

Forschungsseminar: Wittgenstein and Islam

Dozierende: Prof. Dr. Randy Ramal (Claremont Graduate University)

Zeit: 10.3.2017: 10:15-11:45
17.3.2017: 10:15-11:45, 12:00-13:30
24.3.2017: 10:15-11:45, 12:00-13:30
31.3.2017: 10:15-11:45, 12:00-13:30

Ort RAF E-011, UFSP Asien und Europa, Rämistrasse 66, 8001 Zürich
KP: 4

Course Description:

Ludwig Wittgenstein's contributions to the study of religion have been prodigious. His philosophical investigations and method of inquiry entail letting religions speak for themselves and have resulted in many needed clarifications regarding the nature of religious belief, the reality of God, and how to approach religious discourse, among other implications. But there has not been much application of his philosophy to religious topics in Islam. This short course offers a framework in which the idea of letting Islam speak for itself makes sense. Topics to be explored include the following: What does it mean to say the Qur'an is the word of God? God, Anthropomorphism, and the language of evidence; Creation, Salvation, Predestination, the Last Judgment, Death, and Life after Death.

Course Requirements

Students are required to participate in the class, read the material ahead of time and come ready for active participation in class discussions with questions and comments. Moreover, students are required to hand in a comprehensive seminar paper by also using original text sources.

Required Readings

(All material will be provided in digital format)

- Abou El-Fadl, Khaled. "Interacting with Non-Muslims and Salvation." In *The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam from the Extremists* (New York: HarperOne, 2007), 203-219.
- Cragg, Kenneth. "Qur'an." In *The House of Islam* (Encino, CA: Dickenson Publishing Company, 1975), 30-43.
- Nasr, Seyyed H. "Qur'an: The Word of God." In *Ideals and Realities of Islam*. Rev. ed. (ABC International Group, 2000), 29-56.
- Peterson, Daniel. "Creation" in *Encyclopedia of Qur'an* 1:472-480
- Phillips, D.Z. "Last Things." In *The Problem of Evil and the Problem of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005), 247-275.
- Rahman, Fazlur. "God." In *Major Themes of the Qur'an*. 2nd ed. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2009), 1-16.
- _____. "Eschatology." In *Major Themes of the Qur'an*, 106-120.
- Rhees, Rush. "Belief in God." In *Rush Rhees On Religion and Philosophy*, ed. D.Z. Phillips (Cambridge University Press, 1997): 50-64.
- _____. "Religion and Language." In *Rush Rhees On Religion and Philosophy*, 39.
- Smith, Jane. "Considerations of God, Man, Time, and Eternity." In J. Smith and Y. Haddad. *The Islamic Understanding of Death and Resurrection* (Oxford University Press, 2002), 1-29.
- Smith, W. C. "Is the Qur'an the Word of God?" In W.C. Smith, *Questions of Religious Truth* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons), 39-62.

Van Ess, Josef. "Theology and the Qur'an." In *The Flowering of Muslim Theology* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006), 45-78.

Wittgenstein, Ludwig. "Lectures on Religious Belief." In *Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology, and Religious Belief*, ed. Cyril Barrett (Berkeley, CA: University of Los Angeles Press, 1972), 53-72.

_____. Selections from *Culture and Value*. In G.H. von Wright, ed. (with Heikki Nyman) and Peter Winch, trans. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), pp.28-32, 50-53, 72, 81, 85-87.

Schedule

March 10 (10:15am-11:45am)

Wittgenstein and Islam on Speaking for Oneself – Lecture

- Wittgenstein from *Tractatus* to *Investigations* and Beyond: Empirical vs. Religious Picturing
- Fazlur Rahman and Toshihiko Izutsu on how not to distort Islam (Rahman, "Intro to *Major Themes of the Qur'an* [MTQ]) (Izutsu, "Intro to *Ehtico-Religious Concepts in the Qur'an* [ERCQ])
- What all Muslims agree upon and Beyond: the hadith of Gabriel (S. Murata & W.C. Chittick. "The Hadith of Gabriel") (Khaled Abou El-Fadl, *The Great Theft*)

March 17 (10:15am-1:30pm)

Beyond Anthropomorphism: God, Creation, and Evidence

- Wittgenstein, "Lectures on Religious Belief" – Sections I-II (pp.53-64)
- Rhees, "Religion and Language"
- Van Ess, "Theology and the Qur'an"
- Rahman, "God"
- Daniel Peterson, "Creation"

March 24 (10:15am-1:30pm)

Religious Pictures: Life, Death, the Last Judgment, Salvation, Predestination, and the Hereafter

- Wittgenstein, 'Lectures on Religious Belief' – Section III (pp.65-72)
- Wittgenstein, *Culture and Value*, pp.28-32, 50-53, 72, 81, 85-87
- Phillips, "Last Things"
- Rahman, "Eschatology"
- J. Smith, "Considerations of God, Man, Time, and Eternity"
- Abou El-Fadl, "Interacting with Non-Muslims and Salvation"

March 31 (10:15am-1:30pm)

The Grammar of the Word of God

- Cragg, "Qur'an"
- Nasr, "Qur'an: The Word of God"
- W.C. Smith, "Is the Qur'an the Word of God?"
- Rhees, "Belief in God"

Teilnehmende: Die Veranstaltung richtet sich an Doktorierende im Doktoratsprogramm Asien und Europa, Doktorierende in anderen Doktoratsprogrammen sowie im allgemeinen Doktorat. Studierende im Masterstudium können auf Anfrage zugelassen werden.

Anrechnung: Die Veranstaltung kann als Teil des Doktoratsprogramms Asien und Europa im Wahlpflichtpool I, II oder im Wahlbereich angerechnet werden. Doktorierende, die nicht im Rahmen des Doktoratsprogramms Asien und Europa promovieren, werden gebeten, vorgängig mit den für sie zuständigen hauptverantwortlichen BetreuerInnen bzw. den jeweiligen Verantwortlichen für die Doktoratsstufe die Möglichkeit der Anrechnung abzuklären. Studierende im Master werden gebeten, die Möglichkeit der Anrechnung mit den jeweils zuständigen Personen abzuklären.

Anmeldung: Reguläre Modulbuchung im DP Asien und Europa. Bitte melden Sie sich **bis Freitag, 28. Februar 2017** beim Dozenten mit c.c. an Simone Müller an: randy.ramal@cgu.edu / studienadministration@asienundeuropa.uzh.ch