



Course description: NISIS Course: 'Traveling through Islam research in the Netherlands'

Theme	This course aims at providing an overview of research on Islam conducted at Dutch Universities; content, methods and disciplines
Academic year	2015-2016
Semester	1
EC	4
Level	600
Language	English
Keynote speakers	NISIS board members or their representatives, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Léon Buskens
Hosted by	All participating universities of NISIS

Admission requirements

PhD candidates and research master students active in the field of Islamic Studies may apply for admission and should contact NISIS at nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

NISIS junior members qualify automatically and do not need to apply for participation. However, they are required to **register** for the NISIS Course via nisis@hum.leidenuniv.nl.

Description

The NISIS Course 'Traveling through Islam research in the Netherlands' consist of an introductory lecture by the coordinator Prof. Dr. Léon Buskens in which he gives a historical overview of the development of Islamic Studies in the Netherlands and in which he presents a theoretical framework for the study of Islam in the Netherlands.

After this introduction, the students will visit the departments of three different universities participating in NISIS. During three meetings the NISIS board members or his/her replacement will introduce the expertise, methods and disciplines involved in studying Islam at their university. At the end of the semester a second central meeting will be held in which the participating PhD candidates and research master students present their view on research on Islam in the Netherlands in relation to the topic of their own research.

Participants (PhD candidates and research master students) are required to:

- read the set literature in advance and hand in written reading notes.
- give a presentation in the final meeting and act as **discussant*** for one of the presentations of others;
- write a report.

*As a **discussant** during the NISIS course, you are required to:

- carefully study the readings by the (keynote) speakers in advance and hand in written reading notes.
- prepare questions for discussion in advance in which you relate the topic of the presentation to the prescribed readings;
- actively participate in and contribute to the discussion.

You will receive an abstract of the presentation in which you will act as discussant beforehand. NISIS aims at assigning the participants to the different (thematic/geographical) sessions in accordance with their respective field of study within Islamic Studies.

Course objectives

- Enlarging and deepening the already existing knowledge of Islam and Muslim societies
- Providing insight and participation in the current academic debate
- Introducing the candidates to the national network of scholars in the field
- Creating an academic community in which research in the field of Islam and Muslim societies can be optimally pursued
- Mediating between a new generation of researchers and innovative disciplinary and interdisciplinary developments, theoretical and methodological initiatives and explorations in the field
- Training presentation, writing and reflection skills.

Timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Representing universities</i>		
18 September 2015 15.00-17.00	Leiden University Matthias de Vrieshof 4, room 5	Introductory lecture	Leiden University by Prof. Dr. Léon Buskens	
2 October 2015 14.00-18.00	Utrecht University	Utrecht University by dr. Nico Landman	Tilburg University by Prof. Dr. Herman Beck	University of Groningen by dr. Marjo Buitelaar
30 October 2015 14.00-18.00	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Erasmus University Rotterdam by Prof. dr. Dick Douwes	Maastricht University by dr. Susan Rutten	
20 November 2015 14.00-17.00	VU University Amsterdam Aurora zaal, hoofdgebouw VU	VU University Amsterdam by Prof. Dr. Thijl Sunier	University of Amsterdam by Prof. Dr. Gerard Wiegers	Radboud University by Prof. Dr. Karin van Nieuwkerk
4 December 2015 10.00-12.00	Leiden University Lipsius building, room 208	Presentations		

Please make sure to be informed about programme details and updates via our website: www.nisis.nl.

Mode of instruction

- Lectures series
- Presentation
- Research

Course load

Total course load is 112 hours

Preparation meetings: 30 hours

Attendance meetings: 15 hours

Preparation presentation and discussant: 30 hours

Paper: 37 hours

Assessment method

PhD candidates and research master students will be judged on the basis of:

- attendance of the lectures and final meeting;
- reading notes;
- presentation in the final meeting and their role as discussant in one of the presentations of the other PhD candidates or research master students;
- a paper afterwards (see next page for requirements).

Paper requirements

A. As a first step, you write a short introductory section. In the first subsection of the introduction you present the objectives, research question and subject matter of your own research in max. 200 words. In the next subsection you explain to what purpose you have selected the articles and key note lecture(s) from the course to apply to your own research.

B. The next section of 1000 to 1500 words consists of a few paragraphs in which you answer for each of the articles and key note lecture(s) the following questions:

- Which key theories, concepts and ideas are addressed?
- What are the main questions and problems that are addressed?
- What is the nature and content of the empirical data/sources that are analysed and how is (the analysis) of the data organised?

C. The next section of 1000 to 1500 words is dedicated to a two-step 'what if' exercise in creativity:

1. for each of the selected articles and key note lecture(s) you ask yourself: If you were to apply the approach/ line of argument etc. to your own research, what new questions would you ask of your data, and what kind of data would you have to collect alternatively or additionally? If you were to adopt the approach/focus etc. of the article to develop an argument along similar lines on the basis your own material, what might that argument look like?
2. For each of the possibilities that you can come up with, you reflect on the pro's and con's and take stock of and explain which options are interesting and feasible to follow up on.

D. In the concluding section you take stock of how research in the field of Islamic studies in the Netherlands, most concretely how the articles and lecture(s) selected, shed new light on and/or have been helpful for your own research.

In total, the length your essay should be **between 2500 to 4000 words**.

Reading list

To be announced.

Application

You can apply for participation in the NISIS course as soon as a call for application has been opened. This will be announced on the NISIS website (www.nisis.nl). Please note that the number of available places is restricted.

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