

GRITIM-UPF Research in Progress Session

Friday, 31st, October, 2014

12.00-14.00

Room 24.021. Campus Ciutadella. UPF, Barcelona.

1. Individualization of Muslim Religious Practices: Contextual Creativity of Second-generation Moroccans in Spain

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Abstract

Given the limitations posed on some religious practices in secular contexts, a trend of individualization or self-fashioned approach to religious practices has surfaced in an emerging debate in the literature dealing with the study of Muslim minorities and their practices. While the term is used for critical arguments, it lacks empirical data, in which this research attempts to fill using in-depth semi-structured interviews. This study intends to map the basic elements of a “theory of individualization” and contextualize it in Europe, taking Spain’s second-generation Moroccans as a case study, to answer the research question: How do Muslims reconcile their religious duties with the realities they face in contemporary Spanish society? The literature repeatedly points to the generational gap in analyzing the individualization patterns and their significance. The empirical findings of this project can help us argue that individualization is a product of a bounded creativity confined in a structural context. The limited set of religious options and context, both local and global, demonstrates that they matter more than the generational effect. The project is centered on two specific practices: Daily prayers and social relationships, as these two stand as a continuous everyday struggle for the individual trying to accommodate both religious duties and societal interferences.

A New Anthropology of Islam

John Bowen (2012)

“We [scholars] started realizing the framework in which Islam lies between the particular and the shared, and between the creative and the imposed. More was to come when we began to take better account of transnational connections and global movements.”

2. Worker Recruitment under the Spain-Ecuador Bilateral Labor Agreement

Mariana Minaya

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Abstract

Spain's bilateral labor agreement with Ecuador creates a "selection committee" comprised of employers, public authorities and advocates that carries out the direct recruitment of workers from Ecuador instead of merely relying on third-party contractors to conduct recruitment. Because rogue contractors frequently result to be human traffickers, it is imperative to understand the best ways to regulate recruitment and prevent these abuses. The Project aims to discover how Spanish and Ecuadorian authorities created and administered this public recruitment model. Under the agreement, employers or their representatives may travel directly to Ecuador to interview workers. Migrant advocates are also allowed to participate in order to assist candidates with the employment process. Furthermore, the Ecuadorian government, in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration, created a body called the Unidad Técnica de Selección to oversee the effective administration of the agreement. Through interviews and research, I will determine whether these measures effectively safeguarded immigrant's rights during the critical pre-employment phase.