



# ISLAM, MODERNITY, AND EURASIA

a collaborative workshop for teachers and researchers

**October 3-4, 2008**

Rosenwald 405  
1101 E. 58<sup>th</sup> Street  
at The University of Chicago

## Friday, October 3

**2:00-2:15 Opening remarks**

**A. Holly Shissler** (University of Chicago), Director, Center for Middle East Studies;  
Associate Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish History, Department of  
Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations

**2:15-4:00 Panel: Muslims in the Global North/Diasporic Islam**

John Perry, UC, "European Muslims: The Pressures from East and West"

Junaid Rana, UIUC, "Islam as Racial Modernity"

Ercan Balci, UIUC, "Islam in Europe and in Turkey: Radical vs. Moderate"

Moderator: Tracie Wilson, REEEC, UIUC

**4:00 PM Reception**

**5:00 PM Keynote Address**

*Why Is There No Switzerland in the North Caucasus?*

*Some Thoughts on Empire, Religion and Identity.*

**Michael Khodarkovsky (Loyola University Chicago)**

**\*Dinner follows Keynote Address\***

## Saturday, October 4

**8:00-9:00 Continental Breakfast**

**9:00-10:45 Panel: Changing meanings of Islam: Contemporary and Competing Discourses and Practices**

Russell Zanca, UC, "The Nature of Islam in Today's Central Asia"

Mohammad Khalil, UIUC, "Rethinking Islamic Soteriology"

Tamara Sivertseva, UC, "The Place of Religion in Daily Life of Azerbaijanis"

Moderator: Marilyn Booth, CSAMES, UIUC



### **11:00-12:30 Panel: Nineteenth-Century Modernisms**

Ercument Asil, UC, "A Native Way to Modernism : Namik Kemal's Defense of Islam"

Ken Cuno, UIUC, "Keeping women at home: was the enforcement of marital cohabitation Islamic or colonial in origin?"

Kabir Tambar, UC, "The Idea of "Context" in the Anthropological Study of Islam"

Moderator: Holly Shissler, CMES, UC

### **12:30-1:30 Lunch**

### **1:30-3:00 Roundtable discussion**

#### **Topic**

Modernist Interpretations and their others: Modernist interpretations have been important to the intellectual, cultural and political life of Muslim-majority societies and Muslim communities since the 19th century. As scholars and teachers, we may find these interpretations particularly congenial, given the obligations we feel constantly to undo stereotypes and dispel negative images that are often prevalent among North American audiences. But modernist interpretations are only part of the picture. How do we grapple with the whole picture, and with competing interpretations, in our teaching? How do we undo stereotypes about the societies we teach and care about, while offering the richness of heterogeneous interpretations and ways of living Islam? What strategies are useful?

Discussion leaders:

Valerie J. Hoffman, UIUC

Mahir Saul, UIUC

Holly Shissler, UC

## **A collaboration between The University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

### **Convened by:**

#### ***UC Center for East European and Russian/Eurasian Studies (CEERES)***

Susan Gal, Acting Director; Meredith Clason, Assoc. Director;  
Jeremy Pinkham, Outreach Coordinator

#### ***UIUC Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEC)***

Richard Tempest, Director; Tracie Wilson, Assoc. Director

#### ***UC Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES)***

A. Holly Shissler, Director; Rusty Rook, Assoc. Director;  
Alex Barna, Outreach Coordinator

#### ***UIUC Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES)***

Marilyn L. Booth, Director; Ritu Saksena, Assoc. Director;  
Angela Williams, Outreach Coordinator