Islam in Europe: Contrasting France and Britain

Part of IERES’ European Politics Series

with

Professor John Bowen
Washington University

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Alarms over waves of Muslim refugees entering Europe have added to what was an already rising set of anti-Islamic attitudes and false beliefs about an eventual takeover of Europe by Muslims. Missed in the media frenzy, but also absent from most scholarly treatments of the topic, are ways in which Muslims have been adapting religious practices and institutions to the conditions of each country where they have settled. This talk will discuss the contrasting experiences of Muslims in Britain and France, illustrating both the importance of these adaptive processes and the divergent trajectories of Islam in each European country.

John Bowen is the Dunbar-Van Cleve Professor in Arts & Sciences and Sociocultural Anthropology at Washington University. His research focuses on comparative social studies of Islam across the world, and includes ethnographic studies in Indonesia, France, and England. Bowen is particularly interested in how Muslims (judges and scholars, public figures, ordinary people) work across plural sources of norms and values, including diverse interpretations of the Islamic tradition, law codes and decisions, and local social norms. He has published numerous books and scholarly articles, and contributes regularly to public debates about Islam. His most recent book, *British Islam: Religion, Law, and Everyday Practice in Shari'a Councils*, was published in 2016 by Princeton University Press.

Thursday, March 24, 2016
12:30-2:00 p.m.
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E St. NW, Suite 412
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/jbowen

This event is on the record.