



The Moroccan Ulama, the Sultan, and the Public sphere: Wavering Linkage



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SALISBURY LABS 115
4:00 TO 5:30 P.M

The Moroccan “monarchy” has always sought to instrumentalize Islam in order to build political capital, bolster legitimacy, and de-legitimize potential threats. As interpreters of the Islamic tradition, the ‘Ulama were perceived as challengers of Monarchy’s dominant oversight over the sacred domain. The project launched by king Mohamed VI in 2004 was designed to restrain the influence of these Ulama and neutralizes their public role. Its overarching goal was to “re-structure” the religious sphere through Bureaucratic processes.

Dr. Azzimani’s talk is about mapping out the “essential elements” of such project, exploring the strategies used in curtailing the role of the ‘Ulama. Dr. Azzimani’s analysis will, hopefully, help us grasp the concept of an “emerging Muslim public sphere”. Particular emphasis will be given to historical and sociological perspectives

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