies, Islamists and political economy, the concept of post-Islamism and the emerging notion of neo-Islamism in the wake of Arab Spring and ISIS. Therefore, papers may address, but are not limited to, one or more of the following topics:

- Islamism and the Question of the Religious and the Political
- Nation-State Formation, Sovereignty and Islamists
- The Evolution of Islamism as a Political Strategy
- Cold-War and Islamic Socialism & Marxism
- Radical & Militant Islamism and the Uses of Jihad
- Islamic States and Top-Down Islamization
- Political Economy of Islamism and Islamic Banks
- Arab Spring, Muslim Brotherhood and Democratization
- Temptations of Power: Islamists and Illiberal Democracies
- Islamists and the Question of Women & Sexuality
- The Green Movement in Iran and the Hizmet Movement of Gülen in Turkey
- Alternative Islamist Socio-Political Projects: Anti-Capitalist Muslims
- Social Movements and Protests in Muslim Societies
- Civil Religion, Official Religion and Folk Religion
- Emergence of Post-Islamism
- Neo-Islamism in the Post-Arab Spring

### **Paper Proposals**

Paper proposals that clearly adhere to the conference topics should be e-mailed to Professor Mehmet Karabela (karabela@queensu.ca) no later than **January 25, 2015**. Please keep your proposal under 300 words and send it either as an attachment or in the e-mail body. Include the title of your paper, an abstract, your name and affiliation. Both English and French-language proposals are acceptable. Notification of selected proposals will be sent out by **January 31, 2015**. Please note: there is no registration fee and the conference is open to everyone.

### **Publication: Edited Volume on Islamism and Post-Islamism**

Selected papers will be published in an edited volume by a prestigious press. Therefore, we welcome original and high-quality contributions from researchers working in a wide scale of disciplines ranging from history to sociology, religious studies to political science, and women's studies to economic history. Senior and emerging scholars, recent Ph.D. recipients and graduate students whose research rest on the conference topic's scope are highly encouraged to send their proposals.

#### **For Academic Inquiries:**

Professor Mehmet Karabela  
 Queen's University  
 School of Religion  
 Theological Hall Room 230  
 Kingston, Ontario, Canada  
 Phone: 1 (613) 533-6000 ext.74313  
 E-mail: karabela@queensu.ca

#### **For Events & Media Inquiries:**

Cheryl O'Shea  
 Queen's University  
 School of Religion  
 Theological Hall Room 213  
 Kingston, Ontario, Canada  
 Phone: 1 (613) 533-2109  
 E-mail: osheac@queensu.ca