

Football and Religion in the Middle East and North Africa
Workshop at the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul
28-29 November 2024

Preliminary program

Arrivals: November 27

18:00 Informal welcome and dinner for early arrivals (voluntary)

Workshop Day 1: November 28

09:00 Welcome

Hans Kristian Hognestad

09:30 Presentations and discussions, theme 1: Discourse and Ideology.

Chair: Bjørn Olav Utvik

09:30 "Islamic Clubs for a Muslim Sport? Football and Religious Reform in Colonial Algeria", *Jakob Krajs*. Discussant: Aaron Hughes

10:00 "Analyzing the Turkish Super Cup Final Between Galatasaray-Fenerbahçe Reactions of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in the Light of Hate Speech", *Meltem Özel*. Discussant: Ibrahim Elhoudaiby

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 "From Street Pastime to School Curriculum. The Evolution of Football Egyptian Schools During the Early Twentieth Century", *Ibrahim Elhoudaiby*. Discussant: Bjørn Olav Utvik

11:30 "Trouble Brewing in the Circus: On football, Religion and Politics in Morocco", *Bjørn Olav Utvik*. Discussant: Jakob Krajs

12:00 "Football as Dawa, Dawa as Football", *Aaron Hughes*. Discussant: Meltem Özel

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Presentations and discussions, theme 2: Supporter Culture

Chair: Dag Tuastad

13:30 "A Century of Profound Belonging. Football and the Politics of Memories and Space in Post Colonial Port Said", *Ahmed Elgezy*. Discussant: Hamza Elkoundi

14:00 "Ultras in Morocco: Identity, Ideology, and National Constants", *Hamza Elkoundi*. Discussants: Khalil Dahbi and Yasmine Zarhloule

14:30 "Faith in the stands: Unpacking the Religious Content of Moroccan Ultras' Cultural Production", *Khalil Dahbi and Yasmine Zarhloule*. Discussant: Ehsan Kashfi

15:00 "The Field Divided: Team Melli and Diasporic Iranian Politics", *Ehsan Kashfi*. Discussant: Ahmed Elgezy

15:30 Free Time

Afternoon/Evening **Excursion to Besiktas neighbourhood and Besiktas – Maccabi Tel Aviv**

The game will be played in a neutral venue outside of Türkiye, but we recommend watching the game around the Besiktas club where we'll end our excursion. Times to be confirmed.

Workshop Day 2: November 29

10:00 Presentations and discussions, theme 3: Organization and Gender.

Chair: Charlotte Lysa

10:00 "Social veiling in Muscat. A Field Study on Women's Football in Oman", *Idun Fjeld*. Discussant: Pauline Reichenberger and Dina Wahba.

10:30 "The intersections of football and religion in Saudi Arabia: A secular enclave?", *Charlotte Lysa*. Discussant: Kyra Angerer and Laura Schuhn.

11:00 "Contested bodies: The Egyptian King and the body of the nation", *Pauline Reichenberger and Dina Wahba*. Discussant: Charlotte Lysa

11:30 "Saudi female footballers and social media", *Kyra Angerer and Laura Schuhn*. Discussant: Idun Fjeld.

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Summing up and thinking forward: theoretical takeaways on football and religion,
Hans K. Hognestad and Richard Giulianiotti

15:00 Free time

18:30 Workshop Dinner

Please note that program after 16:30 is voluntary and that it is possible to leave on the 29th in the afternoon if needed.

List of Participants

Aaron Hughes

“Football as Dawa, Dawa as Football”

Aaron Hughes is the Dean’s Professor of the Humanities and the Philip S. Bernstein Professor of Religion at the University of Rochester.

Ahmed Elgezy

“A Century of Profound Belonging. Football and the Politics of Memories and Space in Post Colonial Port Said”

Ahmed Elgezy is an independent researcher with a background in sociology and social anthropology.

Bjørn Olav Utvik

“Trouble Brewing in the Circus: On football, Religion and Politics in Morocco”

Bjørn Olav is a Professor Emeritus in Middle East Studies at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo and participant in the FORM-project.

Charlotte Lysa

“The intersections of football and religion in Saudi Arabia: A secular enclave?”

Charlotte Lysa is a Research Fellow in Middle East Studies, Department of culture studies and oriental languages, University of Oslo and participant in the FORM project.

Dag Tuastad, Senior Lecturer in Middle East Studies and participant in the FORM project.

Dina Wahba

“Contested bodies: The Egyptian King and the body of the nation”, with Pauline Reichenberger.

Dina Wahba is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Freie Universität Berlin, department of history and cultural studies.

Ehsan Kashfi

“A field Divided”

Ehsan Kashfi is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Copenhagen

Hamza Elkoundy

“Ultras in Morocco: Identity, Ideology, and National Constants”

Hamza Elkoundy holds a PhD in Legal and Political Sciences, Souissi Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences, Mohammed V University in Rabat.

Hans Kristian Hognestad, project leader FORM – Football and Religion in the Middle East, and professor in the sociology of sport, University of South-East Norway

Ibrahim Elhoudaiby

“From Street Pastime to School Curriculum. The Evolution of Football Egyptian Schools During the Early Twentieth Century”

Ibrahim Elhoudaiby is a visiting assistant professor of Middle Eastern and Historical Studies at Bard College.

Idun Fjeld

“Social veiling in Muscat. A Field Study on Women's Football in Oman”

Idun Fjeld is a MA-student in Social Anthropology, University of Bergen.

Jakob Kraiss

“Islamic Clubs for a Muslim Sport? Football and Religious Reform in Colonial Algeria”

Jakob Kraiss is Professor for the Modern Cultural History of North Africa at the University of the Bundeswehr Munich.

Khalil Dahbi

“Faith in the stands: Unpacking the Religious Content of Moroccan Ultras' Cultural Production”, with Yasmine Zarhloule

Khalil Dahbi is a Research Fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Institute for Middle East Studies.

Kyra Angerer

“Saudi female footballers and social media”, with Laura Schuhn.

Kyra Angerer is a PhD Research Fellow in Culture Studies at the University of South-Eastern Norway.

Laura Schuhn

“Saudi female footballers and social media”, with Kyra Angerer.

Laura Schuhn is a Doctoral Researcher at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg.

Meltem Özel

“Analyzing the Turkish Super Cup Final Between Galatasaray-Fenerbahçe Reactions of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in the Light of Hate Speech”

Meltem Özel is Assistant Professor in Adıyaman University, and teaches at New Media and Communication department of Ibn Haldun University

Richard Giulianotti, professor in Sociology at Loughborough University and participant in the FORM project.

Pauline Reichenberger

“Contested bodies: The Egyptian King and the body of the nation”, with Dina Wahba.

Pauline Reichenberger is a Master's student in Gender Studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

Yasmine Zarhloule

“Faith in the stands: Unpacking the Religious Content of Moroccan Ultras' Cultural Production”, with Khalil Dahbi

Yasmine Zarhoule is a DPhil candidate at the University of Oxford.