

Lecture as part of the Teaching Assistantship Programme 2017

Islamic Political Thought: An Introduction

Organizational details

Instructor: Nourhan Kassem

Date: May 19, 2017 from 16.00 to 18.00 h

Location: Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Strasse 68, D-35390 Giessen, room 024 (HS 024)

Content

As noticed from the title, we have three main questions. The first goes to identify the meaning of “thought”, what is “political” and how we can categorize certain intellectual product as “Islamic”.

Regarding the first point; “thought” we have a lot to say about the meaning of thought; how we can differentiate between it and other forms of ideas; such as philosophy, theory, ideology and the relationship among them. The other relationship we are going to investigate “thought” with its reality. Is it a double-faced coin; thought and reality? Additionally, where can we place “practice” in the scheme of thought?

The second element here is “political”. How can we read the “Islamic political”? Most of the scholars go directly to these heritage/traditional books that carry the word “political” or “kings” in these monographs’ titles. In a heritage like the Islamic one, it is hard, if not impossible to separate between political/intellectual (in general) and jurisprudence. Most of the Islamic intellectuals who theorized for political, power, state and authority were clergies/religious jurists in most cases as well. Consequently, where the sphere of “political” stopes and other spheres start? In fact, it is a very difficult issue. What we are going to do is to find the thread among all of the intellectuals’ works that could be located on the “political” scheme. It is that due to the plait being all other field intertwined with each other.

The problematic sphere here is “Islamic”. Ask most people what does “Islamic” mean? Does it mean what has been produced by Muslims in different ages? Alternatively, what has been produced the Islamic civilization despite being presented by non-Muslims? On the other hand, these literature become known through different Islamic sects that can be contradicted largely despite sharing some fundamentals?

- *First 20 minutes:* deliberating on the concept of “thought”.
- *Following 30 minutes:* discussing the meaning of “political”.
- *Following 30 minutes:* exploring the different aspects of “Islamic”, presenting some unknown Muslim influential thinkers, e.g. Avicenna, Averroes and Ibn Khaldun.
- *Last 10 minutes:* to wrap up what we were discussing, receiving feedback, and proposing probable upcoming topics of shared interest.

Target group

Students, Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs of all Faculties

Course language

English

Registration

No registration needed