

ISLAM AND MUSLIM YOUTH IN AFRICA

A Workshop Organized by

The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA)
Northwestern University April 24, 2009

In many places in the Muslim world, including in Africa, Islam has become a source of identification for young Muslims who have been engaging in visible and audible expressions of public piety and various kinds of social, political, and religious activism. This workshop situates Muslim youths' turn to religion within broader social processes (such as dwindling economic opportunities, widespread un- and underemployment, political uncertainty, rapid urbanization, and migration) but avoids reductive explanations of religion as a response to alienation, poverty, or worsening social conditions. In papers about ordinary young Muslim men and women, the participants show how the turn to Islam sometimes involves projects of ethical self-fashioning and moral reform. At the same time, young Muslims are also bringing about transformations as producers as well as consumers of youth culture often, though not exclusively, centered on Islam.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Eisenberg

Location:
Northwestern
University
Program of African
Studies Seminar
Room
620 Library Place
Evanston campus

Free and open to
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