



CALL FOR POSITION > EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER 10

Constructing and deconstructing Islamic authority and knowledge online and offline: competing Muslim discourses in the Moroccan diaspora in Europe, in particular the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany

- Location: **Hamburg, Germany**
- Programme: **MSCA-H2020-ITN 813547-MIDA**
- University of enrolment: **Philipps-University of Marburg**
- Employer: **German Institute of Global and Area Studies**
- Work package: **Contested Authority and Knowledge Production**

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION >

Muslim youth in Europe, active on online discussion fora and other websites, are seeking new (digital) ways to acknowledge and contest religious authority and distinguish 'reliable', authentic Islamic knowledge from 'unreliable' knowledge, especially with regard to the sources of Islam, the Qur'an and Hadith, and their use by Muslim scholars and intellectuals. Reacting to these rival groups and their implications for the support of diasporic Moroccan institutions in Europe established Moroccan institutions in Europe are now trying to regain some of their lost ground by using both traditional and new media to counter what they recast as 'untrue' Islam propagated by such rival groups ('mosque 2.0'). This project seeks to understand how online discussions and communities amongst the Moroccan diaspora in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany are related to the offline-

online activities of official Moroccan (mosque) organisations in these countries. To this end, the project will focus from a comparative perspective on the relationship between online and offline religious authority, the boundaries between 'online' religious authority and knowledge and 'real', 'embodied' ones, thereby analysing the shifting relations between the real and digital construction and deconstruction of religious authority and knowledge, as well as the conflicts that accompany and result from, these shifting relations. The successful candidate will be a member of the 'Peace and Security' research programme at GIGA (here: research team 'Identities, Ideology, and Conflict') and will participate in GIGA's doctoral programme, a semi-structured graduate programme which inter alia offers a range of methodological and theoretical courses and provides for periodic quality control measures. She/he will write one 'GIGA Focus' p.a. for GIGA's knowledge transfer.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Dr. Jens Heibach (GIGA) and co-supervision of Prof. Gerard Wiegers (University of Amsterdam). External tutor: Montaser Marai (Al-Jazeera).

The applicant is expected to develop his/her own research project within the framework of the position description.

The applicant will interact on a regular basis with the other project partners and cooperate with the other Early Stage Researchers where required. Additionally, travel abroad will be necessary.

Each applicant may apply for up to 3 Early Stage Researchers positions.

SECONDMENT >

- **Philipps University of Marburg**, Marburg (Albrecht Fuess)
- **IISMM**, Paris (Pascal Buresi)
- **Al-Jazeera**, Doha (Montaser Marai)

Deadline: 1st of June

Candidatures received after the 1st of June will not be considered.

Starting date: ideally in September 2019

REQUIREMENTS >

Essential criteria:

- Postgraduate or Master level degree (or equivalent) in Middle Eastern Studies, Islamic studies or other similar domains
- Excellent command of spoken and written English commensurate with PhD study
- Commitment to collaborate in the general development of the project

Desirable criteria:

- Experience in working in an interdisciplinary team
- Knowledge of written Arabic

BENEFITS >

Successful candidates will receive an attractive salary, based on the Marie Curie Program regulations.

**Application form on :
www.itn-mida.org**

For further information about the project and the position, please contact : **info@itn-mida.org**

Eligibility criteria:

- no residence in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the engagement date
- no PhD degree
- less than 4 years of research, Master excluded
- not restricted to EU citizens

Application file:

- copies of degree certificates (Master degree or equivalent)
- curriculum vitæ
- list of publications (if applicable)
- reference letter
- 2-page research proposal
- short motivation letter