

# Curriculum Vitae

Zubair Ahmad

Cluster of Excellence Formation of Normative Orders

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## EDUCATION

Since 2013 Ph.D. candidate at Otto-Suhr-Institute of Political Science, Free University of Berlin

- Thesis: “History of the Present: Towards a Postcolonial Genealogy of Germany’s Politics on Islam”

Magister Artium in Political Science (equivalent to M.A.), Goethe-University 2012

- Thesis: “The Religious-Secular Divide: A Postcolonial Approach”
  - Major: Political Science
  - Minors: Religious Studies & Psychoanalysis
  - Extracurricular Studies: Women & Gender Studies, Feminist Theory & Methodologies as well as Islam in Europe and introductory courses on Sharia Law & Usul-ul-Fiqh, Quran and Hermeneutics, Islamic Philosophy and Mysticism

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

modern political thought, especially on secularism & religion; theories of regulating religion under (post-)colonial rule; postcolonial & decolonial theory; Islam & Muslims in Germany and German colonial history in Africa.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Studies in Michel Foucault  
Post-structuralism  
Decolonial Thought  
Alternative Epistemologies  
Critical Islamic Thought

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Oct. 2013 – June 2014:

Parental leave

Academic Employment:

since July 2014: Research Associate at the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders” and the Institute for Political Science, Chair for Gender and Postcolonial Studies, Goethe-University Frankfurt

April – Sep. 2013: Research Assistant at the Institute for Sociology & the Institute for Political Science, Goethe-University Frankfurt

Oct. 2012 – Sep.2013: Research Assistant at the Center for Islamic Studies, Goethe-University Frankfurt

Academic Teaching:

Summer term 2013: Teaching Assistant for courses on “Queer(ing) Methodologies” (Institute for Sociology) and “Righting Wrongs: Human Rights and Its Discontents” (Institute for Political Science), Goethe-University Frankfurt

Winter term 2012/13: Lecturer at the Center for Islamic Studies, Goethe-University Frankfurt

Sep. 2012: 4-weeks intensive reading course on “Decolonization & Liberation” during the series on “Religion & Postcolonialism”, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

March 2012: 4-weeks Colloquium (together with Prof. Dr. Farid Esack) on “Postcolonial/Decolonial Studies & Islam”, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Translation work:

2013: Translation from German into English: Abdullah Takim: „The Turkish Quranic Exegete Süleyman Ateş and his Contemporary Commentary of the Qur'an“, in: Theology and Unity of Cultural Diversity, De Gruyter (forthcoming).

2012: Translation from English into German: Farid Esack (2012): “In Richtung einer Islamischen Befreiungstheologie”, in Klaus von Stosch / Muna Tatari (eds.), Gott und Befreiung. Befreiungstheologische Konzepte in Islam und Christentum. Würzburg: Ferdinand Schönigh Verlag: Würzburg.

2012: Translation from English into German: Nikita Dhawan / María da Mar Castro Varela: „Secularism, Religion and Empire“, in Postkoloniale Theorie: Eine kritische Einführung, Bielefeld: transcript Verlag (forthcoming).

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2012: Society for Islamic Studies at the Goethe-University Frankfurt, Travel & Tuition Grant for participating at the summer school “Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles, Theologies of Liberation and Islamic Revival”, Granada, Spain

2012: Association of Friends and Supporters of the Goethe University Frankfurt, Travel Grant for presenting a paper at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, USA

Aug. 2006-March 2007: Erasmus Program, Stipend covering Tuition Fees for a seven-month study period at the Université Lumière & Institut d'études politiques de Lyon, France

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- Assistance:
- Sep. 2012: International workshop on “Entangled Legacies: Enlightenment, Colonialism and the Holocaust”, Goethe-University Frankfurt
- November 2010: International conference on “Re-imagining Gender and Politics: Transnational Feminist Interventions”, Goethe-University Frankfurt
- Panel Organized:
- 2013 (together with Constantin Wagner): “Diversity what for? Negotiating ‘Diversity’ between the Politics of Representation, Disciplining and Economic Profit” held at the conference on “The Politics of Diversity”, University of Innsbruck
- 2013: “Whence and Whither? Religious Studies, European Colonialism and the Intervention of Postcolonial Studies”, held at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Society for Religious Studies, University of Göttingen
- 2011: “Secularism, Religion and Politics: Critical Interventions” held at the International Graduate Conference on “Colonial Legacies, Postcolonial Contestations: Decolonizing the Social Sciences and the Humanities”, Goethe-University Frankfurt
- Papers Presented:
- Sep. 2013: “The Politics of Islam in postcolonial Germany”, presented at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Society for Religious Studies, University of Göttingen
- Nov. 2012: “Constructing a liberal-secular Islam from within?”, presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Chicago, USA
- Sep. 2012: “Decolonizing Religion? Yes Please! But How? ”, presented at the workshop on

“Postcolonialism, Islam and Liberation” organized by Dr. Farid Esack, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Discussant:

Dec. 2013: Panel discussion with Dr. Angela Davis about her talk “Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Continuities and Closures” during the Cornelia Goethe Salon, Goethe-University Frankfurt

Nov. 2012: Discussing “Islamic perspective on Justice” during the series “Holy Scriptures: Lection and Dialogue from Torah, Bible and Quran”, Frankfurt a/M

## **STAY ABROAD**

March – April 2012: Visiting Scholar at the Religious Studies Department of University of Johannesburg, South Africa (Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Farid Esack)

Feb. - April 2008: Intern at the Goethe-Institute Alexandria, Egypt

Aug. 2006 – March 2007: Semester abroad at the Université Lumière & Institut d'études politiques de Lyon, France

## **LANGUAGE**

German (native), English (fluent), Urdu (conversational), French (modest), Arabic (basic)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion & German Society for Religious Studies

## **REFEREES**

Schirin Amir-Moazami, Junior Professor, Free University of Berlin, Dept. of Islamic Studies.  
(+49-(0)30)-838-55865; [schirin.amir-moazami@fu-berlin.de](mailto:schirin.amir-moazami@fu-berlin.de)

Nikita Dhawan, Junior Professor, Goethe-University Frankfurt, Dept. of Political Science.  
(+49 (0)69) 798 – 31510; [dhawan@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:dhawan@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

Farid Esack, Professor, University of Johannesburg, Dept. of Religion Studies.  
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