



Max Planck Institute for
Comparative and International
Private Law | Hamburg

AFTERNOON TALKS ON ISLAMIC LAW

Nada Moumtaz

Ohio State University

"Beyond Practice vs. Theory in Islamic Law:
The Work of Maşlaḥa in Waqf Exchanges in the
Reconstruction of Downtown Beirut"

Friday, 10 July 2015 – 4 pm

Conference Room 1, 1st floor

All employees and guests of the institute as well as
other interested parties are cordially invited to the lecture.

Nadjma Yassari

About the Speaker:

Nada Moutaz is Assistant Professor in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State University and EUME fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien for 2014/2015. She received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2012. She is currently preparing her book manuscript, tentatively entitled "Islamic Charity and the Modern State: Property, Family, and Economy in Beirut since 1826" for publication.

About the Topic:

During the reconstruction of Beirut's city center after the 1975-1990 civil war, Solidere, the private real-estate company in charge of the urban renewal project, expropriated most rights-holders for reasons of public benefit and compensated them through shares in the company's stock. Among the very few who could escape systematic expropriation and keep physical assets instead of shares was the Directorate General of Islamic Waqfs (DGIW). For scholars of Islamic law, this might not come as a surprise, given that waqfs are inalienable charitable endowments. However, in this case, Solidere had planned and proceeded to expropriate all waqfs except mosques. How was that dispossession avoided then and what was the role of Islamic law in this process? These are the questions that Nada seeks to answer in this talk.