WORKSHOP ON ISLAMOPHOBIA IN THE EAST OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRAGUE, OCTOBER 23-24, 2016

CALL FOR PAPERS

The workshop will explore the following closely related questions about Islamophobia in eastern Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary:

General

• Is there a unique “East European” reaction to Islam today?
• How is what we see in the eastern EU relevant to our understanding of global migration patterns?

The History and Present of Attitudes to the Other

• Does the socialist heritage provide a partial explanation for Islamophobia?
• Is Islamophobia part of a history of attitudes to alterity in the area?
• How does Islamophobia relate to gender, class, and ethnic relations within each of the countries discussed?
• How is Islamophobia related to the history of economic and political relations between the West and the ex-socialist countries?

National and EU Politics

• What role does Islamophobia play in the internal politics of each V4 country?
• What political groupings exist in each country that we may consider as Islamophobic, and what groupings oppose them?
• How is the issue of Islam and Muslim immigration related to the way the future of the EU is envisioned in this region?

The Lived Experience

• How does Islamophobic rhetoric relate to the lived experience of the local Muslim communities?
• What everyday conditions and forces shape the interaction between local Muslims and the non-Muslim majority?

Theory and Methodology

• What general theories of race, religion, migration, etc., best apply to this geopolitical area and, in turn, what lessons does the study of this area hold for such general theories?
• What methodologies will be best suited to answering these questions?
Participants will share and read a written position paper, in English, of about 15 minutes, on one or more of the questions listed above. This will be followed by ample discussion.

Funding

Funding for the workshop comes from the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto. In exceptional cases, we may be able to request partial travel funding for presenters. Please indicate if you are interested.

Location

The workshop will take place at the conference center of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Husova 4a, Prague.

How to Submit a Proposal

Please submit a title, a one-paragraph abstract, and a CV to Marianna Reis, marianna.reis@mail.utoronto.ca. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2016. We will make our decision by the end of May.