



*India – Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
and*

Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, Mumbai

Cordially invite you to the

Seventh Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer Memorial Lecture

**“Muslim Global Actors from South Asia: World-Making
from The 'Margins' of the Islamic World”**

by

Dr. Dietrich Reetz

(Senior Research Fellow, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

Senior Lecturer and Principal Investigator for Political Science, Free University Berlin)

Chair:

Prof. A. K. Ramakrishnan

(Professor, Centre for West Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi)

Date: Thursday, 13th October 2016

Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Venue: Conference Hall , India-Arab Cultural Centre,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi**

ABSTRACT:

At a time when Islam and Muslims have become severely contested references in global and Indian politics, it is highly pertinent to remember the pluralist nature of religion. As a result of globalization, translocal and transnational Muslim networks and institutions play an increasingly independent role that goes much beyond diaspora religious activism. Outside the Arabian Peninsula, Muslim groups from South Asia are unique in their ability to create spheres and networks of influence outside their home region and across the globe. This relates to groups of all doctrines and persuasions, from the Deobandis, to Barelwis, to Ahl-i Hadith, Jamaat-i Islami and the dissenting sects of the Ahmadiyya, or the Ismailis and even to secularizing Muslim discourses from the region. The lecture will look at the nature of globalizing Muslim actors, networks and institutions from South Asia giving an overview of their different formats as to their doctrinal, cultural and ideological differentiation. It will thus look into their ways of world-making both for their own followers and the global spaces they inhabit. Such pluralistic understanding of Islam and Muslim pays tribute to the rich intellectual heritage of Asghar Ali Engineer to whose memory this lecture is devoted.



Privatdozent Dr. Dietrich Reetz is a senior research fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Orient and external faculty member of political science at the Free University Berlin. The focus of his research is on global Muslim identities with special emphasis on South, Southeast and Central Asia, as well as Europe. He is a Principal Investigator (PI) for Political Science/ Islam in South Asia, Europe at the Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies at Free University Berlin since 2008. He is an Executive Board member of the competence network Crossroads Asia.

His book on "Islam in Europe: Religious Life Today" (*Islam in Europa: Religiöses Leben heute*) was published by Waxman Publisher in 2010. He co-edited a themed issue of the journal of 'Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East' on "South-South Linkages in Islam" in 2007. He published "Islam in the Public Sphere: Religious Groups in India, 1900-1947" from Oxford University Press in 2006.



A.K. Ramakrishnan is Professor and Chairperson at the Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He also the Director of the newly established 'Human Rights Programme' in JNU. His specializations include International Relations theories; West Asian area studies, Gender and Postcolonial studies. He has published widely in English and Malayalam. His articles and reviews have been published in journals such as *International Studies*, *Scandinavian Journal of Development Alternatives*, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, *Contemporary South Asia*, and *Palestine Times*.

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