

Sufism in Africa

Adapting to Changing Realities

Friday, April 3 404 Grinter Hall

3:30–5:00

Baraza: Benjamin Soares | African Studies Centre, Leiden
On ‘Structural Adjustment’ Islam and Sufism in West Africa

Saturday, April 4 404 Grinter Hall

8:30–9:00

Coffee & Tea

9:00–10:00

Felicitas Becker | University of Cambridge

Is there ‘neo-Sufism’ in Tanzania? Sufis, New Media and Reformist Movements in East Africa

10:00–11:00

Joseph Hill | University of Alberta

Sufi Hip Hop and Performative Apologetics in Senegal: Beyond ‘Discursive Tradition’

11:00–11:15

Coffee & Tea

11:15–12:15

Marie Nathalie LeBlanc | Université du Québec à Montréal

What Happened to the Marabouts? Occult Trajectories and ‘Islamic Reform’ in Côte d’Ivoire

12:15–1:30

Lunch

1:30–3:00

Plenary Panel Discussion | All four speakers plus UF moderator

This symposium will explore how Sufism is discursively adapting to rapid and ongoing changes. It aims to show how Sufi movements are reconfiguring themselves in a fluctuating landscape, and will explore such questions as: How has religious reformism affected Sufi debates about religious symbols and ritual practice? How have Sufis responded to violent attacks by militant movements? How are Sufi movements responding to the redefinition of

Sufi sites and practices as part of “cultural heritage”? How have Sufi groups responded to international and especially Western policy discourse on Sufism as “peaceful” and “moderate” Islam? The symposium aims to demonstrate that contemporary African Sufis are not merely voiceless victims of rapid changes, but active agents contributing to the constant reshaping of the African religious landscape.

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