

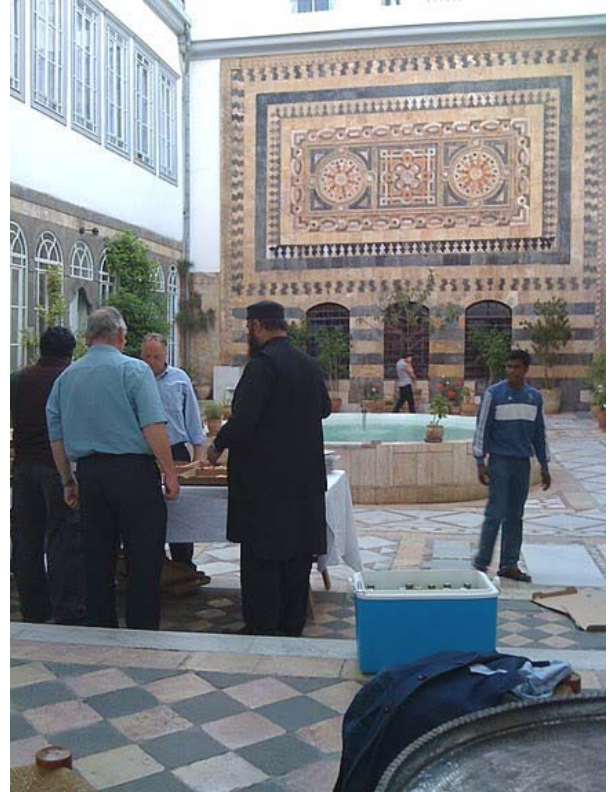
2nd Islam graduate research school, Damascus 4-15 April 2011

Islam and Muslims in a plural world: the local and the global in the Middle East, Europe and North America

Organized by:

- The Danish Institute in Damascus (www.damaskus.dk)
- Centre for European Islamic Thought, University of Copenhagen (http://www.teol.ku.dk/english/dept/ceit_eng/)
- The New Islamic Public Sphere Programme, University of Copenhagen (<http://islamicpublicsphere.hum.ku.dk/>)
- Department of Near and Middle East Civilizations, University of Toronto (<http://www.utoronto.ca/nmc/>)

Applications are invited from graduate students working on their Masters or PhDs for up to 12 places on a research 'master class' to take place at the Danish Institute in Damascus 4-15 April 2011. See pictures and comment on the first Islam graduate research school below. The research school will be staffed by four senior academics, one from each of the organizing institutions. Each participant will submit a research paper in advance, which will normally be a draft chapter from their thesis/dissertation, plus an overall outline of the research project identifying the topic, main research questions, theoretical and methodological issues and a tentative chapter outline.



The research submitted should fall within the theme indicated by the heading and may come from any relevant discipline. This includes fields of research such as migration and Muslim communities in Europe and North America, Islam and pluralism (religious, legal, social, political) in the Middle East, contemporary developments in Islamic thinking about pluralisms whether theoretical or locally contextualized, the routes and mechanisms by which experiences and ideas connect localities mutually and globally, especially via electronic media. These suggestions are not exclusive, and applicants will need to indicate how their topics may contribute to the project theme.

The programme will take place over two weeks and will consist of four elements:

- Workshops led by a staff member in which each participant will have an extended session to present and discuss the pre-submitted papers.
- Four plenary sessions at which each of the staff members will present current research-in-progress for open discussion.
- A series of discussion meetings with significant and interesting local researchers and personalities of relevance to the field.
- Excursions to sites and institutions of interest within and outside Damascus.

Programme staff will include:

Prof. Todd Lawson, Toronto
Prof. Jørgen S. Nielsen, Copenhagen
Ass. Prof. Sune Haugbølle, Copenhagen
Dr Anders Hastrup, Director, Danish
Institute in Damascus

For participants who need to earn credit towards their programme requirements, the organizers are happy to negotiate specific arrangements.

The programme sessions will normally take place at the Danish Institute (www.damaskus.dk). Participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. Help will be provided to book accommodation. Students wishing to go on longer excursions in the middle weekend (9-10 April 2011) can get advice on how best to make such arrangements from the organizers.

There will be a course fee of 450.00 Euros to cover staff costs, local excursions, lunch and dinner Monday to Friday in both weeks. A first payment of 200.00 Euros is due for payment by 1 February 2011, non-returnable except in case of *force majeure*.

Applications should be submitted electronically, including an abstract of the paper to be presented, to ceit@teol.ku.dk as early as possible but at the latest on 1 February 2011. The deadline for submission of the full text of the paper to be presented for discussion is 1 April 2011. Responses to applications will be sent within one month of receipt (quicker for late applications).

A student's comment on the 2010 Damascus Graduate Research School

I appreciated receiving valuable feedback from peers and instructors to one of my dissertation chapters, in an unhurried session. The course also provided a unique opportunity to meet with important and influential social actors in the Syrian public sphere. The Danish Institute in Damascus, where the course was located, is not only beautifully restored, but also exemplifies important periods in Syria's history. You cannot beat the location. The course also provided opportunities for exploring Damascus and Syria, which is wonderful for first time visitors to Syria or the Middle-East. And Syria is a certainly a country worth exploring. I thank you for this opportunity, and hope that upcoming courses bring together as diverse and friendly a group, as I was lucky to enjoy.



