Islam in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean:  
Historical Connections, Contemporary Debates

A workshop organized by The Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) and the Program of African Studies (PAS) and co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, Northwestern.

Friday, March 4, 2011
Location: Program of African Studies Conference Room, 620 Library Place, Evanston campus

10:00 am: Welcome, Muhammad Sani Umar (religious studies and ISITA Director)

10:15 am – 12:30 pm
Morning Session: Transformations of Sufism and Salafism
Chair and Respondent: Henri Lauzière (history, Northwestern)

Salafi Transformations: Aden and the Changing Voices of Religious Reform in the Inter-War Indian Ocean
Scott S. Reese (history, Northern Arizona State)

'There Is No Greater Asceticism than Death in the Path of Jihad': Muhammad Abdille Hassan and Inter-Sufi Competition in Early 20th Century Somalia
Rahma Bavelaar (religious studies, Northwestern)

Re-Imagining Communities: Sheikh al-Amin Mazrui, al-Islah and Transnational Arab Muslim Identity in Kenya, 1897-1933
Nathaniel Mathews (history, Northwestern)

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm: Catered lunch

1:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Afternoon Session: Parochialization of Muslim Identities and Polemicization of Religious Discourse
Chair and Respondent: Ruediger Seesemann (religious studies, Northwestern)

Dreaming and Fearing the Imamate: Ibadi Politics in 19th- and Early 20th-Century Zanzibar and Oman
Valerie Hoffman (religion, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Between Muslim Bible Scholars/Preachers (Wahubiri wa kislamu) and the Ansar as-Sunna: The Rising of a New Kind of Salafism in East Africa (Tanzania and Kenya)
Abdallah Chanfi Ahmed (Islamic Studies, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

The Inclusion of Religious Courts in the Constitution is Against the Secular Nature of the State: Interrogating the Verdict on the Kadhi Courts in Kenya
Hassan Ndzovu (religious studies, Moi University, Kenya, and ISITA Visiting Post-doctoral Fellow)

4:00 – 4:30 pm: Closing Remarks