



Max Planck Institute for
Comparative and International
Private Law | Hamburg

AFTERNOON TALKS ON ISLAMIC LAW

Dr. Nahda Shehada

International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

"The Differential Application of Family Law
in the Sharia Courts of Gaza and Damascus"

Friday, 11 December 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:

Nahda Shehada is a senior lecturer of Gender, Culture and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies/Erasmus University. Shehada is interested in the anthropology of Islamic Law both in the Middle East and Europe. She has finished coordinating a research project entitled "Islamic Family Law in Palestine: Text and Context" in cooperation with Zurich and Bern Universities/Switzerland. Currently, she is working on the project "Statelessness Among Syrian Refugees: A Policy-Oriented Analysis of Exile and Measures for Legal Security" in cooperation with Fribourg University, Milan and Pavia University as well as the Justice Centre for Legal Aid in Jordan.

About the Topic:

Based on ethnographic fieldwork in the Sharia Courts of Gaza (Palestine) and Damascus (Syria), Shehada compares the operations, mode of communication, and administration of the two courts. She argues that with the emergence of nation-states, Islamic family law has been codified almost everywhere in the Muslim-majority countries. However, the way it is implemented and administered is squarely dependent on the socio-economic development in each context specifically the extent to which modernisation, urbanisation and institutionalisation are intensified.