



Every year, in various towns of Europe – Athens, Copenhagen, Paris, Hamburg or Helsinki - the Shi'a Muslims of Europe celebrate Ashura, to commemorate the day of the martyrdom of the Imam Hussein defeated at the battle of Kerbala. These Shi'a Muslims come from Iran, Pakistan, Iraq or Turkey... and form, within the Muslim populations living in Europe, an active minority. This Muslim minority is most often discreet and not well known. It is a composite group: they are divided ethnically, linguistically and sometimes even religiously.

The colloquium organised by the research Center PRISME (CNRS / Robert Schuman University of Strasbourg) will bring together some twenty specialists of Shiisme, Muslims in Europe, and religious minorities. It will be one of the first attempts to realise an in-depth analysis of the Shiite presence on European ground: re-structuring, re-composition of believing and acting, relations to ethnicity, nation, and modes of declinations of belonging to the Umma.

The cooperation between different ethnic minorities and religious trends, interactions established between religious belonging and politics of the home country will be compared to the situation of other Muslim groups in Europe.

This meeting is the first step of the research in a new field that the research group on 're-compositions of Islam in Europe' of PRISME intends to develop. Directed toward minoritarian elements of European Islam, this new field should allow evaluating how much Islam, in this part of the world, is heterogeneous and composed of many trends, sensitivities, with a pluralist reference to Islam, sometimes at the extreme of what society considers "canonic" Islam.

*Samim Akgönül, Franck Frégosi, Anne-Laure Zwillling
August 2008*

International colloquium "Shiites in Europe" Colloque international "Regards sur les chiites en Europe"

September 25-26, 2008 / 25-26 septembre 2008

Meeting room "table ronde", ground floor, MISHA
(Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences de l'Homme – Alsace)
5 allée Rouvillois, Strasbourg (France)

<http://colloque-shiisme.mineurel.info/>

Organised by

**Politique, Religion, Institutions et Sociétés :
Mutations Européennes
Société, Droit et Religions en Europe**

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SDRE

International colloquium "Shiites in Europe"

Colloque international "Regards sur les chiites en Europe"

Thursday, September 25 : Shiites and Shiism

Friday, September 26 : Shiites in Europe

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Opening : *Francis Messner (PRISME/SDRE, CNRS, Strasbourg), Franck Frégosi (PRISME/SDRE, CNRS, Strasbourg)*

2:30 pm – 3:00

• Minorités religieuses, courants minoritaires : tentative de conceptualisation
Samin Akgönil (Marc Bloch University, Strasbourg)

• The commemoration of *Muharram*: Ritual practice and notions of belonging among Iraqi Shi'a Muslims in Copenhagen
Marianne Holm Pedersen (Department of anthropology – University of Copenhagen)

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

• La représentation médiatique du chiisme : un portrait évolutif et contrasté
Franck Frégosi (PRISME/SDRE, CNRS, Strasbourg)

• Shia Muslims in Europe: London as a case study
Ghanem Jawad (Al Khoie Foundation, London)

10:00 am – 11:00am

Break

11:00 am – 12:00 am

• Practising *taqlid* in Shi'i mosque associations in Berlin
Andre Becht (Free University of Berlin)

• Perception and reproduction of Shi'ite symbolism in the West
Liselotte Abid (Department of Oriental Studies – University of Vienna)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

• The Local and the Global in European Shi'ism
Mathijs Van den Bos (Birkbeck, University of London)

• Text, Faith and Community amongst the Alevis: changing parameters
David Shankland (Department of archeology and anthropology, University of Bristol)

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

• Minorités religieuses en Europe : quelques sources d'information
Anne-Laure Zwilling (PRISME/SDRE, CNRS, Strasbourg)

• Bilan et perspectives
Franck Frégosi (PRISME/SDRE, CNRS, Strasbourg)