



Embassy  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
London



## Political Islam and Public Policy

*Thursday 25 March 2010  
Great Hall, King's College London, Strand Campus*

**Places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis –  
You MUST RSVP to Katie Rothman at [katie.rothman@icsr.info](mailto:katie.rothman@icsr.info)**

09:00 Arrival of participants, registration and coffee

09:30 Welcome Address by **HE Georg Boomgaarden**  
(Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany)

09:45 Keynote Address  
**TBC**

10:30 **Session A: Dividing lines and common ground**

What is Political Islam? What are its essential political and theological characteristics? What forms does it take in the UK, Germany and elsewhere? To what extent is it a transnational phenomenon? Is it a recent development? What have its successes and failures been to date? Who practises it, and where? How popular is it? How is it related, if at all, to neo-jihadhi violence?

**Chair: Dr Omar Ashour** (Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter)

**Speaker 1: Magali Rheault** (Senior Analyst, Gallup World Muslim Poll)

**Speaker 2: Dr Guido Steinberg** (Senior Research Fellow, SWP Berlin)

**Speaker 3: Dr Khaled Hroub** (Centre of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge)

**Speaker 4: Yahya Birt** (Director, City Circle)

12:00 Lunch

12:45 **Session B: Domestic policy towards Political Islam**

What approaches have European countries such as the UK and Germany taken, and what approach should they take, in their domestic public policy towards Political Islam? Is there a case for engaging with Islamists in public debate, or banning them? How, if at all, should domestic politics respond to the rise of Political Islam? Does Political Islam in the UK or Germany pose a security threat, or offer potential security solutions?

**Chair: Andy Hull** (Senior Research Fellow, IPPR)

**Speaker 1: Dr Herta Däubler-Gmelin** (former Secretary of Justice, Germany)

**Speaker 2: Maajid Nawaz** (Director, Quilliam Foundation)

**Speaker 3: Oliver McTernan** (Director, Forward Thinking)

**Speaker 4: Martin Bright** (Political Editor, The Jewish Chronicle)

14:15 Coffee break

14:30 **Session C: Foreign policy towards Political Islam**

What approaches have European countries such as the UK and Germany taken, and what approaches should they take, in their foreign policy towards Political Islam overseas? Is there a case for engaging with foreign Islamists in diplomatic terms? How, if at all, should foreign policymakers respond to the rise of Political Islam globally? How does Political Islam fit with western attitudes towards the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and human rights? Do Islamists overseas pose a security threat, or offer potential security solutions? In particular, how should European countries relate to Political Islam in the Middle East and North Africa?

**Chair: Dr Peter Neumann** (Director, ICSR)

**Speaker 1: Ruprecht Polenz** (Christian Democratic MP, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, German Bundestag)

**Speaker 2: Baroness Kishwer Falkner** (Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for foreign and home affairs)

**Speaker 3: Crispin Blunt** (Conservative MP, Shadow Minister for Home Affairs and Counter-Terrorism)

**Speaker 4: Anas Altikriti** (CEO, Cordoba Foundation)

16.00 Conference adjourned