Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Department of Middle East Studies  

The 13th Annual Soref Workshop  
A Different Approach to Debates on Political Islam: Micro-Level Studies  
2-4 June, 2008  

Conference Program

Monday, 2 June 2008
16:30-19:40  
Greetings and Announcements  

Keynote Address:  
Juan I. Cole, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Political Islam between Cult and Ballot Box

Tuesday, 3 June 2008
1. 09:30-11:30 - Recruitment and Modes of Persuasion  
   Jacob Bosch, Islamic School of Greater Kansas City  
   Islamic Communities: Identity and Education in the U.S.
   Lisunia Romanienko, Wroclaw University, Poland; Suez Canal University, Egypt  
   Intellectual Interventions Disrupting Fundamentalist Recruitment of Elites
   Gunther Jikeli, International Institute for Education and Research on Anti-Semitism, London  
   Islamist Ideologies among Young Muslims in Britain, Germany and France
   Melani McAlister, George Washington University  
   Discussant: Yossi Yonah, Ben Gurion University

2. 12:00-13:30 - Gender Issues and Emerging Media  
   Dorothea E. Schulz, Indiana University, Bloomington  
   Authority Matters: Islamic Moral Renewal, Aural Media, and Female Authority in Contemporary Mali
   Fatma Tuńcü, Abant Izzet Baysal University, Bolu, Turkey  
   Islamist Matchmaking Websites and Feminine Agency in Turkey
   Kimberly Hart, Buffalo State College  
   Making Islamic Modernity in a Turkish Village  
   Discussant: Dalya Markovich, Beit Berl College

3. 15:00-16:30 - De-Privatized Religion and the Nation-State  
   Zvi Ben Dor, New York University  
   The Chinese Qur’an: Political Dimensions of its Translation
   Shlomo Fischer, Tel Aviv University  
   The Political Ideas of Radical Religious Zionism: The General Will and the Divine State
   Reuven Paz, Project for Research of Islamic Movements, Israel  
   Atamanna Laka al-Shahadah: New Jihadi Salafi Discourse  
   Discussant: Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, Ben Gurion University

Wednesday, June 4
1. 09:30-11:00 - Political Islam and Popular Culture  
   Ted Swedenburg, University of Arkansas  
   Hip Hop and Political Islam: “Fun-Da-Mental”
   Sariel Birnbaum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
   Islamists Fight Back on Screen - Islamic Historical Films
   Ksenia Svetlova, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
   ‘Amr Khled, One Preacher, One Islam  
   Discussant: İftar Gozaydin, Istanbul Technical University

2. 11:30-13:00 - Establishing Authority: Pre-Modern & Modern Perspectives  
   Nimrod Hurvitz, Ben Gurion University of the Negev  
   Early Hanbali Community and Religious Activism
   Eli Alsheh, MEMRI, Israel  
   The Quest for Legitimacy: Al-Qaeda Reconstructs Sunni Notions of Authority
   Muhammad al-Atawneh, Ben Gurion University of the Negev  
   Lowe Politics to Politicians: Wahhabis and Politics at the Turn of the 21st Century  
   Discussant: Daniella Talmon-Heller, Ben Gurion University

3. 14:30-16:00 - Political Challenges and Resistance  
   Ranabir Samaddar, Calcutta Research Group, India  
   The Concrete and Universal in Anti-Colonial Nationalism: The Significance of a Distinct Muslim Public Sphere in Colonial Eastern India
   Yoram Meital, Ben Gurion University of the Negev  
   The Trial of Mahmud ‘Abd al-Latif: Religion and Politics in Republican Egypt
   Adnan Musallam, Bethlehem University  
   The Making of Radical Influence and Global Jihad: The Sayyid Qushq Factor and Influence  
   Discussant: Nimrod Hurvitz, Ben Gurion University

4. 16:30-18:00 - "Soft" Politics, Welfare and Globalization  
   Joshua D. Hendrick, University of California, Santa Cruz  
   Transnational Religious Nationalism: Globalization, Muslim Networks, & The Turkish Movement of M. Fethullah Gülen
   Jeremy Walton, University of Chicago  
   Civic Islam, Islamic Civility: Ethnographic Notes from among Turkey’s Charitable Foundations
   Paula Abenante, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy  
   The Political Senses of Sufism in Contemporary Cairo  
   Discussant: Amy Singer, Tel Aviv University

5. 18:30-19:30 - Concluding Session  
   Political Islam: Possible Directions for Research  
   Moderators: Haggai Ram & Dror Ze’evi, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

The Conference will be held at Rotem Hall, Student Union (Agudat Ha-Studentim) Building