

workshop

# Religion and History in the Education System: A Practice Oriented Reform Project in Tunisia



The focus of this workshop is the comprehensive school reform project in Tunisia which was initiated in the 1990s by the former Tunisian Education Minister, Mohammed Charfi. As part of Charfi's project and in collaboration with his advisor, Moncef ben Abdeljelil, then a young researcher and today professor and Dean of the University for Cultural Sciences in Sousse, a new curriculum for schools was developed in which social studies formed the basis for learning goals and content. In this way, the project initiators hoped to promote young people's potential and to realize future-oriented reform visions. The workshop deals with the resulting changes and effects of the programme, as well as with the new teaching methods in the subjects "Religious Instruction" (lecture by Prof. M. b. Abdeljelil) and "History" (lecture by Dr. Achim Rohde).

## Host

Institute for Studies of the Culture and Religion of Islam,  
Goethe- University Frankfurt am Main

## Location

Campus Bockenheim, Bockenheimer Landstraße 133  
Neue Mensa, 1. Floor, Conference Room III

## Organization

Dr. Soumaya Louhichi-Güzel

**28.06.2018**  
10:00 – 16:30h

## The workshop will address the following questions:

- Which content has been changed in the Tunisian curriculum? How did politicians, the public and specialists perceive and discuss the school reform project? How can the effectiveness of such reforms be measured and potentially improved?
- What transfer potentials exist with regard to Islamic religious education in Germany, including the Islamic theological studies at universities?
- Religious training as a politicized field of research (?) – participants, goals and perspectives
- How does the research of school reforms and Arabic schoolbooks relate to the German context?

## Programme

10:00 – 10:30h **Arrival / Coffee**

10:30 – 11:00h **Greeting words**

Prof. Dr. Ömer Özsoy, Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main

10:45 – 11:00 **Introduction**

Dr. Soumaya Louhichi-Güzel, Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main

Part I **Chair : Soumaya Louhichi-Güzel**

11:00 – 11:45 **“Research Perspectives on School Textbook Revisions in the Arab Region”**

Prof. Riem Spielhaus, Georg-August-University Göttingen

12:00 – 12:45 **„Few Reflections on Teaching Islam in post-2011 Tunisia: The Case of the Original Zaytunî Teaching”**

Prof. M. b. Abdeljelil, Professor and Dean of the University for Cultural Sciences in Sousse/Tunisia

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch Break**

Part II **Chair : Soumaya Louhichi-Güzel**

14:30 – 15:15 **“Re-Constructing History? Notes on the Tunisian Education Reform”**

Prof. Achim Rohde, Goethe-University Frankfurt

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

Part III **Chair : Dunja el Missiri**

15:45 – 16:30 **Concluding Discussion**