



Wednesday, 22 May 2019, 4 pm

Swahili Muslim Publics and Postcolonial Experience

Book Presentation by Prof. Dr. Kai Kresse (ZMO, FU Berlin)

Discussants:

Dr. Abdoulaye Sounaye (ZMO)

Dr. Hassan Mwakimako (Pwani University, Kilifi, Kenya)

Swahili Muslim Publics and Postcolonial Experience is an exploration of the ideas and public discussions that have shaped and defined the experience of Kenyan coastal Muslims. Focusing on Kenyan postcolonial history, Kai Kresse isolates the ideas that coastal Muslims have used to separate themselves from their “upcountry Christian” countrymen. Kresse looks back to key moments and key texts – pamphlets, newspapers, lectures, speeches, radio discussions – as a way to map out the postcolonial experience and how it is negotiated in the coastal Muslim community. On one level, this is a historical ethnography of how and why the content of public discussion matters so much to communities at particular points in time. Kresse shows how intellectual practices can lead to a regional understanding of the world and society. On another level, this ethnography of the postcolonial experience also reveals dimensions of intellectual prac-

tice in religious communities and thus provides an alternative model that offers a non-Western way to understand regional conceptual frameworks and intellectual practice.

Kai Kresse is Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin, and Vice Director for Research at Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin. Before that, he was Associate Professor of African and Swahili Studies at Columbia University. He is author of *Philosophizing in Mombasa: Knowledge, Islam, and Intellectual Practice on the Swahili Coast*.

Venue

Berlin Graduate School
Muslim Cultures and Societies
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