

ISA MIDDLE EAST GUEST LECTURE

SALAFISM IN LEBANON: LOCAL AND TRANSNATIONAL MOVEMENTS

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In this lecture, Zoltan Pall will introduce his manuscript in progress that has been contracted by Cambridge University Press. The manuscript, which goes by the same name as this lecture, examines the dynamics and anatomy of Salafism in the Sunni dominated North Lebanon. It intends to answer the questions of how and why Salafism has become one of the most important social movements within the Sunni community in this multi-sectarian country. Limiting the inquiry to the local context would not provide adequate answers to my questions, therefore the book also examines the transformation of the international environment and the dynamics of Salafism on the transnational level. The monograph pays special attention to the links between the movement in North Lebanon and the Arabian Gulf and European Muslim communities. The analysis has two main foci. The first one examines the historical development, transformation and fractionalization of Salafism in Lebanon. The manuscript provides insights into the ideological debates and historical developments that led to the global split of Salafism. Further, it discusses how the transformation and fractionalization of the movement in the Arabian Gulf led to the fragmentation of the Salafi community in North Lebanon. The second major focus of the inquiry is the structure of the Salafi da'wa. The manuscript discusses the sociological aspects of Salafi religious authority in Northern Lebanese Sunni society, and how Salafis have constructed this authority. In addition, it examines the shape and function of these networks at the local level and analyze their transnational extensions in the Arabian Gulf and Europe. It shows how informal networks at both the local and transnational levels facilitate the mobilization and recruitment of Salafis in the absence of a formal organizational structure.



Zoltan Pall is an expert in transnational Islamic movements in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. His main research topics include social movement theory, the structure and function of transnational networks and religious authority. Currently he is working on a book on Salafism in Lebanon that has been contracted by Cambridge University Press. He is the author of *Lebanese Salafis between the Gulf and Europe: Development, Fractionalization and Transnational Networks of Salafism in Lebanon* (2013).

