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EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER 11
From pulpit to Facebook: the digitisation of religious communication, authority and knowledge production

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION >

The perennial question of who has the authority to produce, disseminate and teach Islamic knowledge has been reinvigorated in the wake of the large-scale post-colonial migration of Muslims to countries outside Muslim-majority regions, notably to Europe. But the growth of digital media and the fragmentation and globalisation of the production and dissemination of Islamic knowledge has given the authority issue unprecedented urgency among Muslims everywhere in the world. Established centres of learning express their concerns about their loss of control and diminishing legitimacy as a result of the sharp increase in the number online knowledge platforms and independent Islamic preachers who circumvent established (often state-sponsored) institutions to reach out to new audiences. Their prominence and their authoritative and persuasive qualities are to a large extent based on their ability to make use of modern digital media and to translate contemporary issues into a theological discourse that reaches young Muslims in particular on an unprecedented scale. Digital technology engenders new modes of binding and community building. Digital media have caused a shift from religious authority embedded in a theological pedigree to authority that has to be continuously reaffirmed. European governments, governments of the countries of origin, and various other stakeholders have a keen interest, though for different reasons, in developing, monitoring and controlling educational programmes, imams and other religious personnel.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Prof. Thijl Sunier (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and co-supervision of Prof. Ahmet Alibasic (University of Sarajevo). External tutor: Jens Heibach (GIGA).

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.

The applicant may apply up to 3 Early Stage Researchers positions.

SECONDMENT >

- German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg (Jens Heibach)
- Philipps University of Marburg, Marburg (Pierre Hecker)
- IISMM, Paris (Pascal Buresi)

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 Humanities and Social Sciences
- Fluency in spoken and written English. A proof of the language proficiency (C1 level Cambridge Proficiency; IELTS 7.0-8.0 or equivalent) has to be enclosed if English is not the native tongue
- Knowledge of language of the Islamic world is recommended
- Commitment to collaborate in the general development of the project

Desirable criteria:
- Experience in working in an interdisciplinary team

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 the Netherlands 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 vitae
- list of publications (if applicable)
- reference letter
- 2-page research proposal
- short motivation letter